

ITALIAN UNIFICATION TIME LINE:

1805 Giuseppe Mazzini born in French occupied Genoa.

1807 Giuseppe Garibaldi born in Italian city of Nice.

1810 Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour, born in Turin, under Napoleonic rule.

1828 Mazzini begins collaborating with newspapers in Genoa and Livorno, inspiring many with his writings about political and social reforms.

1831 Giuseppe Mazzini joins *Carboneria*.

Mazzini imprisoned and then exiled to Marseille, France, where he continues to promote unification.

La Giovine Italia (Young Italy) founded by Giuseppe Mazzini.

1833 Garibaldi joins *La Giovine Italia* and *Carboneria* revolutionary associations. Meets Mazzini.

1834 Garibaldi participates in failed Mazzini insurrection in Piedmont.

Garibaldi is arrested and escapes to South America for 14 years where he plays an integral role in liberating both Rio Grande do Sul from Brazil and Uruguay; fighting at his side is his wife, Anita.

1847 Cavour founds *Il Risorgimento*, a nationalist newspaper.

1848-1849 First War of Independence.

Garibaldi returns to Italy. Mazzini and Garibaldi join forces in Bergamo. Several uprisings fail. Republic declared briefly in Rome; Mazzini appointed as "triumvir" of the new republic, but then he flees to Marseille.

1849 Garibaldi leaves Italy for Tangiers.

1850 Venice falls to Austria.

Mazzini establishes the association *Amici di Italia* in London to generate support for Italian liberation.

1851 Garibaldi, now in exile in Staten Island, N.Y. and living with Antonio Meucci, becomes a U.S. citizen.

1852 Camillo Cavour becomes Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia.

1854 Garibaldi returns to Italy, settling on the island of Caprera.

Garibaldi aligns himself with Cavour and Vittorio Emanuele II, thereby separating himself from Mazzini's republican ideal of the liberation of Italy.

1856 Mazzini returns to Genoa to organize uprisings.

1858 Attempted assassination of Napoleon III by Felice Orsini.

Cavour, in alliance with Napoleon III, provokes revolutions in Lombardy to incite war with Austria.

Mazzini founds the journal *Pensiero e Azione* (Thought and Action) in London.

1859 Second War of Independence. (Austro-Sardinian War)

Garibaldi appointed Major General. Garibaldi and his "Hunters of the Alps" fight in Lombardy against Austria. As result of triumph over Austria, Lombardy transferred to Sardinia. Grand Duchy of Tuscany, Duchy of Parma, Duchy of Modena and some other central states unite.

1860 Sardinia annexes Tuscany and Emilia Romagna by ceding Nice and Savoy to the French, negotiated by Cavour.

Garibaldi and his army of *I Mille* "Red Shirts" leave Genoa and land at Marsala, Sicily.

After many victories in Sicily, including in Palermo, its capital, Garibaldi declares himself "Dictator of Sicily."

Garibaldi marches towards Naples where he is met by Vittorio Emanuele II and his Sardinian forces; Garibaldi turns over the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies to King Vittorio Emanuele II.

1861 March 17: Vittorio Emanuele II, House of Savoy and King of Sardinia, proclaimed first King of Italy.

Turin is first capital of a unified Italy.

Camillo di Cavour dies in Turin with only Veneto and the Papal States not under Italian control.

United States appoints its first Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Italy.

Garibaldi volunteers to fight in U.S. Civil War. President Lincoln offers him a commission as Major General in the American army, but Garibaldi turns the offer down as it does not satisfy his two conditions: first, being appointed Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Army, an impossibility as the President of the U.S. holds that position; and second, of having the abolition or limitation of slavery as a U.S. government policy, which was not yet part of President Lincoln's program.

1862 Garibaldi sails from Genoa to Palermo to gather volunteers for a Rome expedition and moves north: "*Roma o Morte*" ("Rome or Death"). Mazzini joins Garibaldi in this failed attempt to free Rome.

Garibaldi is imprisoned at Aspromonte but is soon released.

1864 Vittorio Emanuele II meets with Napoleon III at the September Convention.

Napoleon III agrees to withdraw French troops from the Papal States within two years.

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1865 Capital moves from Turin to Florence.

1866 Third War of Independence. (Austro-Prussian War) Italy enters the Austro-Prussian war, siding with Prussia against Austria.

Italian forces under Garibaldi are victorious against Austria at Bezzeca, and move forward into Veneto.

Veneto ceded to Italy as a reward for Italy's war efforts.

1867 Garibaldi fails in his attempts to move on Rome and the Papal States.

Revolutions inside Rome also fail.

1870 With the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war, Napoleon III recalls his troops from Rome.

Italian Army enters Rome and, after a plebiscite, Rome is annexed to the Kingdom of Italy.

1871 Rome is the capital of the unified Italy.

1872 Giuseppe Mazzini dies in Pisa.

1882 Giuseppe Garibaldi dies in Caprera.

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150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIFICATION OF ITALY: ITALIA 150



150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy: ITALIA 150



Il Risorgimento, The Resurgence of Italy, was realized 150 years ago on March 17, 1861.

Italy finally was unified. The unification was achieved through the ideology and actions of the three main protagonists of Il Risorgimento: Giuseppe Mazzini ("The Soul"), the political philosopher; Giuseppe Garibaldi ("The Sword"), the military patriot; and Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour ("The Brain"), the pragmatic statesman. Mazzini's belief in independence, Garibaldi's ardent fighting on the battlefields and Cavour's adept diplomacy culminated in this day when Vittorio Emanuele II, House of Savoy and the King of Sardinia, was proclaimed the first King of Italy. The first capital of a united Italy was Turin.

