**Victor Emmanuel II** (14 March 1820 – 9 January 1878) was [King of Sardinia](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Kingdom%20of%20Sardinia&item_type=topic) from 1849 until 17 March 1861. At that point, he assumed the title of [King of Italy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=King%20of%20Italy&item_type=topic) and became the first king of a [united Italy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Italian%20unification&item_type=topic) since the 6th century, a title he held until his death in 1878. The Italians gave him the epithet of [Father of the Fatherland](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Father%20of%20the%20Fatherland&item_type=topic).

He became King of Sardinia-Piedmont in 1849 when his father abdicated the throne, after a humiliating military defeat by the Austrians. In 1852, he appointed [Count Camillo Benso of Cavour](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Camillo%20Benso,%20Count%20of%20Cavour&item_type=topic) ("Count Cavour") as [Prime Minister](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Prime%20Minister&item_type=topic) of Piedmont-Sardinia. This turned out to be a wise choice, since Cavour was a political mastermind and a major player in the Italian unification in his own right. Victor Emmanuel II soon became the symbol of the "[Risorgimento](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Risorgimento&item_type=topic)", the Italian unification movement of the 1850s and early 60s. He was especially popular in the Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont because of his respect for the new constitution and his liberal reforms.

Following Victor Emmanuel's advice, Cavour joined Britain and France in the [Crimean War](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Crimean%20War&item_type=topic) against Russia. Cavour was reluctant to go to war due to the power of Russia at the time and the expense of doing so. Victor Emmanuel, however, was convinced of the rewards to be gained from the alliance created with Britain and, more importantly, France. After successfully seeking British support and ingratiating himself with France and Napoleon III at the [Congress of Paris in 1856](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Congress%20of%20Paris%20(1856)&item_type=topic) at the end of the war, Count Cavour arranged a secret meeting with the French emperor. In 1858, they agreed that if the French were to help Piedmont combat Austria, which still occupied the [Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Kingdom%20of%20Lombardy-Venetia&item_type=topic) in northern Italy, France would be awarded [Nice](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Nice&item_type=topic) and [Savoy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Savoy&item_type=topic).

**Wars of Italian Unification**

The Italo-French campaign against Austria in 1859 started successfully. However, sickened by the casualties of the war and worried about the mobilisation of Prussian troops, Napoleon III secretly made a treaty with [Franz Joseph of Austria](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Franz%20Joseph%20of%20Austria&item_type=topic) whereby Piedmont would only gain [Lombardy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Lombardy&item_type=topic). After several quarrels about the outcome of the war, Cavour resigned, and the king had to find other advisors. France indeed only gained Nice and Savoy after the [Treaty of Turin](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Treaty%20of%20Turin%20(1860)&item_type=topic) was signed in March 1860, after Cavour had been reinstalled as Prime Minister, and a deal with the French was struck for plebiscites to take place in the Central Italian Duchies.

Later that same year, Victor Emmanuel II sent his forces to fight the papal army at Castelfidardo and drove the Pope into [Vatican City](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Vatican%20City&item_type=topic). His success at these goals led him to be [excommunicated](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Excommunicated&item_type=topic) from the Catholic Church. Then, [Giuseppe Garibaldi](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Giuseppe%20Garibaldi&item_type=topic) conquered Sicily and Naples, and Sardinia-Piedmont grew even larger. On 17 March 1861, the Kingdom of Italy was officially established and Victor Emmanuel II became its king.

Victor Emmanuel supported [Giuseppe Garibaldi](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Giuseppe%20Garibaldi&item_type=topic)'s [Expedition of the Thousand](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Expedition%20of%20the%20Thousand&item_type=topic) (1860–1861), which resulted in the rapid fall of the [Kingdom of the Two Sicilies](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Kingdom%20of%20the%20Two%20Sicilies&item_type=topic) in southern Italy. However, the king halted Garibaldi when he appeared ready to attack Rome, still under the [Papal States](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Papal%20States&item_type=topic), as it was under French protection. In 1860, through local votes, Tuscany, Modena, Parma and Romagna decided to side with Sardinia-Piedmont. Victor Emmanuel then marched victoriously in the [Marche](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Marche&item_type=topic) and [Umbria](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Umbria&item_type=topic) after the victorious [battle of Castelfidardo](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Battle%20of%20Castelfidardo&item_type=topic) (1860) over the Papal forces.

