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World Civ assignment II

In the 19th century, nationalism was a powerful force in Europe, inspiring movements for self-determination and independence. Among the nations that experienced this phenomenon were Italy, Ireland, Poland, and Germany. For this assignment, I have chosen to focus on the 19th century nationalist movement in Italy.

The Italian nationalist movement emerged in the wake of the Napoleonic Wars, which had brought about the dissolution of the Italian states and the establishment of French hegemony in the region. In response, a group of intellectuals and activists known as the Risorgimento ("Resurgence") sought to create a unified Italian state. The movement's ideals were based on a shared sense of history, culture, and language, which were seen as the basis for a distinct Italian identity.

One of the key figures of the Risorgimento was Giuseppe Mazzini, who argued that Italy should be a democratic republic based on the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity. Mazzini believed that Italy's political independence could only be achieved through a popular uprising and that the Italian people themselves had a responsibility to bring about their own liberation. He wrote, "The great nation is the nation that rises in revolt, that struggles against oppression, that risks its life for an ideal."

Another important figure in the Italian nationalist movement was Count Camillo di Cavour, who believed that Italy's unification could be achieved through diplomatic means rather than revolution. Cavour served as the Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia, which was one of the few independent Italian states. He worked to establish alliances with other European powers and to

modernize the economy and infrastructure of his own state. Cavour's efforts eventually led to the formation of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861, with the capital in Rome.

In conclusion, the 19th century Italian nationalist movement was characterized by a strong sense of cultural and historical identity, a commitment to democratic ideals, and a belief in the importance of political independence. The movement's leaders, such as Mazzini and Cavour, pursued different strategies for achieving these goals, but all shared a vision of a unified and free Italy. Sources consulted for this essay include "The Risorgimento and the Unification of Italy" by Derek Beales and "Mazzini and the Risorgimento" by Denis Mack Smith.