

Chapter 10

Back to Europe: The Unification of Italy and of Germany

Words to Know

anthem the official song of a country

chancellor the head of government, or prime minister, in some European countries

confederation a group of independent states joined together for a purpose

diplomat a person in government whose job is dealing with other countries

legislature a group of persons who make the laws of a nation or state

militarism a national policy of maintaining a powerful army and constant readiness for war

nationalism strong loyalty to one's culture and nation

prime minister the chief official of the government in some countries

societies groups of people joined together for a common purpose

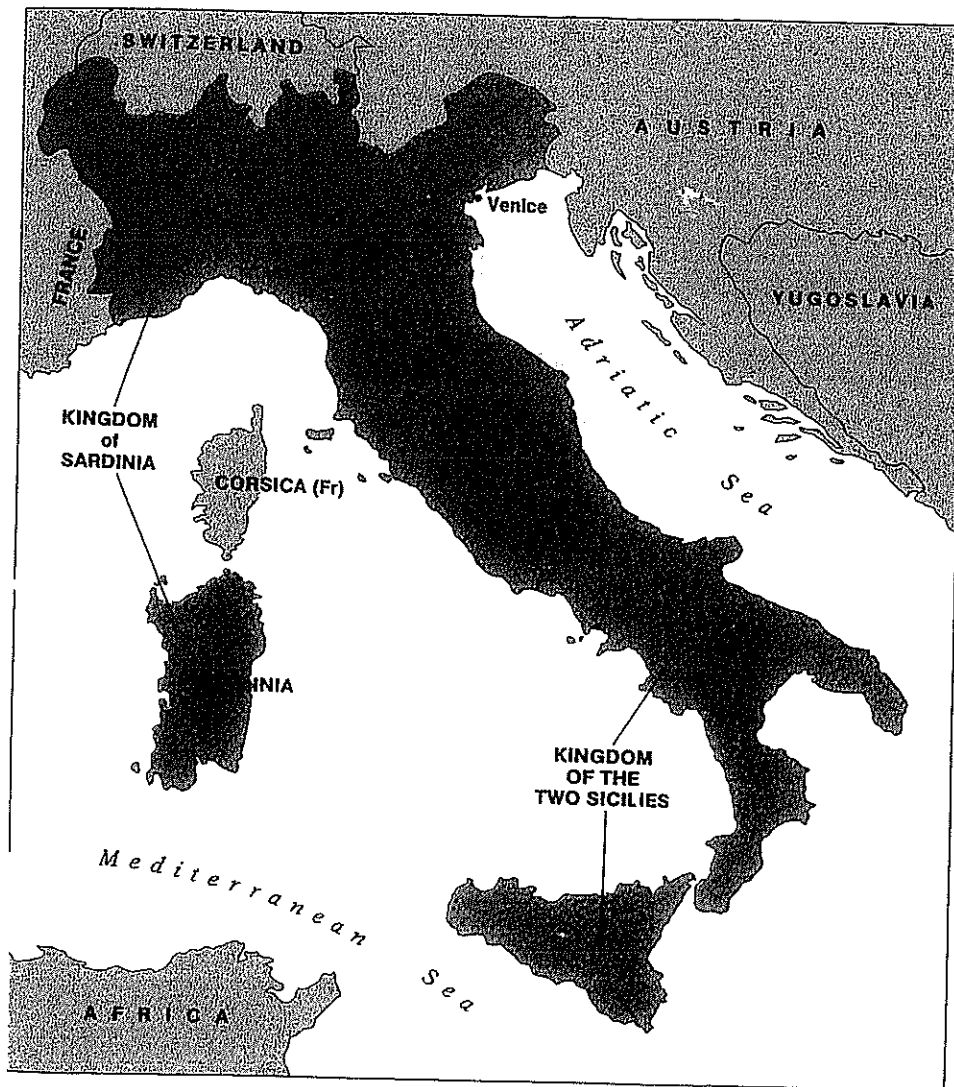
unification bringing together into one whole

volunteers those who offer to do something of their own free will

Nationalism is a feeling of strong loyalty to one's country and culture. Such a feeling often develops among people who speak the same language and follow similar customs. Nationalism leads people to honor their flag and to sing a national **anthem**. It leads people to risk their very lives to support their nation.

The spirit of nationalism helped the French fight off countries that were against their revolution. It gave the colonies in the Americas the strength to break away from the European imperialists.

In the nineteenth century, the spirit of nationalism led to the **unification** of Italy and Germany. In both places people were feeling the bonds of language and customs and culture. They decided it was time to unite as single nations.



Italy before unification

Nationalism in Italy

During the early Roman times, Italy had been a united country. It was the center of the Roman Empire. But late in the A.D. 400s, the Roman Empire fell. Italy was divided into many small kingdoms. For more than a thousand years, different nations and monarchs fought for control of the Italian territories. French troops, Spanish troops, German troops; all marched through Italy. Then in 1796, Napoleon Bonaparte invaded the Italian peninsula and took power.