The king subsequently met with Garibaldi at [Teano](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Teano&item_type=topic), receiving from him the control of southern Italy. Another series of votes in the occupied lands resulted in the proclamation of Victor Emmanuel as the first [King of Italy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=King%20of%20Italy&item_type=topic) by the new Parliament of [unified Italy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Unification%20of%20Italy&item_type=topic), on 17 March 1861.

**Completion of the unification**

In 1866 Victor Emmanuel allied himself with [Prussia](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Prussia&item_type=topic) in the [Third Italian War of Independence](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Third%20Italian%20War%20of%20Independence&item_type=topic). Although not victorious in the Italian theater, he managed anyway to receive Veneto after the Austrian defeat in Germany. In 1870, after two failed attempts by Garibaldi, he also took advantage of the Prussian victory over France in the [Franco-Prussian War](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Franco-Prussian%20War&item_type=topic) to capture Rome after the French withdrew. He entered Rome on 20 September 1870 and set up the new capital there on 2 July 1871, after a temporary move to [Florence](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Florence&item_type=topic) in 1864.

**Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte** (20 April 1808 – 9 January 1873) was the [President of France](file:////main/index.php%3fs=List%20of%20Presidents%20of%20France&item_type=topic) from 1848 to 1852 and, as **Napoleon III**, the [Emperor of the French](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Emperor%20of%20the%20French&item_type=topic) from 1852 to 1870. He was the only president of the [French Second Republic](file:////main/index.php%3fs=French%20Second%20Republic&item_type=topic) and the head of the [Second French Empire](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Second%20French%20Empire&item_type=topic). He was the nephew and heir of [Napoleon I](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Napoleon%20I&item_type=topic).  His regime assisted [Italian unification](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Italian%20unification&item_type=topic) and, in doing so, annexed [Savoy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Savoy&item_type=topic) and the [County of Nice](file:////main/index.php%3fs=County%20of%20Nice&item_type=topic) to France; but at the same time, his forces defended the [Papal States](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Papal%20States&item_type=topic) against annexation by Italy.

**Italian Campaign**

Part of Italy, particularly the kingdom of [Piedmont](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Piedmont&item_type=topic)-[Sardinia](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Sardinia&item_type=topic) (officially "Kingdom of Sardinia"), was independent, but Central Italy was still ruled by the Pope and Lombardy, Venice and all other states were totally under Austrian influence. Napoleon III had fought with the Italian patriots against the Austrians when he was young, and his sympathy was with them, but the Empress, most of his government and the Catholic Church in France supported the Pope and the existing governments. The British Government was also hostile to the idea of promoting nationalism in Italy. Despite the opposition in his government and in his own palace, Napoleon III did all that he could to support the cause of Piedmont-Sardinia.

The King of [Piedmont-Sardinia](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Kingdom%20of%20Sardinia&item_type=topic), [Victor Emmanuel II](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Victor%20Emmanuel%20II%20of%20Italy&item_type=topic), was invited to Paris in November 1855, and given the same royal treatment as Queen Victoria. In July 1858, Napoleon arranged a secret visit by [Count Cavour](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Camillo%20Benso,%20Count%20of%20Cavour&item_type=topic). They agreed to join forces and drive the Austrians from Italy. Napoleon promised to send two hundred thousand soldiers to help one hundred thousand soldiers from Piedmont-Sardinia to force the Austrians out of northern Italy; in return France would receive Nice and Savoy

.

Napoleon III, though he had very little military experience, decided to lead the French army in Italy himself. Part of the French army crossed over the Alps, while the other part, with the Emperor, landed in Genes ([Genoa](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Genoa&item_type=topic)) on 18 May 1859. Fortunately for Napoleon and the Piedmontese, the commander of the Austrians, General Giulay, was not very aggressive. His forces greatly outnumbered the Piedmontese army at Turin, but he hesitated, allowing the French and Piedmontese to unite their forces.