This year, 2011, Italy and Italian communities worldwide commemorate this significant historical event.

Il Risorgimento (The Resurgence)

After the fall of the Roman Empire in the 5th Century A.D., Italy was invaded and occupied for centuries by foreign powers, and by 1859, Italy consisted of several distinct states: The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (Sicily, Naples and all Southern Italy) ruled by the Spanish Bourbons; the northern regions (Lombardy, Veneto) ruled by Austria; the central independent states; the Papal States, governed by the Roman Catholic Church with the support of France; and the independent Kingdom of Sardinia (including the northern regions of Piedmont, Savoy, Nice, and Liguria) ruled by Vittorio Emanuele II.

Il Risorgimento began well before 1861. After years of invasion and foreign occupation, a national movement had gained momentum beginning in the 18th century, reaching its peak in the 19th century. The goal was to rid the peninsula of foreign rule and oppression and to establish an egalitarian, constitutional, republican government.

During the early 19th century, several forces emerged: new ideology, which aroused public awareness; military attempts, which pushed forward small, repeated insurrections and three Wars of Independence (1848-49, 1859 and 1866); and political maneuvering to make independence a reality.

Giuseppe Mazzini: 1805-1872

Giuseppe Mazzini, born in French occupied Genoa, was an Italian lawyer and journalist. He was a fervent activist for the unification of Italy and inspired many through his writings, which conveyed a belief in political and social reforms with the hope of a unified, independent, republican Italy. In 1828-1829, he collaborated with Genoa and Livorno newspapers, which were then closed by the authorities. In 1831, he joined the secret society, *Carboneria*, whose goal was political freedom and the independence of Italy. For his political activities he was arrested, imprisoned and when freed, chose exile in Marseille, France. He founded the secret society, *La Giovine Italia*, which promoted unification, and actively participated in insurrections.

Although Mazzini spent most of his life in political exile abroad, he never ceased to agitate for an Italian

republic, nationalism for other European countries and a unified Europe, establishing other societies and organizing and inspiring other ethnic groups. His writings and actions inspired many people to think that unification and independence were a possibility.

Giuseppe Garibaldi: 1807-1882

Giuseppe Garibaldi, born in the Italian city of Nice, initially a merchant marine captain, became a revolutionary, who dedicated his life to overthrowing oppressive regimes and establishing independence in Italy and in other countries. After initial failed military attempts in Italy during the early 1830's, Garibaldi lived in exile after being condemned to death for his participation in the failed 1834 Mazzini insurrection. He traveled to South America where he led military campaigns in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. It was in South America where his fellow kinsmen first donned the "Red Shirts," which would become his valiant symbol. It was in South America where he met his legendary wife Anita, with whom he had four children and who fought alongside him.

Garibaldi returned to Italy to participate in the revolutions of 1848, followed by his living in exile again. During this exile, he even had a few years' sojourn in America when he lived in Staten Island, New York, with Antonio Meucci, the first inventor of the telephone. After more traveling to Central and South America and Asia, he returned to Italy in 1854.

In 1860, encouraged by uprisings in Sicily, Garibaldi landed in Marsala, Sicily, with a volunteer army and began his march with *I Mille*, the 1,000 man force, to liberate Sicily and Southern Italy from Spanish rule, eventually unifying the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies and turning the region over to King Vittorio Emanuele II at Teano, Campania.

After unifying the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, Garibaldi later went on to fight for the liberation of the Veneto region and Rome. The Papal States were resistant as they had the support of the French, and it was not until 1870 that the Papal States were annexed to the Kingdom of Sardinia.

As a tribute to his military efforts on two continents, Garibaldi was hailed as the "Hero of Two Worlds."

Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour: 1810-1861

The Conte di Cavour, Camillo Benso, was born of a noble family in Turin, which was under Napoleonic rule. After attending the Turin Military Academy, he joined the Engineer Corps in the Piedmontese-Sardinian army. He subsequently traveled to several European countries where he came in contact with progressive ideas. Upon his return to Italy, Cavour initiated several attempts to solve his region's economic problems with innovations in agriculture and expansion of the transportation system. He then became the Minister of Agriculture, Commerce and the Navy in 1850 and, eventually, was Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia by 1852.

Cavour became an astute statesman, eventually responsible for the politics of the unification. He was the first Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Italy. Through his negotiations, alliances and brief wars of independence, he expanded Piedmont's territory to five times its original size. By offering support to France and Britain during the Crimean war in 1853, he secured Piedmont a position at the Peace Congress in Paris. In 1860, an important political maneuver was to secure the alliance of the French against Austria, which included his ceding Nice and Savoy to Napoleon III in exchange for the annexation of Tuscany and Emilia Romagna. Cavour, however, died before the unification was complete.

The Unification:

By 1861, the Kingdom of Italy was a reality even though the Papal States and Veneto remained outside of the unified Italy. In 1866, Veneto was annexed; in 1870, the Italian army occupied Rome when France withdrew its troops to participate in the Franco-Prussian War, and, thereby, as a consequence, withdrew its support of the Papal holdings.

Rome then became the capital of a unified Italy.

The champions of the resurgence of Italy and the ideals of unity, liberty and independence, created the foundation for the Republic of Italy, which became a reality in 1946.