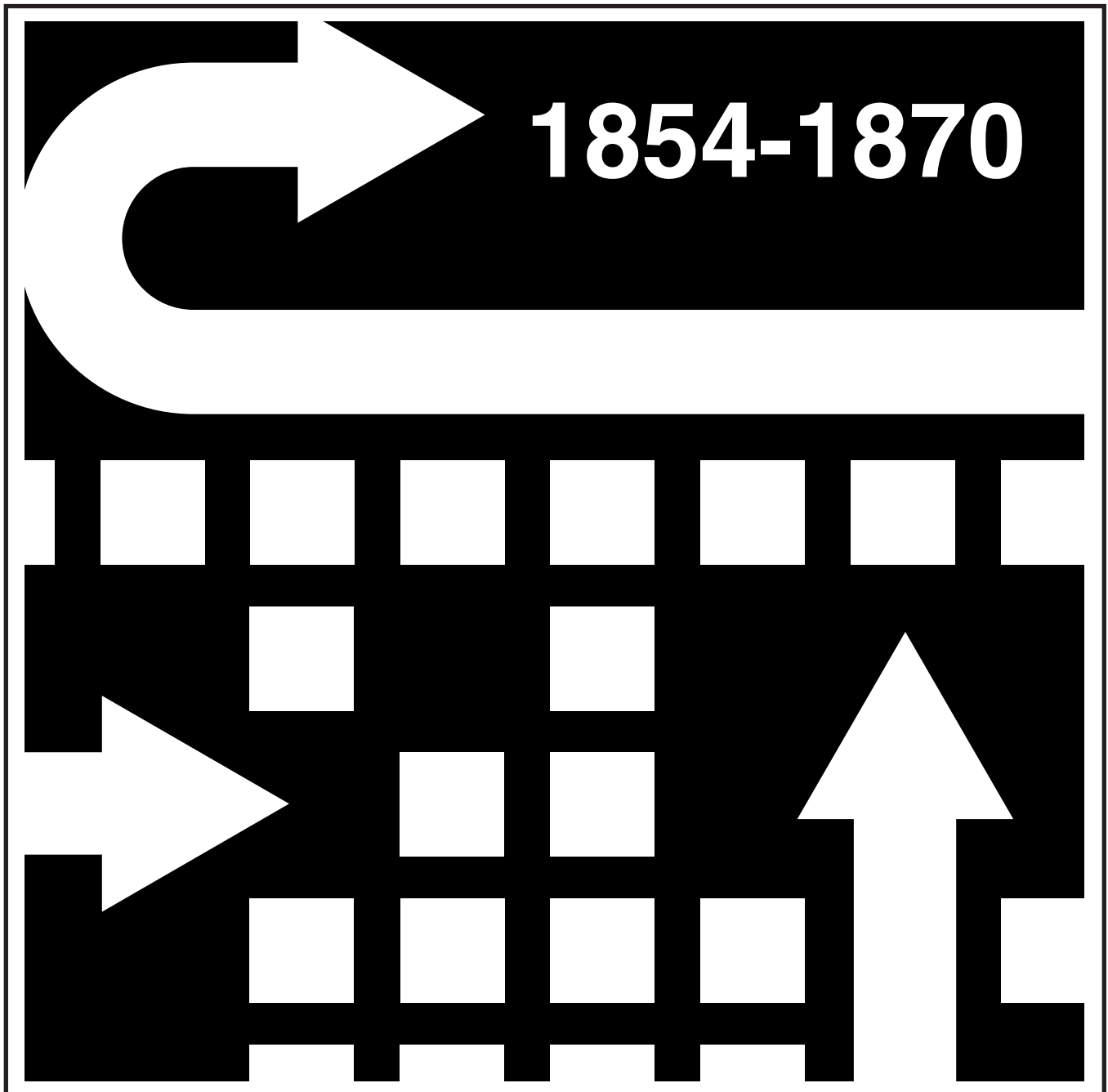


# UNIFICATION OF ITALY





# UNIFICATION OF ITALY

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**Interact**  
10200 Jefferson Boulevard  
P.O. Box 802  
Culver City, CA 90232  
ISBN 1-57336-330-8

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# OVERVIEW

In this Activator, students reenact the sequence of events that led to the unification of Italy. In the course of an interview between King Victor Emmanuel II and reporters from the World History Times, the king recounts the story of the Risorgimento. Each major event comes to life, reenacted by the students: a London meeting of Mazzini and his exiled revolutionaries, Cavour leading the Piedmont Chamber of Deputies into a decision to join the Crimean War, Garibaldi and his Red Shirts charging to victory in Sicily, and others. As they reenact the events of the Italian Unification, students come to understand the forces that brought the many Italian states into a single nation.

# SETUP DIRECTIONS

## TEACHING TIP

The NARRATION is organized by scenes, with the continuing dialogue between Victor Emmanuel and the reporters separated from the flashback scenes. If you prefer to conserve on photocopying, duplicate only enough copies of each scene for the students acting in that scene. (These numbers will vary depending on the size of the class.)

## TEACHING TIP

Remind your students that although most of the protagonists historically were male, both girls and boys will fill roles in the script.

## TEACHING TIP

Assign the role of Victor Emmanuel to a strong student.

Do not assign a student more than one role in the same scene.

### 1. Duplication

Duplicate the following in the quantities indicated in *Italics*:

- BACKGROUND ESSAY\*—*class set*
- MAP OF ITALIAN STATES IN 1859\*—*class set*
- NARRATION\*—*class set*
- POSTSCRIPT\*—*class set*
- SCHEMATIC—*transparency*

\* If you prefer, make transparencies of these masters and display for class discussion using an overhead projector.

### 2. Division of Class and Assignment of Roles

You may have one student role play the same recurring character throughout the NARRATION, or assemble different casts for each scene. Determine what will work best with your students.