The rest of the Austrian Army was able to escape while Napoleon III and King Victor-Emmanuel made a triumphal entry on 10 June into the city of [Milan](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Milan&item_type=topic), previously ruled by the Austrians. They were greeted by huge, jubilant crowds waving Italian and French flags.

The Austrians had been driven from Lombardy, but the army of General Giulay remained in the region of Venice. His army had been reinforced and numbered 130,000 men, roughly the same as the French and Piedmontese, though the Austrians were superior in artillery. On 24 June, the second and decisive battle was fought at [Solferino](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Solferino&item_type=topic). Napoleon III was horrified by the thousands of dead and wounded on the battlefield. He proposed an armistice to the Austrians, which was accepted on 8 July. A formal treaty ending the war was signed on 11 July 1859.

Count Cavour and the Piedmontese were bitterly disappointed by the abrupt end of the war. Lombardy had been freed, but Venetia (the Venice region) was still controlled by the Austrians, and the Pope was still the ruler of Rome and Central Italy. Cavour angrily resigned his post.

In Italy, even without the French army, the process of Italian unification launched by Cavour and Napoleon III took on a momentum of its own. There were uprisings in central Italy and the Papal states, and Italian patriots, led by [Garibaldi](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Garibaldi&item_type=topic), invaded and took over Sicily which would lead to the collapse of the [Kingdom of the Two Sicilies](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Kingdom%20of%20the%20Two%20Sicilies&item_type=topic). Napoleon III wrote to the Pope and suggested that he "make the sacrifice of your provinces in revolt and confide them to Victor-Emmanuel." The Pope, furious, declared in a public address that Napoleon III was a "liar and a cheat." Rome and the surrounding Latium region (in Italian: Lazio) remained in Papal hands.

Napoleon's support for the Italian patriots and his confrontation with Pope Pius IX over who would govern Rome made him unpopular with fervent French Catholics, and even with Empress Eugénie, who was a fervent Catholic. To win over the French Catholics and his wife, he agreed to guarantee that Rome would remain under the Pope and independent from the rest of Italy, and agreed to keep French troops there. The garrison of eight thousand French troops remained in Rome until August 1870, when they were recalled at the start of the [Franco-Prussian War](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Franco-Prussian%20War&item_type=topic). In September 1870, Garibaldi's soldiers entered Rome and made it the capital of Italy.

**Giuseppe Garibaldi** (4 July 1807 in [Nice](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Nice&item_type=topic) – 2 June 1882) was an [Italian](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Italians&item_type=topic) general, politician and nationalist who played a large role in the history of Italy. He is considered one of the greatest generals of modern timesand one of Italy's "fathers of the fatherland".

**Second Italian War of Independence**

In 1859, the [Second Italian War of Independence](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Second%20Italian%20War%20of%20Independence&item_type=topic) (also known as the Austro-Sardinian War) broke out. Garibaldi was appointed [major general](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Major%20general&item_type=topic), and formed a volunteer unit named the [Hunters of the Alps](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Hunters%20of%20the%20Alps&item_type=topic) (Cacciatori delle Alpi). From this point on Garibaldi abandoned Mazzini's republican ideal of the liberation of Italy, assuming that only the Sardinian-Piedmontese monarchy could effectively achieve it. Garibaldi was however very displeased even after victory as his home city of Nice was surrendered to the French, in return for crucial military assistance. In April 1860, as deputy for Nice in the Piedmontese parliament at Turin, he vehemently attacked Cavour for ceding Nice and the [County of Nice](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=County%20of%20Nice&item_type=topic) to Louis Napoleon, Emperor of France. In the following years Garibaldi (with other passionate [Nizzardo Italians](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Nizzardo%20Italians&item_type=topic)) promoted the [Italian reseizure](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Italian%20irredentism&item_type=topic) of Nice.

