

# 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

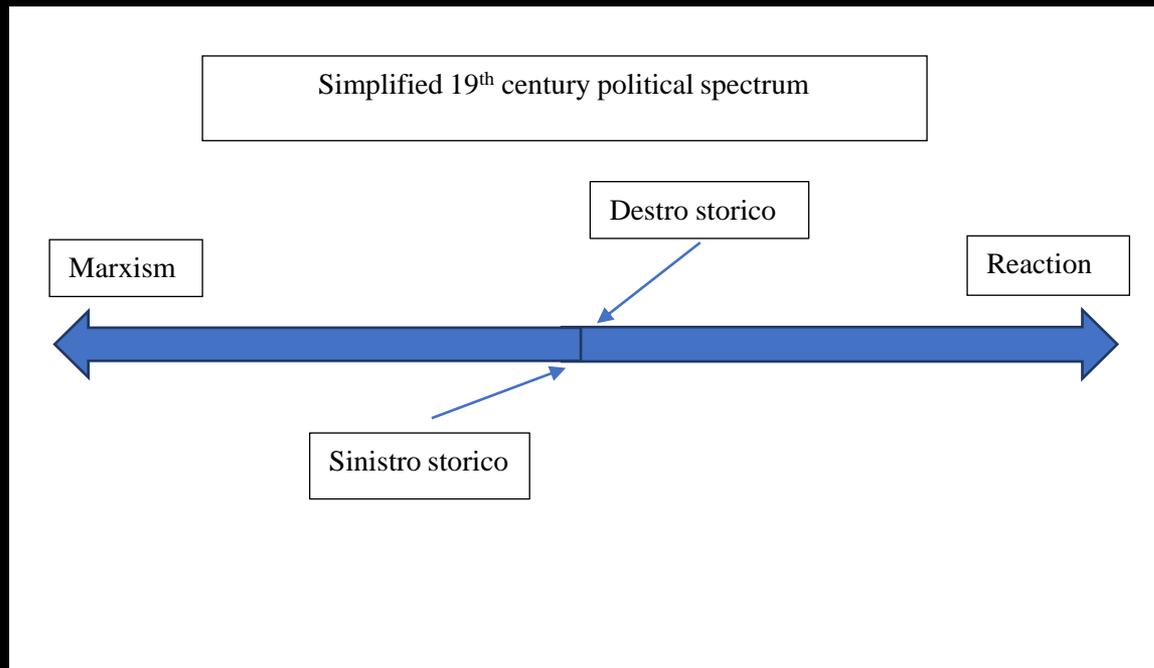
- Literate
- over 25
- paid at least 40 lire in direct taxes

## 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

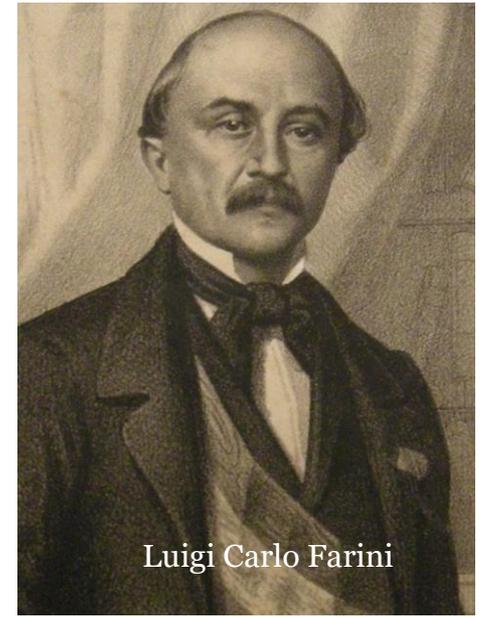




Camilo Benso, Conte di Cavour



Baron Bettino Ricasoli



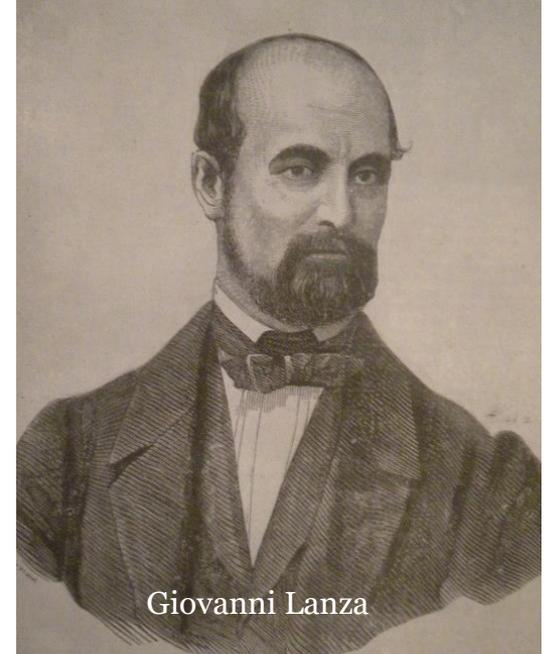
Luigi Carlo Farini



Marco Minghetti



Luigi Federico Menabrea



Giovanni Lanza



Urbano Rattazzi, head of  
the Sinistro Storico



General Alfonso Ferrero  
Lamarmora, Court party

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

# 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



Filomena Pennacchio, Giuseppina Vitale, and Maria Giovanna Tito (Crocco's fidanzata)



