The Kingdom of Italy: Unity or Disparity, 1860-1945

Part IIIa: The First Years of the Kingdom Governments of the Historic Right
1861-1876
Regno d’Italia

- Statuto Albertino
- Bicameral legislature
- Legislative power shared by Parliament and the king.
- Individual freedoms, freedom of press and of assembly, right to private property and the principle of equality under the law.
- Roman Catholicism named as the religion of State.
Electorate was approximately 2.5% of population
  • Literate
  • over 25
  • paid at least 40 lire in direct taxes
Centralized administrative system

- prefects of the regions appointed by central government

- locally selected councils, but mayors chosen by central government

- prefects expected to “massage” the vote and enforce policy
The Era of the Destro Storico—1861-1876

• Not formally organized as a party
• A group of educated, northern landowners, industrialists, and those involved in banking and finance
Urbano Rattazzi, head of the Sinistro Storico

General Alfonso Ferrero Lamarmora, Court party
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prime Minister</th>
<th>In Office</th>
<th>PM Party/Parliamentary Make-up</th>
<th>Reason for Collapse of Government</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour</td>
<td>23 March 1861 - 6 June 1861</td>
<td>Right (Destra Storica)</td>
<td>Died in office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ricasoli Tuscany</td>
<td>12 June 1861 - 3 March 1862</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>&quot;royal coup d'état&quot;&lt;br&gt;RCC, conservative, and royal opposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rattazzi Piedmont</td>
<td>3 March 1862 - 8 December 1862</td>
<td>Left (Sinistra Storica) (Left-Right govt)</td>
<td>Lack of clear program&lt;br&gt;Bungled handling of a Garibaldi attempt on Rome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farini Emilia</td>
<td>8 December 1862 - 24 March 1863</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Mentally unstable&lt;br&gt;Threatened king with knife</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minghetti Romagna</td>
<td>24 March 1863 - 28 September 1864</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Civil unrest as result of moving capital to Florence&lt;br&gt;Ousted by telegram from king without participation of parliament; king angered by treatment of guests at royal ball</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Alfonso Ferrero la Marmora</td>
<td>28 September 1864 - 31 December 1865</td>
<td>Military/Court Party (Right)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31 December 1865 - 20 June 1866</td>
<td>Military (Right)</td>
<td>Defeat at Custoza; taken down by parliamentary leaders Lanza and Sella</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ricasoli</td>
<td>20 June 1866 - 10 April 1867</td>
<td>Govt. of National Unity (Right-Left)</td>
<td>Rejection of his attempts to conciliate the Vatican; brutal suppression of popular uprising in Sicily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rattazzi</td>
<td>10 April 1867 - 27 October 1867</td>
<td>Right-Left</td>
<td>Bungled handling of third Garibaldi attempt on Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menabrea Chambery, France</td>
<td>27 October 1867 - 5 January 1868</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 January 1868 - 13 May 1869</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 May 1869 - 14 December 1869</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Lost majority in election after multiple crises, many over Rome and foreign alliances</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lanza Piedmont</td>
<td>14 December 1869 - 10 July 1873</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Reaction to stringent economic policies and high taxes to balance the budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minghetti</td>
<td>10 July 1873 - 25 March 1876</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Reimposition of the macinato and loss of Tuscan support as a result of proposal to nationalize RRs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Major problems to be addressed

• Large debt and need to balance the budget

• Discontent and disturbances of the populace, especially, but not solely, in the South

• Completing unification with acquisition of Venetia

• The “Roman Question”
Debt

- Piedmont’s expenditures for “wars of independence” approximately 500,000,000 lire to 1860
  third war in 1866 cost another 800,000,000
- Revenue 1861-64 480,000,000 lire per annum; rose to 600,000,000 by 1866
- Public debt 2,450,000,000 in 1861; more than doubled by 1865
- Deficits in mid-1860s ranged from 47% of total state expenditures to over 60% by 1866
Major expenditures 1861-66

- One-third of revenue per annum went to debt service
- One-quarter per annum to the military
- Substantial amounts to railroad building
- Moving the capital from Turin to Florence
Raising revenue

• Extremely high indirect taxes on food
• Resistance to raising land taxes by wealthy who were politically powerful
• Inefficient and arbitrary assessment and collection
• Raising tax on salt and tobacco
• Restoring the *macinato* 1869
• Sale of ecclesiastical estates
Between 1865 and 1871

• Direct taxes increased 63%
• Transfer taxes increased 50%
• Taxes on consumption increased 107%
Economic outcomes

• An apparent balanced budget by 1876

• “Take-off” in industrial revolution and agricultural revolution in North and parts of Center

• Revenue tripled from 1861 to 1876
Discontent and disturbances

• 1860-65, brigandage, South

• 1866, “march on Palermo,” Sicilian revolt

• Popular demonstrations, various cities, various dates, various reasons (usually related to economic issues)
Aree interessate dal brigantaggio postunitario (1860-1870)
In tratteggio le aree sottoposte alla Legge Pica
Carmine Crocco, brigante
La banda di Pietro Bianchi
PALERMO
16/22 SETTEMBRE
LA RIVOLTA DEL SETTE E MEZZO
LA COMUNE DI PALERMO
TEATRO DI STRADA, CONVEGNI, DIBATTITI, MOSTRE, CONCERTI, MANIFESTAZIONI, CORTEI
antudo.info
Acquisition of Venetia
Battle of Custoza
Battle of Lissa
The “Roman Question”

- The last vestiges of the Papal States, the area known today as Lazio, remained under the secular governance of the Pope.

- As the historic center of a vast and powerful empire, the city of Rome seemed absolutely necessary to the completion of the Italian kingdom.
• Opposition from Catholics who saw Rome as a “holy” city not a secular capital
• Possible intervention from foreign Catholic rulers
• For some risorgimento leaders appeared too old fashioned or underdeveloped
• For others Italy without Rome was not truly a complete nation
<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>1860</td>
<td>Volunteers diverted from Rome by Vittorio Emanuele II’s Piedmontese forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Volunteers dispersed by Italian forces at Aspromonte</td>
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<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Volunteers defeated by Papal and French forces at Mentana</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Catholic responses

• Doctrine of papal infallibility

• Non expedit

• Refusal to recognize the Kingdom of Italy until 1929

• Creation of the Opera dei Congressi by intransigenti
Vatican Council I: Papal Infallibility
I Presidenti dei Congressi Cattolici Italiani
Law of (Papal) Guarantees

- Guaranteed liberty and independence for Pope
- Guaranteed a salary equal to what he had previously received from his temporal holdings
- Made him a sovereign in a state within Italy
- Guaranteed punishment for assassination attempts and insults
- Guaranteed full freedom of use in papal buildings and Roman churches