**Campaign of 1860**

At the beginning of April 1860, uprisings in [Messina](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Messina,%20Italy&item_type=topic) and [Palermo](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Palermo&item_type=topic) in the [Kingdom of the Two Sicilies](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Kingdom%20of%20the%20Two%20Sicilies&item_type=topic) provided Garibaldi with an opportunity. He gathered about a thousand volunteers – called the Thousand), or, as popularly known, the [Redshirts](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Redshirts%20(Italy)&item_type=topic) – in two ships named Piemonte and Lombardo, and landed in Sicily, on 11 May.

Swelling the ranks of his army with scattered bands of local rebels, Garibaldi led 800 volunteers to victory over an enemy force of 1500 on 15 May. He advanced to Palermo, the capital of the island, and launched a [siege](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Siege&item_type=topic) on 27 May. He had the support of many inhabitants, who rose up against the garrison. The support given by Sicilian peasants was not a matter of patriotism, but of hatred of exploiting landlords and oppressive Neapolitan officials. Garibaldi himself had no interest in social revolution, and instead sided with the Sicilian landlords against the rioting peasants. Six weeks later, he marched against Messina in the east of the island, winning a ferocious and difficult battle. Having conquered Sicily, he crossed the [Strait of Messina](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Strait%20of%20Messina&item_type=topic) and marched north. Garibaldi's progress was met with more celebration than resistance, and on 7 September he entered the capital city of [Naples](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Naples&item_type=topic), by train. Despite taking Naples, however, he had not to this point defeated the Neapolitan army. Garibaldi's volunteer army of 24,000 was not able to defeat conclusively the reorganized Neapolitan army (about 25,000 men) on 30 September at the [Battle of Volturno](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Battle%20of%20Volturnus%20(1860)&item_type=topic). This was the largest battle he ever fought, but its outcome was effectively decided by the arrival of the Piedmontese Army.

Following this, Garibaldi's plans to march on to Rome were jeopardized by the Piedmontese, technically his ally but unwilling to risk war with France, whose army protected the Pope. (The Piedmontese themselves had conquered most of the Pope's territories in their march south to meet Garibaldi, but they had deliberately avoided Rome, his capital.) Garibaldi chose to hand over all his territorial gains in the south to the Piedmontese, willing to see Italian unity brought about under the Piedmontese crown. In his famous meeting with [Victor Emmanuel II](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Victor%20Emmanuel%20II&item_type=topic) at [Teano](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Teano&item_type=topic) on 26 October 1860, Garibaldi greeted him as [King of Italy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=King%20of%20Italy&item_type=topic).

**Final struggle with Austria, and other adventures**

Garibaldi took up arms again in 1866, this time with the full support of the Italian government. The [Austro-Prussian War](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Austro-Prussian%20War&item_type=topic) had broken out, and Italy had allied with [Prussia](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Prussia&item_type=topic) against the [Austrian Empire](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Austrian%20Empire&item_type=topic) in the hope of taking [Venetia](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Venetia%20(region)&item_type=topic) from Austrian rule ([Third Italian War of Independence](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Third%20Italian%20War%20of%20Independence&item_type=topic)). Garibaldi gathered again his Hunters of the Alps, now some 40,000 strong, and [led them](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Invasion%20of%20Trentino%20(1866)&item_type=topic) into the [Trentino](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Trentino&item_type=topic). He defeated the Austrians at [Bezzecca](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Battle%20of%20Bezzecca&item_type=topic) (thus securing the only Italian victory in that war) and made for [Trento](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Trento&item_type=topic). An armistice was signed, by which Austria ceded Venetia to Italy, but this result was largely due to Prussia's successes on the northern front.

