Italian Unification

*Human Legacy*

Chapter 24.1, pages 713-717
Stirrings of Nationalism

“The Italian peninsula had not been unified since the fall of the Roman Empire. Although most people spoke the same language, the peninsula was divided into several competing states, each with its own government. When Napoleon invaded Italy, he united many of these states under one government, but that unification did not last.

After Napoleon was defeated, the Congress of Vienna split the Italian states apart once more. This time, however, a spirit of nationalism, or devotion to one’s national group, was on the rise throughout Europe.”

~Human Legacy, page 714.
After The Congress of Vienna

• Metternich of Austria
  – Wanted to maintain old order
  – 1830 admits that “Old Europe is nearing its end”

• Growth of **Nationalism**
  – Congress of Vienna had ignored ethnic groups
  – Austrian Empire included many national groups
    • Ethnic minorities had few rights and wanted independence
  – Parts of Italy controlled by France and Austria
Mazzini and Young Italy

- **Italian nationalism**
  - Artists writers & thinkers celebrate Italian cultural traditions
  - Italians within Austria form secret societies for independence

- **Young Italy**
  - Founded by Giuseppe Mazzini in 1831
  - Advocates unification of Italy
  - Mazzini exiled and forced to smuggle pamphlets into Italy
  - Tens of thousands of Italians join the movement

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Love your country. Your country is the land where your parents sleep, where is spoken the language in which the chosen of your heart, blushing, whispered the first word of love; it is the home that God has given you that by striving to perfect yourselves therein you may prepare to ascend to him.

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Giuseppe Mazzini
The Path Toward Unity

“As Italian nationalism grew, some Italians led unsuccessful rebellions. The two men, Camillo di Cavour and Giuseppe Garibaldi, rose to lead a successful movement to unify Italy.”

~Human Legacy, page 715.
Uprisings and Revolutions

• 1848 The Year of Revolutions
  • Piedmont
    – Declares Independence from Austria
    – Rebellion suppressed after 1 year
  • Rome (1849)
    – Republic formed temporarily
    – Governed by Mazzini
    – French troops reestablish papal control
• Sardinia
  – Rebellion forces rulers to grant a new constitution
Cavour and Sardinia

• **Camillo di Cavour**
  – Founded nationalist newspaper:
  – *Il Risorgimento* gave its name to the unification movement

• **Sardinia**
  – Cavour becomes prime minister in 1852
  – Cavour builds economy
  – Supports France against Russia (Crimean War)
  – Gives France Provinces of Nice & Savoy in exchange for support against Austria

I have discovered the art of deceiving diplomats. I tell them the truth and they never believe me.
Garibaldi and the Red Shirts

“Many Italians consider Cavour the ‘brain’ of Italian unification and Mazzini its ‘heart.’ Equally important was Giuseppe Garibaldi whom many have called the ‘sword’ of Italy.

Garibaldi joined Mazzini’s Young Italy movement in 1833. Because of his nationalist activities, however, he was forced to flee from Italy twice. While living in exile in South America, he learned the tactics of guerilla warfare. He then returned to Italy several times to continue the fight to free Italy from Austrian domination.

Garibaldi returned to Italy for good in 1854. Five years later Cavour asked him to lead part of the Sardinian army in the war against Austria. Garibaldi accepted. After a few months of bitter fighting, the Austrians agreed to give up Lombardy while keeping Venetia.”

~Human Legacy, page 716.
The Red Shirts

- **Red Shirts**
  - Military organization formed by Garibaldi
  - Specialized in guerilla warfare (hit & run tactics)

- **Kingdom of Two Sicilies**
  - Garibaldi and Red Shirts use guerilla Tactics
  - Garibaldi gains control of Sicily by July 1860
  - Sardinian troops (Cavour) Help Garibaldi capture Naples

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I offer neither pay, nor quarters, nor food; I offer only hunger, thirst, forced marches, battles and death. Let him who loves his country with his heart, and not merely with his lips, follow me.

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Giuseppe Garibaldi
Unification

• Victor Emmanuel II
  – King of Sardinia
  – Given the Kingdom of 2 Sicilies by Garibaldi

• Italian States vote for Unification in 1861
  – Venetia still controlled by Austria
  – French troops still support the Pope in Rome

• Prussian Help
  – Defeats Austria in 1866: Italy gains Venetia
  – Defeats France in 1870: Rome becomes Italian capital in 1871
Challenges After Unification

“In the years after unification, Italy faced many new challenges. Although politically unified, Italy had to deal with a number of social and economic problems. During the late 1800s, the new nation would take steps to catch up with the rest of Europe in industrialization, foreign policy, and social reform.”

~Human Legacy, page 717.
Social and Economic Problems

• Strong Regional Differences
  – Industrial North vs. Agrarian South
  – Regional dialects
  – Some Southern Italians resented being ruled by Rome

• Catholic Church
  – Does not initially recognize Italy

• Economic Problems
  – Poverty
  – Unemployment
  – High taxes
  – Many Italians emigrate to America
Reforms and a New Foreign Policy

• Reforms
  – Adult male tax-payers gain suffrage (voting)
  – Child Labor Laws
  – Maximum working hours set
  – Builds transportation & water systems

• Foreign Policy
  – **Triple Alliance**: Italy, Germany & Austria-Hungary
  – Imperialism
    • Invades Ethiopia
    • Declares war on the Ottoman Empire in 1911