- For a smaller class, assign students to play more than one role. In Scene 1 the *moderate monarchist nationalists* can be combined into a single character, as can the *Mazzini supporters*. In subsequent scenes, one student may read all odd-numbered soldier or deputy roles, etc.
- For a larger class, assign additional students to be soldiers or deputies in the Chamber of Deputies.
- Assign students to fill the following roles:

#### Narrators:

- Victor Emmanuel II (King of Piedmont-Sardinia, later King of Italy)
- Reporter #1 (interviewer of King Victor Emmanuel II for the *World History Times*)
- Reporter #2 (interviewer of King Victor Emmanuel II for the *World History Times*)

#### Scene 1:

- Giuseppe Mazzini (republican nationalist revolutionary)
- Carlo Piscane (supporter of Mazzini, republican nationalist)
- Giorgio Pallavicino (moderate monarchist nationalist)
- Jessie White (Englishwoman, supporter of Mazzini, republican nationalist)
- Daniele Manin (moderate monarchist nationalist)
- Giuseppe La Farina (moderate monarchist nationalist)
- Giuseppe Ferrari (radical nationalist)

#### Scene 2:

- Count Camillo di Cavour (Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia, first Prime Minister of Italy)
- Deputies in the Piedmont Chamber of Deputies—*three to seven*

# SETUP DIRECTIONS

## Scene 3:

- Count Camillo di Cavour (Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia, first Prime Minister of Italy)
- Napoleon III (Emperor of France)

## Scene 4:

- Victor Emmanuel II (may be the narrator)
- Major Sforza (Neapolitan commander)
- Neapolitan soldiers\*—*five to 10*
- Giuseppe Garibaldi (Italian nationalist general)
- Red Shirts (Garibaldi's volunteers)—*five to 10*

\*Army of the Kingdom of Two Sicilies

## Scene 5:

- Count Camillo di Cavour (Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia, first Prime Minister of Italy)
- Deputies in the Piedmont Chamber of Deputies—*three to seven*

## Scene 6:

- Piedmontese soldiers (Victor Emmanuel's soldiers)—*five to 10*
- Red Shirts (Garibaldi's volunteers)—*five to 10*
- Giuseppe Garibaldi (Italian nationalist general)
- Victor Emmanuel II (may be the Narrator or a different student)

## Scene 7:

- Otto von Bismarck (Chancellor of Prussia)
- Alfonso La Marmora (Prime Minister of Italy after the death of Cavour)

## Scene 8:

- Pope Pius IX



### TEACHING TIP

*The same students can play both Neapolitan and Piedmontese soldiers.*



### TEACHING TIP

## 3. Costumes and Props

- Have students assemble costumes to represent their characters. The uniforms of the different armies were as follows:
  - Garibaldi's Red Shirts—red shirts
  - Neapolitan army—blue coats
  - Piedmontese army—gray coatsIf the same students will be playing the Neapolitan and the Piedmontese soldiers, they can change their identities by changing the color of their “uniforms.”
- Students playing the soldiers need “rifles” with bayonets. Wrapping paper tubes (approximately 30" or 36" long) work very well.
- Make signs indicating the title of each scene (e.g., *Mazzini in London: 1853*, *Piedmont Chamber of Deputies—Debate*)

# SETUP DIRECTIONS

*on the Crimean War: 1854, etc.)* for display during the action of the Activator.

## 4. Schematic

Make the SCHEMATIC into a transparency. Go over the layout of the room a day before the actual lesson, so that all students know what each section of the room represents. Use this schematic to arrange the room on the day of the actual lesson.



*If your schedule permits the extra rehearsal time, Option B is much more dramatic than Option A.*

## 5. Options

Decide which of these two options you wish to use for this Activator:

**Option A**—Students have their scripts in front of them as they read their lines, as in a reader’s theater. This option requires very little rehearsal time.

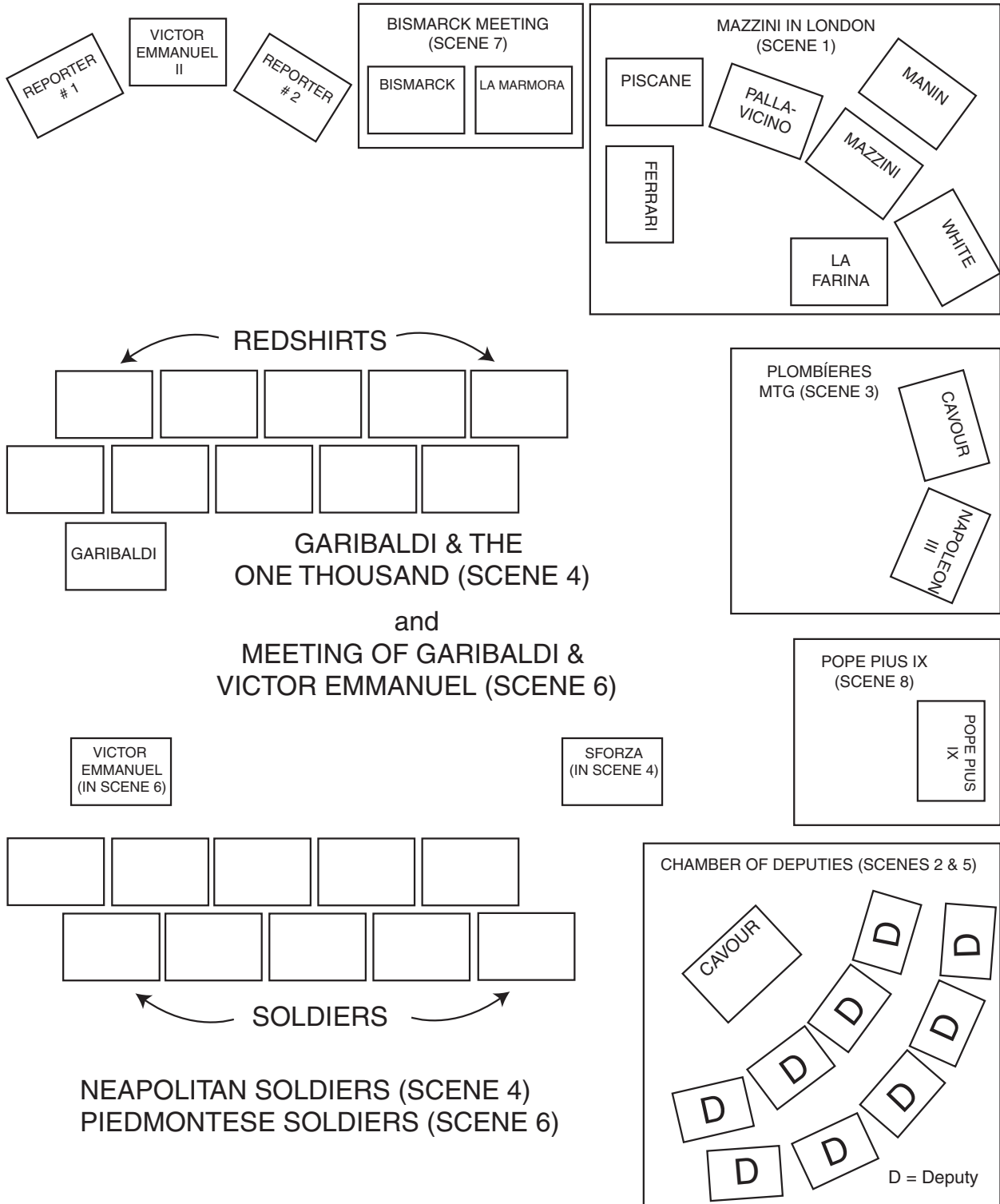
**Option B**—Students study the script ahead of time and memorize their lines. They rehearse their own scenes with other actors in the same scene before the actual lesson. (Victor Emmanuel and the reporters may read their parts.)