After the war, Garibaldi led a political party that agitated for the capture of Rome, the peninsula's ancient capital. In 1867, he again marched on the city, but the Papal army, supported by a French auxiliary force, proved a match for his badly armed volunteers. He was shot and wounded in the leg in the [Battle of Mentana](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Battle%20of%20Mentana&item_type=topic), and had to withdraw out of the Papal territory. When the [Franco-Prussian War](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Franco-Prussian%20War&item_type=topic) broke out in July 1870, Italian public opinion heavily favored the Prussians, and many Italians attempted to sign up as volunteers at the Prussian embassy in Florence. After the French garrison was recalled from Rome, his troops eventually captured the Papal States without Garibaldi's assistance as he was fighting Prussians for the French.

**Camillo Paolo Filippo Giulio Benso, Count of Cavour** (August 10, 1810 – June 6, 1861), was an Italian statesman and a leading figure in the movement toward [Italian unification](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Italian%20unification&item_type=topic). He was one of the leaders of the [Historical Right](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Historical%20Right&item_type=topic), and Prime Minister of the [Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Kingdom%20of%20Piedmont-Sardinia&item_type=topic). After the declaration of a united [Kingdom of Italy](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Kingdom%20of%20Italy%20(1861%25E2%2580%25931946)&item_type=topic), Cavour took office as the first [Prime Minister of Italy](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Prime%20Minister%20of%20Italy&item_type=topic); he died after only three months in office, and thus did not live to see [Venetia](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Venetia%20(region)&item_type=topic) or Rome added to the new Italy but still managed to guide Piedmont diplomatically to become a new [great power](file:////main/index.php%3fs=Great%20power&item_type=topic) in Europe, controlling a nearly united Italy that was five times as large as Piedmont beforehand.

In January 1858, the Italian [Felice Orsini](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Felice%20Orsini&item_type=topic)'s attempted assassination of [Napoleon III](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Napoleon%20III&item_type=topic) paradoxically opened an avenue of diplomacy between France and Piedmont. Cavour and Napoleon met in July 1858 and the two agreed that Piedmont would attempt to provoke war with the [Duchy of Modena](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Duchy%20of%20Modena&item_type=topic), obliging Austria to enter to protect its property, and France would then aid Piedmont. In return, Cavour reluctantly agreed to cede [Savoy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Savoy&item_type=topic) (the seat of the [Piedmontese royal family](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=House%20of%20Savoy&item_type=topic)) and the [County of Nice](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=County%20of%20Nice&item_type=topic) to France, and also arranged a royal marriage between [Princess Clotilde](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Maria%20Clotilde%20of%20Savoy&item_type=topic) and [Prince Napoleon](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Prince%20Napoleon&item_type=topic), surprisingly without Victor Emmanuel's consent. In the same year, Cavour sent his cousin, the famous beauty, photographic artist, and secret agent [Virginia Oldoïni](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Virginia%20Oldoini&item_type=topic), to further the interests of Italian unification with the emperor by whatever means possible, and by all accounts she succeeded, famously becoming the mistress of Napoleon.

After huge losses and afraid of Piedmont becoming too powerful, Napoleon signed a separate peace with Austria in the [Treaty of Villafranca](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Treaty%20of%20Villafranca&item_type=topic) on July 11, 1859, ending the [Second Italian War of Independence](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Second%20Italian%20War%20of%20Independence&item_type=topic). Victor Emmanuel accepted the peace, but Cavour was so infuriated after reading the terms of the treaty that he resigned and retired to his estate at [Leri](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Trino&item_type=topic), out of politics but concerned about the King’s alliance with Garibaldi’s revolutionaries and his desire to renew the war with Austria without allied support. When the weak La Marmora cabinet resigned, Victor Emmanuel was reluctant to have Cavour as premier again, but Cavour was still sent for on January 20, 1860. Cavour agreed with Napoleon to give Savoy and Nice to France in order to acquire Tuscany and [Emilia](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Emilia-Romagna&item_type=topic) for Piedmont. Plebiscite votes were arranged with huge majorities in all these provinces to approve the changes. Cavour managed to convince most that uniting Italy would make up for these territorial losses. With this, the first stage of unification was completed. It was now up to Garibaldi to overthrow the [Bourbon](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=House%20of%20Bourbon&item_type=topic) [Kingdom of the Two Sicilies](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Kingdom%20of%20the%20Two%20Sicilies&item_type=topic) and bring southern Italy into Piedmont's control.

