“Nationalism, simply defined, is dedication to and identification with the interests, purposes, and well-being of one’s nation-state, a political entity consisting ideally of individuals with shared values and a common language, history, and vision. As such, nationalism takes precedence over competing loyalties to religion, locality, and even family. No other political force in history has matched its ability to stir deep emotions, inspire heroism and self-sacrifice, and justify war and oppression. “

* Andrea, Alfred J. and James H. Overfield. *The Human Record: Sources of Global History.* Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001.

Question:

1. Compare this definition of Nationalism with your notes definition. What are the similarities and differences?

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**Italian Nationalism:**

Giuseppe Mazzini: *On Nationality*, 1852

*Giuseppe Mazzini (1805­1872), the founder (1831) of* Young Italy, *was perhaps the leading figure in liberal nationalism. He saw the creation of a democratic Italian state as crucial to Italy's development.*

“Europe no longer possesses unity of faith, of mission, or of aim. Such unity is necessity in the world. Here, then, is the secret of the crisis. It is the duty of every one to examine and analyze calmly and carefully the probable elements of this new unity. There are in Europe two great questions… the question which all have agreed to call social, and the question of nationalities. The people of Europe… have struggled for country and liberty; for a word inscribed upon a banner, proclaiming to the world that they also live, think, love, and labor for the benefit of all. They speak the same language, they kneel beside the same tombs, they glory in the same traditions; and they demand to associate freely, without obstacles, without foreign domination, in order to elaborate and express their idea; to contribute their stone also to the great pyramid of history.”

Giuseppe Mazzini, "Europe: Its Condition and Prospects," *Essays: Selected from the Writings, Literary, Political and Religious of Joseph Mazzini*, ed. William Clark (London: Walter Scott, 1880)

Question:

1. What positive qualities did Mazzini associate with Nationalism? How would Nationalism help Europe?

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Count Camillo di Cavour, The Unification of Italy

*An innovative agriculturalist and Prime Minister of Piedmont (Kingdom of Sardinia), Cavour (1810-1861) played a central role in the unification of Italy. As the following events make clear though, nationalism did not mean the same thing for him as it did for Mazzini.*

On 7th March 1850 Cavour made a speech in the chamber where he had suggested that "Piedmont, gathering to itself all the living forces of Italy, would soon be in a position to lead our mother-country to the high destinies to which she is called." As Prime Minister Cavour promoted industrialization and also conducted the foreign affairs of the country with the aim of improving the power of the Sardinian state. He allied Sardinia with Great Britain and France in the Crimean War (1854-56) against Russia to ensure that the French and British would support his attempts to gain territory for his nation. In July 1858 Cavour met with the King of France to plot war against Austria and to secure the reorganization of the Italian Peninsula. It was agreed that an enlarged Piedmont would unite with Tuscany, the Kingdom of Two Sicilies and a small portion of the Papal State to become an Italian Confederation. In July 1859, Cavour traded Nice and Savory (both areas that were heavily Italian in ethnicity) to the French in return for the French acceptance of the central Italian states being annexed by Piedmont. By March, 1861, Victor Emmanuel II, the King of Sardinia and Piedmont, was recognized as the first king of Italia “by the grace of God and the will of the People” in Turin. This occurred because Cavour was willing to exploit the feelings of nationalism to secure an expansion of Sardinia’s territories.

Question:

1. What was Cavour’s primary goal in using nationalism to unify the Italian states? How did he manage to secure this unification?

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Task: With your partner Brainstorm Arguments based on the sources above that would support the following positions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Nationalism was Constructive** | **Nationalism was Destructive** |
|  |  |