## 6. Resources to Consult

Beales, Derek. *The Risorgimento and the Unification of Italy*. New York: Longman, Inc. 1981.

Holt, Edgar. *The Making of Italy, 1815–1870*. New York: Atheneum. 1971.

# SCHEMATIC - UNIFICATION OF ITALY



# LESSON PLAN

*As an alternative to the SCHEMATIC, you may move your class into the auditorium to use the stage or create a stage in your classroom, then enact each scene in turn.*



## TEACHING TIP

*If possible, videotape the action. Videotaping makes students take the Activator more seriously and serves as a useful tool during the debriefing. If you are unable to videotape, use the light of an overhead projector to “spotlight” each scene as it comes to life.*

1. Hand out the BACKGROUND ESSAY and the MAP OF ITALIAN STATES IN 1859 one or more days prior to the Activator reenactment. Either have the students read the essay for homework, or go over it together as a class. Hold a discussion of the main points. You may choose to read the essay aloud to the students, explaining the main points as you read. It is helpful to put a transparency of the MAP OF ITALIAN STATES IN 1859 on an overhead transparency as you conduct this discussion.
2. Arrange the room as indicated in the SCHEMATIC. Have the students take their positions.
3. Conduct the class according to one of the following options:  
**Option A**
  - a. Assign the roles the day before you conduct the lesson. Distribute the scripts ahead of time to allow students to familiarize themselves with their parts, but they do not need to memorize their lines or rehearse their scenes.
  - b. On the day of the lesson, have students take their positions according to the SCHEMATIC.
  - c. Have students read through the script and perform the actions described.**Option B**
  - a. Assign the roles and pass out scripts several days before you conduct the lesson. Have the students (except for those playing Victor Emmanuel II and the reporters) memorize their lines. All students should rehearse their scenes ahead of time. You might consider giving them class time in which to do this.
  - b. On the day of the lesson, have the students take their positions according to the SCHEMATIC.
  - c. Have the students act out the scenes as they have rehearsed. When they are not part of the action, students should sit in their positions, remaining as still and quiet as possible. This way each scene will appear to “come to life” as a memory of Victor Emmanuel, as he gives his interview.
4. Students need to know the identities of all persons in the scenes. Characters should wear name tags with their identity, political affiliation or nationality clearly marked. This is especially important if students do not have access to full scripts.

# DEBRIEFING

## Shorter Debriefing

1. Distribute the POSTSCRIPT and have the students read it to themselves or read it aloud together. Go over the main points with the class.
2. Review the events covered in the Activator.
  - a. Use a transparency of the MAP OF ITALIAN STATES IN 1859 as you lead a class discussion of how each section of Italy was consolidated into a single nation.
  - b. Using different colored transparency markers, you can color-code the separate annexations:
    - 1859—Lombardy, Tuscany, Lucca, Modena, Parma, Umbria and Romagna
    - 1860—the Kingdom of Two Sicilies and the Papal States (excluding Rome)
    - 1866—Venetia
    - 1870—Rome
3. Consider having the students write a Learning Log entry describing their experiences during this Activator.

## Longer Debriefing

1. Distribute the POSTSCRIPT and have the students read it to themselves or read it aloud together. Go over the main points with the class.
2. Using the script or the videotape of the action, review the events of the Italian unification.
  - a. Use a transparency of the MAP OF ITALIAN STATES IN 1859 as you lead a class discussion of how each section of Italy was consolidated into a single nation.
  - b. Using different colored transparency markers, you can color-code the separate annexations:
    - 1859—Lombardy, Tuscany, Lucca, Modena, Parma, Umbria and Romagna
    - 1860—the Kingdom of Two Sicilies and the Papal States (excluding Rome)
    - 1866—Venetia
    - 1870—Rome
3. Referring to the debate in Scene 1, have the students expand on these ideas and conduct a debate/discussion (circa 1853) on the direction the nationalist movement should take. Divide the class into three groups.
  - a. One group represents the views of the *Mazzinians* (who

# DEBRIEFING

wanted an independent Italy ruled by a republican government).