Michelina de Cesare



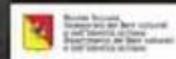
La banda di Pietro Bianchi

**PALERMO**  
**16/22**  
**SETTEMBRE**

**LA RIVOLTA**  
**DEL SETTE**  
**E MEZZO**

**LA COMUNE DI PALERMO**

**TEATRO DI STRADA, CONVEGNI, DIBATTITI,  
MOSTRE, CONCERTI, MANIFESTAZIONI, CORTEI**



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# Acquisition of Venetia







# Battle of Custoza



# Battle of Lissa





# The “Roman Question”

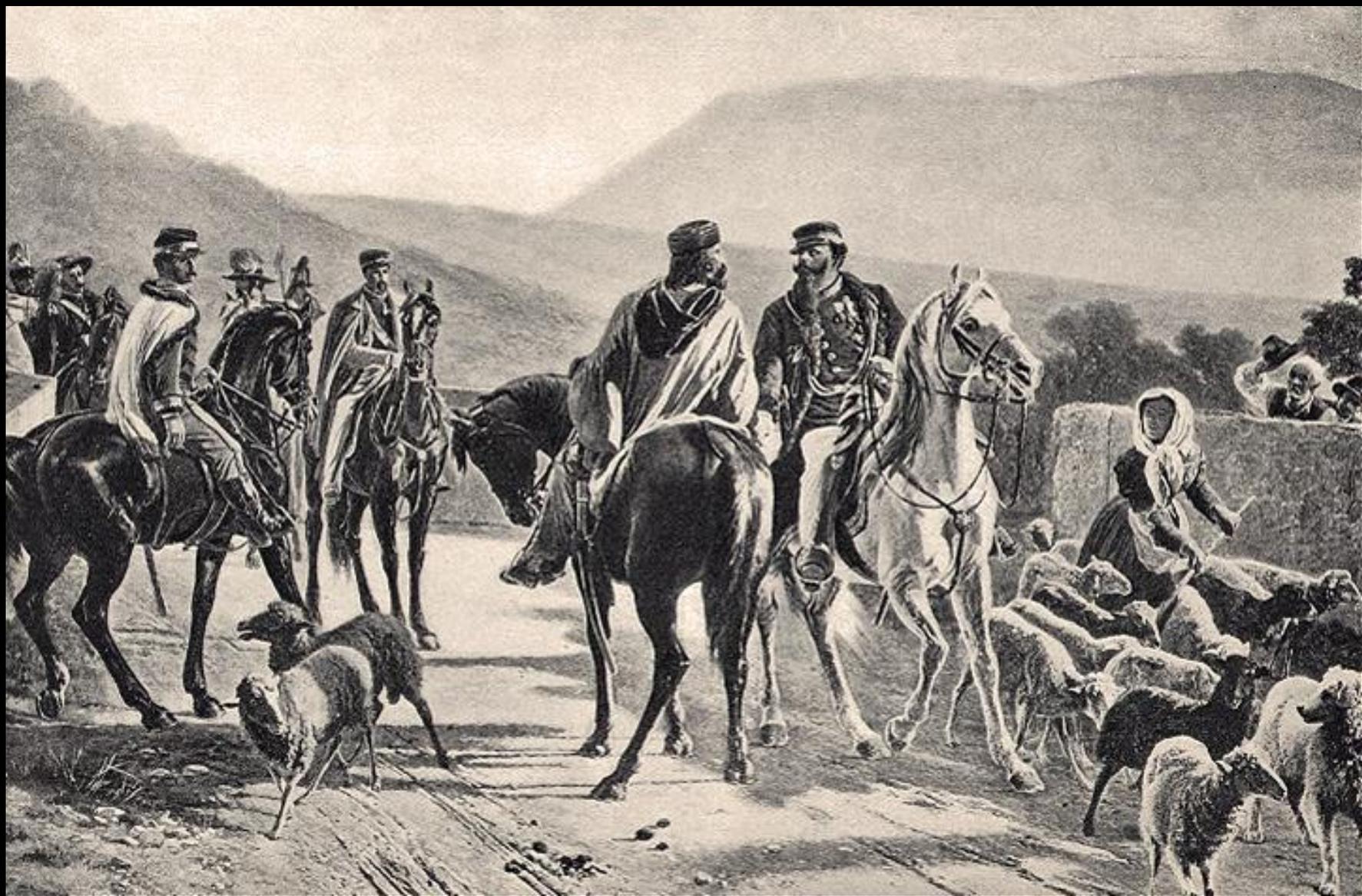
- The last vestiges of the Papal States, the area known today as Lazio, remained under the secular governance of the Pope.
- As the historic center of a vast and powerful empire, the city of Rome seemed absolutely necessary to the completion of the Italian kingdom.



- 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

# Garibaldi: “Roma o morte”

- 1860 volunteers diverted from Rome by Vittorio Emanuele II's Piedmontese forces
- 1862 volunteers dispersed by Italian forces at Aspromonte
- 1867 volunteers defeated by Papal and French forces at Mentana









Pope Pius the 9<sup>th</sup> 1862.







# 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



