

Italian Unification and Early Divisions

Starter



'Italy' pre 1861



Camilo Cavour



Giuseppe Garibaldi

Aim - to understand the situation in Italy pre and post unification in 1861.

- Soft
- Future
- Independent
- Past
- Social
- Catholic
- Piedmont
- Austria
- Identity
- Adowa
- Patriot
- Unions
- Self
- Britain

After the collapse of the Roman Empire c 500 CE, by 1800 the region had become broken up into several **independent** regions. These included Tuscany, the Papal States and the most dominant, **Piedmont**. Italy would only become unified in 1861 following diplomatic and military action of the Piedmont's Prime Minister, Cavour and the military campaign of Italian **patriot**, Giuseppe Garibaldi. Rome and the Papal States would complete unification in 1870. Despite unification, Italy remained divided along geographical, economic, **social** lines. These divisions weakened the 'Liberal Italian' ruling governments between 1861 and 1923. Early reasons for division largely stemmed from a lack of national **identity**. Piedmont had bullied other states and imposed its laws and political structures onto them. This was particularly unwelcome in the South which was largely rural in comparison to northern areas - which were generally more affluent and industrialised. The **Catholic** Church was also unhappy with the Liberal Government's secular stance and anti-clerical policies. The Vatican had urged Catholics not to vote until 1914. There were also social division as many workers were dissatisfied with a political system that was dominated by wealthy elites and largely excluded them from voting. The workers also viewed the Liberal government as corrupt and **self** serving. As unrest grew the Liberal government closed down trade **unions** and banned The Italian Socialist Party (PSI). Finally, there was increasing nationalist opposition led by the poet, Filippo Marinetti who had created the Italian National Association and **Future** Movement in 1910. Marinetti attacked the Liberal government, blaming it for preventing Italy from reclaiming its place as a great power. More specific aims included acquiring areas with high Italian speaking population in **Austria** and the 'unredeemed lands' of Trentino and Trieste. Nationalists also had a score to settle with Abyssinia - having lost overseas territory following their defeat at the Battle of **Adowa** in 1896.

'Italy' before 1861

Lack of National Identity

Church v State

Working Class v Elites

Nationalist Opposition