- b. The second group represents the views of the *moderate monarchist nationalists* (who were willing to accept unification under King Victor Emmanuel).
  - c. The third group represents the *radical nationalists* (who put class struggle ahead of nationalism).
4. Compare the unification of Italy with the unification of Germany. First have students list the similarities between the two movements, and then have them list the differences. This can be done together as a class discussion recorded on the board or it can be done as an individual assignment. The unification of Italy and Germany are usually consecutive chapters in world history textbooks.
  5. Have students write a Learning Log entry in the voice of a main character in the *Risorgimento*, discussing their accomplishments and frustrations regarding Italian Unification. (Assign or allow students to select Victor Emmanuel II, Cavour, Mazzini, Garibaldi, or Napoleon III).



*You may devise your own writing prompt to reinforce your own objectives for this history unit.*

# BACKGROUND ESSAY

## The Unification of Italy

Date: 1856–1870

Place: Italian states

### Italy Fragmented

At the time of the Caesars, when “all roads led to Rome,” Italy was the center of European civilization. During the Renaissance, the Italian city-states represented the height of culture and statesmanship. But by 1815, most Europeans agreed with Austrian Chancellor Clemens von Metternich when he referred to Italy as a mere “geographic expression,” for the peninsula had long been made up of a number of small states, usually dominated by foreign powers. Dialects differed so much that citizens of different Italian principalities could barely understand one another. When Napoleon conquered Italy in 1796 he combined the existing states into larger units. His armies spread the ideals of the French Revolution.

### Italy After Napoleon

At the Congress of Vienna in 1815, which followed the defeat of Napoleon, the European Great Powers established foreign rule in most of Italy. Much of northern Italy was awarded as Austria’s prize for its role in the wars against Napoleon. Austria received direct control over **Lombardy** and **Venetia**, while different members of Austria’s ruling family, the Hapsburgs, ruled the states of **Parma**, **Lucca**, **Modena** and **Tuscany**. In southern Italy, the Congress of Vienna restored the Spanish Bourbon family to the throne of the **Kingdom of Two Sicilies**, made up of Naples and Sicily. In central Italy, the Pope was restored as the ruler of the **Papal States**. The only native Italian dynasty reigned over the Kingdom of Sardinia, more commonly known as **Piedmont**.

### The Rise of Nationalism

One of the most revolutionary concepts brought by the French armies of Napoleon was **nationalism**, a sense that all Italian-speaking people shared a common history and culture. By wiping out the existing boundaries on the peninsula and requiring Italians to work together to administer the larger states, Napoleon aroused in many citizens the feeling that they were part of a definable group, who shared not only a history and a language but also a destiny. Italians began to think of themselves as members of a “nation,” which should be brought together into a single state, ruled by an Italian government. When foreign rulers were restored in 1815 to a fragmented Italy, they tried to combat this sense of nationalism, which threatened their hold on power. But Italian nationalists established secret societies, such as the *Carbonari*, who kept alive the ideal of a united Italian nation.

# BACKGROUND ESSAY

## Giuseppe Mazzini

In 1831, this most famous of the Italian nationalists founded **Young Italy**. This organization advanced the idea that Italians must expel foreign rulers and join together to create a single united nation. Its members worked to educate Italians, as well as other Europeans, about the need for Italian unification, and promoted rebellions by Italian citizens against their foreign rulers. Mazzini believed that the new nation should be a **republic**, in which people of all classes would be represented. Despite the passion of its members, Young Italy's insurrections failed, but the organization's activities and Mazzini's many letters, articles and pamphlets kept the idea of Italian nationalism alive in the minds of the citizens and rulers of Italy and Europe.

## Revolts of 1848

In January of 1848, revolts in the Kingdom of Two Sicilies forced the Bourbon King Ferdinand II to grant a constitution to his people. In March an uprising in Paris sparked insurrections throughout Europe. King Charles Albert of Piedmont responded by also granting a constitution to his citizens. In Austria, a rebellion in Vienna prompted Chancellor Metternich to resign from office and flee to England, leaving the government in disarray. Here was the opportunity many Italians had been awaiting! Revolts broke out in Lombardy and Venetia, driving the Austrian armies out of the capitals. The people of Tuscany overthrew their grand duke and set up a republic. Piedmont declared war on Austria and volunteers from all over Italy streamed northward to join the fight. However, the Italians began to squabble over the future of the liberated regions, giving the Austrian army time to regroup and counterattack. At the battle of Custoza on July 25, the Piedmontese army was soundly defeated, and the Austrians restored control over Lombardy and Venetia. As conservative governments throughout Europe regained their hold on power, Ferdinand II abandoned the constitution he had granted the people of Naples and Sicily. *Piedmont alone remained a constitutional monarchy, with a native Italian king.*

## The Roman Republic

In 1849, the people of Rome drove **Pope Pius IX** from the city, and established the **Republic of Rome**. One of the republic's leaders was Giuseppe Mazzini, who attempted to create a government based on a democratic constitution and liberal ideas. Unfortunately, this new government did not have a chance to succeed, because the new ruler of France felt he could gain the support of Catholics at home and abroad if he restored the Pope to Rome. Therefore, Louis Napoleon, later known as Napoleon III, sent a French army to crush the Roman Republic. Led by the revolutionary commander **Giuseppe Garibaldi** and his volunteer **Red Shirts**, the Romans defended their city heroically, but they could not

# BACKGROUND ESSAY

withstand the superior numbers of Louis Napoleon's army. Garibaldi escaped to plan for the future. Meanwhile, the French army restored Pope Pius IX to his throne, and a French garrison remained in Rome to protect him from future uprisings.

## **Lessons of 1848–9**

The revolts of 1848–9 failed, but they set the stage for future developments in Italy. First of all, the image of Italians from many states fighting side by side against a common foe was now part of the consciousness of people throughout Italy. Furthermore, Mazzini's program of unification achieved by popular uprisings lost support; it had been tried and had failed. Many Italians began to favor a more practical approach: unification under the new King of Piedmont, **Victor Emmanuel II**, who succeeded his father Charles Albert to the throne in 1849. Finally, some nationalists concluded that Italians could not expel Austria on their own; they would need the help of a foreign power.

