Alex Camilo

Thursday, March 2, 2023

19th Century Italy

The 19th century was a turbulent time for Italy, as it was still a fragmented and divided nation consisting of various independent states and regions. Being Italian at the time meant identifying with one's local community or region rather than a unified national identity.

However, despite the division, there was a rising sense of a common Italian legacy and culture, which could be seen in the works of Italian authors, composers, and painters who honored Italy's lengthy history and diverse cultural heritage. Although Italy was united in 1861, it wasn't until the first decade of the 20th century that a strong feeling of national identity really started to emerge. By standardizing the Italian language, supporting national emblems like the flag and national anthem, and encouraging a sense of shared history and culture, the Italian government tried to develop a sense of national unity.

In conclusion, being Italian in the 19th century meant identifying with one's local community or region rather than a unified national identity, but this began to change as the movement towards unification gained momentum and a sense of shared culture and heritage began to emerge.

"19th Century Italy." *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, https://history.state.gov/countries/issues/italian-unification.

U.S. Department of State. (2022, October 20). *U.S. relations with Italy - United States Department of State*. U.S. Department of State. Retrieved March 2, 2023, from https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-italy/