Napoleon granted Venetia to Austria. Venetia was the kingdom that included the city of Venice. Napoleon put the rest of the small kingdoms under his own rule. In 1804 he crowned himself ruler of the new kingdom. The crown he wore bore these words: "God gave it [the Italian peninsula] to me; woe to him who dares touch it."

Napoleon's actions gave rise to the spirit of nationalism. This spirit would one day carry Italy to independence. Napoleon did away with old boundary lines and joined the little kingdoms together. By doing this, he gave Italians a chance to look at themselves as members of one

As feelings of nationalism grew, Italians began to think about unity. They dreamed about one independent Italy. But by 1815, Italy was once again divided into many kingdoms and states. Most of these were either ruled by Austria or by the pope. Those who wanted to unify Italy had some barriers to overcome.

Austria tried to crush any ideas of unity. Austria wanted Italy to remain weak and divided. The pope also tried to crush any ideas of unity. He feared nationalism as a threat to his own power.

But the people wanted to be free. They wanted to join together as one nation. So secret revolutionary **societies** sprang up. During the mid-1800s, three men became leaders of the movement toward a unified Italy. Italians called these men "The Soul," "The Brain," and "The Sword."

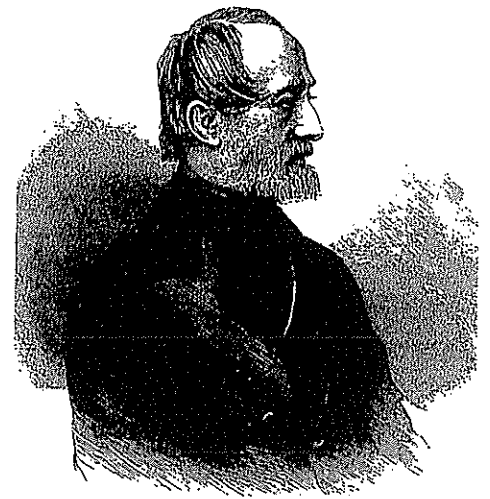
Secret Societies

The Soul of Italy was a man named Giuseppe Mazzini. In 1830 he joined a group that was working to unify Italy. That same year he was exiled because of his political activities. He would remain in exile for 18 years. In 1832 Mazzini organized a secret society known as "Young Italy." The society's goal was to free the Italian peninsula from Austrian rule. Young Italy wanted to join the country together under one government.

In 1848 revolutions broke out in many European countries. Mazzini returned to Italy to stir up a revolution there. The ruler of the kingdom of Sardinia favored the revolutionaries. He tried to help their cause by declaring war on Austria. But Austrian and French armies helped put down the Italian revolt. Not only did the revolution fail, but Sardinia was also defeated. Mazzini had to go into exile once again.

The Austrians forced the Sardinian king from his throne. His son, Victor Emmanuel II, became king of Sardinia in 1849.

"The Soul"



Giuseppe Mazzini

The new king of Sardinia was also in favor of Italian unity. He named Camillo di Cavour as his **prime minister**. This act moved Italy closer to freedom. Camillo di Cavour would soon be known as "The Brain," the clever leader of the unification movement.

Cavour was a **diplomat**, a master of foreign affairs. He recognized Austria as an enemy to unification. In 1858 he arranged a defense agreement between Sardinia and France. The next year Austria declared war on Sardinia. But French and Italian soldiers pushed the Austrians almost as far east as Venice. Sardinia gained the nearby region of Lombardy. Then in 1860, people from Modena, Parma, and Tuscany showed their respect for Sardinia's accomplishments. They joined with Sardinia and turned against Austria.

"The Brain"



Count Camillo di Cavour

“The Sword”

Giuseppe Garibaldi was a revolutionary most of his life. When he was 26, he joined the secret society, Young Italy. Garibaldi was a soldier in the battle for freedom. His attempts to lead Italy to independence won him the nickname of “The Sword.”

Failed rebellions forced Garibaldi to flee Italy or face death. He returned in 1848 to fight under Mazzini. When this revolution failed, he went into exile again.

In 1859 Garibaldi was back in Italy. He joined the fight for freedom led by King Victor Emmanuel of Sardinia. Garibaldi led an army of 1,000 **volunteers** to Sicily. His men were called “Red Shirts” because they wore red wool shirts as uniforms.

When Garibaldi and his army reached Sicily, many Sicilians joined them. Sicily was soon free. Then Garibaldi, The Sword, led his army north on the Italian mainland. He headed for Naples. Cavour, The Brain, sent an army south. By the end of 1860, the two armies had freed most of Italy. In 1861 Victor Emmanuel II became ruler of an almost completely united Italy.