## **Count Camillo di Cavour**

One astute politician came to exactly these conclusions, and in 1852, he became the Prime Minister of Piedmont. Cavour brought these ideas together and became the architect of Italian Unification. As Prime Minister, he strengthened Piedmont's constitutional government, and worked to make the state a model of efficiency and progress, with the construction of railroads and improvement of agricultural techniques. Most importantly, he believed that Italy should be unified under Piedmont's King Victor Emmanuel II, and was willing to look to other European powers to help him to achieve his goal.

## **Introduction to the Action**

How did unification happen? What forces erased those boundaries separating Italians for centuries? How did the Italians manage to expel the rulers that dominated them? For the answers, who better to question than Victor Emmanuel himself, the regional king who became ruler of all Italy? Let us travel then to the year 1870, to an interview with Victor Emmanuel II, King of Italy...

# NARRATION

*King Victor Emmanuel II is seated in his throne. Two reporters enter. The king motions for them to sit.*

**Reporter #1:** “Thank you, Your Majesty, for agreeing to this interview.”

**Reporter #2:** “The readers of the *World History Times* will be fascinated to hear your description of how you came to be the ruler of a united Italy.”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “It’s my pleasure to set the record straight. What would you like to know?”

**Reporter #1:** “When you became king of Piedmont in 1849, did you have any idea that you would oversee the unification of Italy?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “When I became king, most Italians thought of themselves as citizens of their own separate states. Many didn’t think of themselves as Italians at all.”

**Reporter #2:** “What changed their minds?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “One man was responsible for spreading Italian nationalism. His name was Giuseppe Mazzini.”

**Reporter #1:** “Wasn’t his movement discredited after the Revolutions of 1848 and 1849?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Though he lost many of his supporters, he continued to write and organize from his exile in London...”

*The scene shifts to Scene 1.*

## **Scene 1: Mazzini in London (1853)**

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

**Reporter #2:** “So you’re saying that many of Mazzini’s supporters came to believe that you and Cavour were the only hope to successfully unite Italy?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Yes, and others thought his goals were not radical enough.”

# NARRATION

**Reporter #1:** “Was Prime Minister Cavour really such a brilliant strategist?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “He was ambitious and often discourteous to me, but he knew how to make the most of any situation.”

**Reporter #2:** “How so?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Take for example the Crimean War, a conflict that did not concern my country at all...”

*The scene shifts Scene 2.*

## **Scene 2 Piedmont Chamber of Deputies—Debate on the Crimean War (1854)**

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

**Reporter #1:** “Did Cavour’s plan work?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Yes, though Austria did enter the war in the final days of the conflict, which meant that Austria was also at the peace conference.”

**Reporter #2:** “Didn’t the Austrian delegate block the discussion of Italy?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “He tried, but Cavour managed to bring it up. Cavour presented the issue in a way that got the attention of Britain and France. He argued that foreign rule in Italy encouraged revolutionaries in Italy and throughout Europe, and only if Italy was united under Victor Emmanuel would nationalists like Mazzini stop stirring up rebellions.”

**Reporter #2:** “Did he really win French and British support?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “He seemed to have had an effect on Napoleon III of France. And the French emperor was even more convinced when an Italian revolutionary attempted to assassinate him. In July 1858, Napoleon III and Cavour met secretly at the French health resort town Plombières...”

*The scene shifts to Scene 3.*

# NARRATION

## Scene 3: Plombières Meeting (1858)

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

**Reporter #1:** “Was Cavour actually able to provoke Austria into declaring war?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Yes. He ordered an immediate buildup of the Piedmontese army, openly recruiting soldiers from among the citizens of Austrian-controlled lands. I gave a speech denouncing Austrian oppression of Italians. The Austrians walked right into the trap: first they demanded that we demobilize our army, and when we refused, they declared war, just as Cavour had planned.”

**Reporter #2:** “Did France come to your aid?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Yes, and with their help we won decisive victories against the Austrians at Magenta and Solferino.”

**Reporter #1:** “Did you get Lombardy and Venetia?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Not both of them. Napoleon III betrayed us in the end. Events weren’t going exactly as he had hoped. The citizens of Tuscany, Modena, Parma and Romagna rose up against their rulers and asked to be annexed to Piedmont. He decided to end the war before the revolutionaries got out of control. In July, 1859, he made a separate peace with Austria, giving Lombardy, but not Venetia, to Piedmont.”

**Reporter #2:** “Did you annex Tuscany, Modena, Parma and Romagna?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “We conducted *plebiscites* in those regions to determine the will of the people. They voted overwhelmingly to join Piedmont. So we annexed them. In exchange for Napoleon III’s acceptance of this arrangement, we gave Nice and Savoy to France.”

**Reporter #1:** “So how did you acquire southern Italy?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “For that I must give due credit to the revolutionary general Giuseppe Garibaldi and his patriotic ‘Red Shirt’ army.”

**Reporter #2:** “Who was Garibaldi?”

# NARRATION

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “He was a revolutionary and a patriot, who made a name for himself fighting in South America for the independence of Uruguay. Sponsored by Italian nationalists, including Mazzini, Garibaldi raised an army of over a thousand volunteers and invaded Sicily. His plan was to free the Sicilians from the oppressive rule of their Bourbon king.”

**Reporter #1:** “Did your government support the expedition?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Let’s say, we knew about it, and we didn’t stop it. But Cavour didn’t like being out of control of the situation.”

**Reporter #2:** “Did the expedition succeed?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “On May 11th, 1860, Garibaldi and his Red Shirts landed unopposed at Marsala in Sicily and began to march towards Palermo. As they advanced, Sicilian citizens flocked to join them...”

*The scene shifts to Scene 4.*

## **Scene 4: Garibaldi and the One Thousand (1860)**

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

**Reporter #1:** “How did you and Cavour respond to Garibaldi’s success?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Well, I found Garibaldi to be a fascinating, heroic figure. I was inspired by his patriotism and military genius. But Cavour was more skeptical. He felt that Garibaldi’s popularity was a threat to my prestige. My Prime Minister didn’t like the fact that *he* was not in control of events in southern Italy.”