Cavour attempted to annex Sicily to Piedmont, but Garibaldi and his comrade [Francesco Crispi](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Francesco%20Crispi&item_type=topic) would not allow it. Cavour persuaded Victor Emmanuel to write a letter to Garibaldi, requesting that he not invade the mainland; the letter was indeed sent, but the King secretly wished Garibaldi to invade whilst Cavour meanwhile attempted to stir up a liberal revolution in [Naples](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Naples&item_type=topic), but the populace was unreceptive. Garibaldi invaded anyway, attempting to reach Naples quickly before Cavour found a way to stop him. On September 7, he entered Naples, at that time the largest city in Italy, and unilaterally declared Victor Emmanuel the King of Italy. Garibaldi was now military dictator of southern Italy and Sicily, and he imposed the Piedmontese constitution but publicly demanded that Cavour be removed.

Garibaldi was unwilling to stop at this point, and planned an immediate invasion of the [Papal States](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Papal%20States&item_type=topic). Cavour feared France in that case would declare war to defend the Pope and successfully stopped Garibaldi from initiating his attack and quickly invaded the Papal regions of [Umbria](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Umbria&item_type=topic) and [Marche](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Marche&item_type=topic). This linked the territories conquered by Piedmont with those taken by Garibaldi. The King met with Garibaldi, who handed over control of southern Italy and Sicily, thus uniting Italy.

**Prime Minister of Italy**

In 1861, [Victor Emmanuel II](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Victor%20Emmanuel%20II&item_type=topic) declared the [Kingdom of Italy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Kingdom%20of%20Italy%20(1861%E2%80%931946)&item_type=topic), making Cavour officially Prime Minister of Italy. Cavour had many difficult issues to consider especially the future of Rome. Most Italians thought Rome must be capital of a united Italy, but this conflicted with the [temporal power of the Pope](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Temporal%20power%20of%20the%20Pope&item_type=topic) and also the independence of [the Church](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Roman%20Catholic%20Church&item_type=topic). Cavour believed that Rome should remain the seat of "a free church in a free state", which would maintain its independence but give up temporal power. Austrian [Venetia](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Venetia%20(region)&item_type=topic) was also a problem. Cavour recognized that [Venice](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Venice&item_type=topic) must be an integral part of Italy but refused to take a stance on how to achieve it, saying "Will the deliverance of Venice come by arms or diplomacy? I do not know.” A motion approving of his foreign policy passed by a huge majority. Creating Italy was no easy task, but ruling it proved fatal as by June he had died in office.

**Giuseppe Mazzini** (22 June 1805 – 10 March 1872) was an [Italian](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Italy&item_type=topic) politician, journalist and activist for the [unification of Italy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Italian%20unification&item_type=topic) and spearheaded the Italian revolutionary movement. His efforts helped bring about the independent and unified Italy in place of the several separate states, many dominated by foreign powers, that existed until the 19th century. He also helped define the modern European movement for [popular democracy in a republican state](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Radicalism%20(historical)&item_type=topic).

Mazzini organized a new political society called [Young Italy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Young%20Italy&item_type=topic) in 1831 whilst in self-imposed exile. Young Italy was a secret society formed to promote Italian unification. Mazzini believed that a popular uprising would create a unified Italy, and would touch off a European-wide revolutionary movement. The group's motto was God and the People, and its basic principle was the unification of the several states and kingdoms of the peninsula into a single republic as the only true foundation of Italian liberty. The new nation had to be: "One, Independent, Free Republic".

Young Italy counted about 60,000 adherents in 1833, with branches in [Genoa](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Genoa&item_type=topic) and other cities. In that year Mazzini first attempted revolution, which would spread from key cities like [Turin](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Turin&item_type=topic), and Genoa. However, the [Savoy](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=House%20of%20Savoy&item_type=topic) government discovered the plot before it could begin and many revolutionaries were arrested - 12 participants were executed, while Mazzini's best friend and director of the Genoese section, Jacopo Ruffini, killed himself. Mazzini was tried in absentia and sentenced to death. Despite this, he organized another uprising for the following year. A group of Italian exiles were to enter Piedmont from Switzerland and spread the revolution there, while [Giuseppe Garibaldi](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Giuseppe%20Garibaldi&item_type=topic), who had recently joined Young Italy, was to do the same from Genoa. However, the Piedmontese troops easily crushed the new attempt.