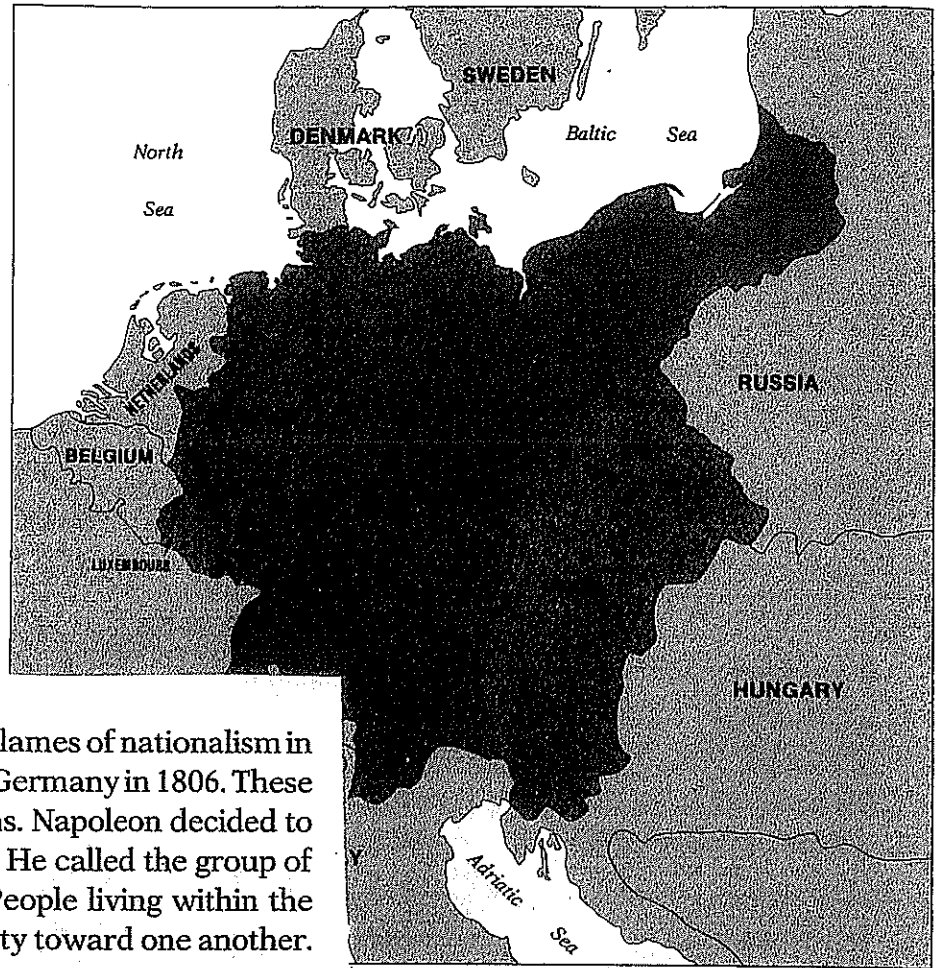
Giuseppe Garibaldi

Unification, at Last

Only Rome and the northern kingdom of Venetia were still under foreign control. The pope ruled Rome and Austria ruled Venetia. In 1866 the Italians helped Prussia defeat Austria in war. In return for its support, Italy was given Venetia.

Then came Rome. Garibaldi tried to take Rome twice, but failed. He was defeated by French troops who came to aid the pope. In 1870 Italy got another chance at Rome. France was fighting a war against Prussia. France took its troops out of Rome to help fight the Prussians. It was Italy's time to move! The pope's own small army could not fight off the Italian troops. Rome finally became part of the united nation of Italy. And in 1871, Rome became the capital of Italy.

Nationalism in Germany



Germany before unification

Just as he did in Italy, Napoleon lit the first flames of nationalism in Germany. Napoleon took over large parts of Germany in 1806. These lands were made up of many small kingdoms. Napoleon decided to join them together to rule them more easily. He called the group of nations the confederation of the Rhine. People living within the confederation began to have a sense of loyalty toward one another.

When Napoleon was defeated in 1815, a new German confederation was formed. Thirty-nine states, including Austria and Prussia, were joined together. Since Austria was large, it considered itself the leader. But Prussia had a well-organized government and real strength—military strength.

Many Germans thought about unifying the states under a central government. But Austria was against German unity. Austrians thought they could remain more powerful with the German states divided. It was not until 1862 that Germany moved toward becoming one nation.

Otto von Bismarck

The king of Prussia, Wilhelm I, was having problems with his legislature. King Wilhelm wanted to add to his already mighty army. But the legislature would not give him the money that he needed. So King Wilhelm turned to a Prussian landowner and soldier to help him. In 1862 he appointed a new prime minister, Otto von Bismarck.

Otto von Bismarck had a strong sense of Prussian loyalty. Bismarck was not interested in democracy or individual rights. He believed that duty to one's country was most important.

Bismarck promised the Prussian king a firm hand over the legislature and the people. The new prime minister thought that could be accomplished with a strong army. "The importance of a state," Bismarck said, "is measured by the number of soldiers it can put into the field of battle. . . ."

Bismarck followed a policy of "blood and iron." In other words, it was a policy of war. "The great questions of our day," he said, "cannot be settled by speeches and majority votes, but by blood and iron."

Bismarck encouraged King Wilhelm to unite the German states under one rule—Prussian rule.

How was this to be done? Bismarck's answer was war!



Otto von Bismarck