**Reporter #2:** “What happened next?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Garibaldi then crossed from Sicily into southern Italy. He encountered so little resistance that his journey northward to Naples was like a triumphal march. Frances II, the new king of the Two Sicilies, fled and Garibaldi’s Red Shirts occupied the city of Naples. There Garibaldi began his plans for an assault on Rome.”

# NARRATION

**Reporter #1:** “Certainly Cavour wouldn’t allow that. What did he do?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “He called the Piedmont Chamber of Deputies into session...”

*The scene shifts to Scene 5.*

## **Scene 5: Piedmont Chamber of Deputies—Debate on Garibaldi (1860)**

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

**Reporter #2:** “Did the plan work?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “As we expected, the citizens of Naples and Sicily voted to join Piedmont. I led my army into the Papal States. We encountered little resistance. The citizens were tired of the Pope’s corrupt and inefficient rule. They welcomed us as liberators. In October, my army entered Naples. Garibaldi rode out to greet us...”

*The scene shifts to Scene 6.*

## **Scene 6: Meeting of Garibaldi and Victor Emmanuel (1860)**

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

**Reporter #1:** “But you still didn’t have Venetia or Rome. What was Cavour’s next move?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Sadly, Cavour had made his last contribution to Italian unification. On June 5th, 1861, he died of a cerebral hemorrhage, at the age of 50.”

**Reporter #2:** “So he didn’t live to see all of Italy united.”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “No. And we missed his leadership. In the following decade, I had a different Prime Minister every year.”

**Reporter #1:** “What happened next? Did you invade Rome?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “No. Once again a foreign power helped us to achieve our goal. This time it was Prussia, and the prize was Venetia.”

# NARRATION

**Reporter #2:** “That’s the first we’ve heard of Prussia.”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Like the Italians, the German people were divided into many states, but by the 1860s, the German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck was busy planning to unite the German states under Prussian rule.”

**Reporter #1:** “How did that concern Italy?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “His first step was a war with Austria. In 1866, Bismarck met with my Prime Minister Alfonso La Marmora...”

*The scene shifts to Scene 7.*

## **Scene 7: Meeting between Bismarck and La Marmora (1866)**

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “And so it went. We joined the conflict, known as the ‘Six Weeks War,’ in 1866, and when Austria was defeated, Venetia was ours.”

**Reporter #2:** “Only Rome was left. How did you get the Pope to give it up?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Pope Pius IX would never give up his rule of Rome voluntarily. But all that stood between him and Italy was the French army. And in 1870, Napoleon III went to war with Prussia. Needing all of his soldiers to fight Prussia, he withdrew the French troops from Rome. My Italian army moved in...”

*The scene shifts to Scene 8.*

## **Scene 8: Pope Pius IX at the gates of the Vatican (1870)**

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “But the Papal troops were no match for the army of Italy, which entered the city on September 20, 1870. Rome was ours. Once again, Rome became the capital city of a great state. The Risorgimento was complete.”

**Reporter #1:** “We thank you, Your Majesty, for your time.”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “You are dismissed. I must now attend to important affairs of state.”

# NARRATION: SCENE 1

## Scene 1: Mazzini in London (1853)

*Mazzini and his fellow nationalists are seated comfortably in a London drawing room.*

**Mazzini:** “The time is right to create an uprising in Naples.”

**Carlo Piscane** (a Mazzini supporter, republican nationalist): “Ah, yes, my homeland. You’re right. The Neapolitans hate their king. They’re ready for revolution.”

**Giorgio Pallavicino** (a moderate monarchist nationalist): “Why do you think this revolt will succeed when all the others we’ve sponsored have failed?”

**Mazzini:** “We must not lose faith. The people of Naples are eager to throw off their Bourbon oppressors.”

**Jessie White** (a Mazzini supporter, republican nationalist): “Of course they are! Back in 1848 their revolt against Ferdinand II set off revolutions throughout Europe.”

**Daniele Manin** (a moderate monarchist nationalist): “Yes, but their uprising ended in disaster. How can we hope to succeed if every time we stir up a revolt, the Austrian or French armies come in and put it down?”

**Mazzini:** “So what do you suggest?”

**Manin:** “King Victor Emmanuel and his Prime Minister Count Cavour in Piedmont have the army and diplomatic position to lead the unification of Italy.”

**Piscane:** “You mean—to conquer Italy.”

**Pallavicino:** “All of our attempts to stir the Italian people to rise up and unite as a republic have failed! It’s not going to happen. We have to give up the idea of an Italian republic and focus on our goal of unification.”

**Mazzini:** “We can’t give up our principles. We must keep trying.”

## NARRATION: SCENE 1

**Giuseppe La Farina** (a moderate monarchist nationalist): “But the governments of Europe fear our call for a republic. They think it would encourage their own subjects to rise against them. They would feel much safer if we were united under the constitutional monarchy of King Victor Emmanuel.”

**Giuseppe Ferrari** (radical nationalist): “You are all missing the point! Why do the citizens join these revolts? To better their living conditions. They need to eat. Workers in the cities slave away in factories 16 hours a day and can’t feed their families. Landlords demand exorbitant rents from starving peasants.”

**White**: “So you’re saying we should abandon our goals of independence and unity?”

**Ferrari**: “I am saying we must first help the peasants and workers to rise up against the classes that oppress them.”

**Mazzini**: “But in a united republican Italy all classes will benefit.”

**Ferrari**: “You are raising false hopes. Only after the wealthy classes have been overthrown should we focus on unification.” (*He leaves.*)

**Pallavicino**: “We must be practical. The only way to achieve independence and unification is under the leadership of Prime Minister Cavour in Piedmont.”