A succession of failed attempts at promoting further uprisings in Sicily, Abruzzi, Tuscany, and [Lombardy-Venetia](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Lombardy-Venetia&item_type=topic) discouraged Mazzini for a long period, which dragged on until 1840. In 1843 he organized another riot in [Bologna](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Bologna&item_type=topic), which attracted the attention of two young officers of the Austrian Navy, [Attilio and Emilio Bandiera](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Attilio%20and%20Emilio%20Bandiera&item_type=topic). With Mazzini's support, they landed near [Cosenza](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Cosenza&item_type=topic) ([Kingdom of Naples](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Kingdom%20of%20Naples&item_type=topic)), but were arrested and executed. Mazzini accused the British government of having passed information about the expeditions to the Neapolitans, and question was raised in the British Parliament. When it was admitted that his private letters had indeed been opened, and its contents revealed by the Foreign Office to the Austrian and Neapolitan governments, Mazzini gained popularity and support among the British liberals, who were outraged by such a blatant intrusion of the government into his private correspondence.

In 1847 he moved again to London, where he wrote a long "open letter" to [Pope Pius IX](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Pope%20Pius%20IX&item_type=topic), whose apparently liberal reforms had gained him a momentary status as possible paladin of the unification of Italy. The Pope, however, did not reply. On 7 April 1848 Mazzini reached [Milan](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Milan&item_type=topic), whose population had rebelled against the Austrian garrison and established a provisional government. The [First Italian War of Independence](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=First%20Italian%20War%20of%20Independence&item_type=topic), started by the Piedmont king [Charles Albert](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Charles%20Albert%20of%20Sardinia&item_type=topic) to exploit the revolutionary circumstances in Milan, turned into a total failure. Mazzini abandoned Milan and joined Garibaldi's irregular force at [Bergamo](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Bergamo&item_type=topic), moving to [Switzerland](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Switzerland&item_type=topic) with him.

On 9 February 1849 [a republic](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Roman%20Republic%20(19th%20century)&item_type=topic) was declared in Rome, with Pius IX already having been forced to flee the preceding November. On the same day the Republic was declared, Mazzini reached the city. He was appointed as a member of the "[triumvirate](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Triumvirate&item_type=topic)" of the new republic on 29 March, becoming soon the true leader of the government and showing good administrative capabilities in social reforms. However, when the French troops called by the Pope made clear that the resistance of the Republican troops, led by Garibaldi, was in vain, on 12 July 1849, Mazzini set out for Marseille, from where he moved again to Switzerland.

Mazzini spent all of 1850 hiding from the Swiss police. In July, he founded the association Amici di Italia (Friends of Italy) in London, to attract consensus towards the Italian liberation cause. Two failed riots in [Mantua](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Mantua&item_type=topic) (1852) and [Milan](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Milan&item_type=topic) (1853) were a crippling blow for the Mazzini organization, whose prestige never recovered. He later opposed the alliance signed by Savoy with Austria for the [Crimean War](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Crimean%20War&item_type=topic). In 1856, he returned to Genoa to organize a series of uprisings which again met a dismaying end. Mazzini managed to escape the police, but was condemned to death by default. From this moment on, Mazzini was more of a spectator than a protagonist of the Italian Risorgimento, whose reins were now strongly in the hands of the Savoyard monarch [Victor Emmanuel II](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Victor%20Emmanuel%20II%20of%20Sardinia&item_type=topic) and his skilled prime minister, [Cavour](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Camillo%20Benso,%20Conte%20di%20Cavour&item_type=topic), who often dismissingly referred to him as "Chief of the assassins".