*The moderate monarchist nationalists (Pallavicino, Manin and La Farina) leave.*

**Mazzini**: “We will continue our struggle. Now, let’s make the plans for the insurrection in Naples.”

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

## NARRATION: SCENE 2

### Scene 2: Piedmont Chamber of Deputies—Debate on the Crimean War (1854)

**Cavour:** “Today we must discuss our nation’s role in the war in the Crimea. When Czar Nicholas attacked Turkey, he believed he could enlarge Russia as the great powers of Europe sat back and watched. He was wrong! France and Great Britain have entered the war in Turkey’s defense.”

**Deputy #1:** “This isn’t our fight. How does it affect Piedmont?”

**Cavour:** “If Piedmont is to be taken seriously by the European powers, we must be involved in European affairs. I propose that we join with Britain and France in their fight against Russia.”

**Deputy #2:** “But why should we send our young men to fight and die in the Crimea if we have no interests there?”

**Cavour:** “Italy will never be free from Austrian domination without the good will and assistance of France and Great Britain. Here is our opportunity to put the Western powers in our debt.”

**Deputy #3:** “What is the position of Austria?”

**Cavour:** “For now Austria is remaining neutral, but France and Britain are working to convince Emperor Francis Joseph to bring Austria into the war on their side.”

**Deputy #4:** “You mean you want us to join a war in which we could be allied with Austria?”

**Cavour:** “It could happen. But consider the alternative. We stay out of the war. Austria joins France and Britain to defeat Russia. Then what do you think would be the chances of France or Britain helping us to kick their ally Austria out of Italy?”

**Deputy #5:** “No chance!”

**Deputy #6:** “Never!”

**Deputy #7:** “They wouldn’t!”

## NARRATION: SCENE 2

**Cavour:** “But if we join the war and win, we will have a seat at the peace conference. We’ll be able to raise the issue of Italian independence, and the Great Powers will have to listen.”

**All Deputies:** “Here! Here!”

**Cavour:** “Let us join the war and take our position among the Great Powers of Europe!”

**Deputies #1 and #5:** “Bravo!”

**Deputies #2 and #6:** “Yes!”

**Deputies #3, #4 and #7:** “Viva Victor Emmanuel!”

**Cavour:** “All in favor of joining the Crimean War against Russia, say ‘Aye.’”

**All Deputies:** “Aye!”

**Cavour:** “All opposed, say ‘Nay.’” (*Silence.*) “It is decided. Let us mobilize for war. We have taken the first step towards our destiny.”

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

## NARRATION: SCENE 3

### Scene 3: Plombières Meeting (1858)

**Cavour:** “Say, aren’t you Napoleon III, Emperor of France?”

**Napoleon III:** “Why, yes. Count Cavour, isn’t it? What a surprise to run into you here at this health spa!”

**Cavour:** “What a coincidence that we both happened to be here taking the waters at the same time.”

**Napoleon III:** “Isn’t it though?”

**Cavour:** “As long as we’re both here, there are a few things I’ve been meaning to discuss with you.”

**Napoleon III:** “I’ve been hoping to chat with you, too.”

**Cavour:** “I was glad to hear that you weren’t injured in that assassination attempt. I fear that revolutionaries like Orsini will continue to cause trouble as long as the people of Italy remain oppressed by foreign rulers.”

**Napoleon III:** “I agree. As long as Mazzini keeps inspiring these radicals, no government is safe.”

**Cavour:** “That’s why Piedmont needs your help to drive the Austrians out of Italy.”

**Napoleon III:** “I’m listening.”

**Cavour:** “You help Piedmont in a war against Austria. If we win, Piedmont gains control of Lombardy and Venetia. In return for your help, France gets Nice and Savoy.”

**Napoleon III:** “That sounds promising, but France will not join a war of aggression by Piedmont. We will, however, come to your defense if Austria declares war on you.”

**Cavour:** “I believe that can be arranged.”

**Napoleon III:** “Then we have an agreement. I hope you’ve enjoyed your visit to Plombières.”

**Cavour:** “It has been very refreshing, thank you.”

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

# NARRATION: SCENE 4

## Scene 4: Garibaldi And The One Thousand (1860)

*Victor Emmanuel narrates this scene.*

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Outside of the small town of Calatafimi, the Red Shirts first encountered the Neapolitan army of the Kingdom of Two Sicilies. Reaching the top of a small hill, they looked out across a valley to a hill on the other side. On the opposite hill camped the enemy.”

*The Red Shirts and the Neapolitan soldiers take their places, facing each other across the valley.*

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Major Sforza, commander of the Neapolitan battalion, underestimated the abilities of Garibaldi’s men. Believing that they would flee at the first sign of military might, he put his men through a series of drills before their eyes. But instead of running in fear, the Red Shirts laughed and cheered from the opposite hill.”

**Sforza:** “Attention! Right face! Forward, march! Halt!”

*The Neapolitan army goes through the drills as the Red Shirts laugh and cheer.*

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Seeing that the Red Shirts were standing firm, Sforza hesitated, not wanting to give up his hilltop position. Finally, he ordered a charge.”

**Sforza:** “Forward! Charge!”

*The Neapolitan soldiers rush towards the Red Shirts.*

**Garibaldi:** “Hold your fire men! Don’t shoot ’til they’re right on top of you.”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “Since their guns took up to a minute to reload, once the Neapolitan soldiers got in close range of the Red Shirts, they found themselves fighting hand-to-hand with bayonets.”

*The two armies engage in bayonet fighting, using their guns as swords. Some fall to the ground wounded or killed.*

## NARRATION: SCENE 4

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “The Neapolitan army began to fall back, and soon broke into full retreat.”

*Surviving Neapolitan soldiers run from the battlefield.*

**Neapolitan soldier #1:** “They’re not mortal men!”

**Neapolitan soldier #2:** “They’re red devils!”

**Neapolitan soldier #3:** “They fight with bayonets, not guns!”

**Neapolitan soldier #4:** “They can’t be killed! Beware the red devils!”

**Red Shirt soldier #1:** “Viva Garibaldi, Hero of Two Worlds!”

**Red Shirt soldier #2:** “Viva Victor Emmanuel!”

**Red Shirt soldier #3:** “Viva l’Italia!”

**Garibaldi:** “In the name of Victor Emmanuel II, I declare myself Dictator of Sicily!”

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters*

## NARRATION: SCENE 5

### Scene 5: Piedmont Chamber of Deputies—Debate on Garibaldi (1860)

**Cavour:** “Garibaldi has declared himself ‘Dictator of the Two Sicilies’ and is making preparations to march on Rome. He has become too powerful and an attack on Rome would bring France into the conflict to protect the Pope.”

**Deputy #1:** “What can we do? Garibaldi is a hero to the people throughout Italy and the world.”

**Cavour:** “First, we must annex Sicily and Naples to Piedmont without delay.”

**Deputy #2:** “Here. Here. We should hold plebiscites in Sicily and Naples. Surely, the people will vote to join Piedmont.”

**Cavour:** “Yes, and if the citizens vote to become subjects of Victor Emmanuel, Garibaldi will have to accept their wishes. All in favor of annexing any territory that votes to join Piedmont, say ‘Aye.’”

**All Deputies:** “Aye!”

**Cavour:** “All opposed, say ‘Nay.’ (*Silence.*) It is decided. Secondly, we must send a Piedmontese army to seize the Papal States before Garibaldi can lead his Red Shirts into Rome.”

**Deputy #3:** “But won’t Napoleon III oppose our invasion of the Papal States?”

**Cavour:** “We’ll leave Rome and the surrounding area to the Pope. I have Napoleon III’s assurance that if we stay away from Rome, France won’t intervene.”

**Deputy #4:** “Then we have nothing to lose.”

**Cavour:** “All in favor of sending our army to the Papal States?”

**All Deputies:** “Aye!”

**Cavour:** “All opposed? (*Silence.*) It’s decided. The next time we meet, it will be as the Chamber of Deputies of Italy.”

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

## NARRATION: SCENE 6

### Scene 6: Meeting of Garibaldi and Victor Emmanuel (1860)

*Victor Emmanuel II leads his army, dressed in gray uniforms, to the center of the room. Garibaldi leads his army, dressed in red shirts, to the center of the room.*

**All Piedmontese soldiers:** “Viva Victor Emmanuel, King of Sardinia!”

**All Red Shirts:** “Hail Garibaldi, Liberator of Italy!”

*Note: the following dialogue is a translation of the actual words exchanged by King Victor Emmanuel II and Garibaldi on this occasion.*

**Garibaldi:** “I salute the first king of Italy!”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “How are you, my dear Garibaldi?”

**Garibaldi:** “Well, Your Majesty. And you?”

**Victor Emmanuel II:** “First rate.”

**All soldiers:** “Long live Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy!”

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

## NARRATION: SCENES 7 & 8

### Scene 7: Meeting between Bismarck and La Marmora (1866)

**Bismarck:** “Before I can unite all of Germany under Prussian rule, I must eliminate Austrian influence in the German states.”

**La Marmora:** “And how do you plan to do that?”

**Bismarck:** “Prussia will go to war with Austria. But we need Italy’s help. If Italy joins Prussia, then Austria will have to fight a war on two fronts. Forced to fight both our armies at once, Austria will surely lose the war.”

**La Marmora:** “In return for our help, Italy must get Venetia.”

**Bismarck:** “Of course.”

**La Marmora:** “I will discuss the matter with my king.”

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*

### Scene 8: Pope Pius IX at the gates of the Vatican (1870)

*The Pope stands at the gates of the Vatican.*

**Pope Pius IX:** “Victor Emmanuel has asked me to surrender my temporal power peacefully. This is something I can never do. A Pope must never be the subject of a king. How can he have the freedom to lead the Roman Catholic world if he must obey a *secular* ruler? I will not surrender without a fight. And if Victor Emmanuel takes this city, I will remain a prisoner inside the walls of the Vatican.”

*The scene returns to Victor Emmanuel II and the two reporters.*



#### LEARNING TIP

*Secular means non-religious.*

# POSTSCRIPT

**Italia Irredenta** With the annexation of Rome, most Italians lived in the nation of Italy, but many difficulties remained for the new state. First of all, the most ardent nationalists insisted that unification was not complete, and continued to demand the acquisition of Trentino, Trieste and Dalmatia from Austria, and the return of Nice and Savoy from France. They called these lands *Italia Irredenta* (Italy unredeemed), for the areas contained significant populations of Italian-speaking people.

**Conflict Between Church and State** Another difficulty was the attitude of Pope Pius IX towards the new government of Italy. When Italian troops entered Rome in September of 1870, the Pope retreated into self-enforced seclusion in the Vatican. He called upon Roman Catholics to reject the new government, forcing citizens to choose between their religion and their country.

**Conflict Between North and South** Unification also emphasized the disparity between the living standards of northern and southern Italians. While northern Italy began to industrialize after 1870, the economy of the south remained agricultural and most of the population lived in desperate poverty. Furthermore, the government continued to be dominated by Piedmontese, leaving many southern Italians feeling that they had simply exchanged one foreign ruler for another.

**Disappointment for Republicans** Many nationalists were also republicans, who believed in an elected government that would be responsive to the wishes of the population. They, like Mazzini never accepted the idea of a united Italy under the leadership of Piedmontese King Victor Emmanuel. Others, like Garibaldi, agreed to work with Cavour and his king to unite Italy, in the hope that afterwards they would work towards a more representative government. Many were disappointed. While the new Italian government was a constitutional monarchy, it was by no measure democratically responsive to the will of the people. Only 3 percent of the population had the right to vote. Furthermore, the government was often plagued with corruption and inefficiency. Many dissatisfied Italians turned to radical movements such as Marxism and anarchism.

**Risorgimento Achieved** Despite the difficulties, Italian patriots had achieved their goal. After centuries of existing as a mere “geographic expression,” Italy finally emerged as a European power. With Mazzini as the “pen,” Garibaldi as the “sword,” and Cavour as the “mind,” Italian nationalists had succeeded in completing the *Risorgimento*.

# MAP OF ITALIAN STATES IN 1859

