



GATORMUN XXIII

**The Expedition of the Thousand: The
Unification of Italy**

Gonzalo Palenzuela

Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

My name is Gonzalo Palenzuela, and I am extremely excited to be your Crisis Director for this year's GatorMUN in the Expedition of the Thousand: the Unification of Italy committee. Although I am a Civil Engineering major, I have always been a geography and history buff, and the Victorian era, with its balance of diplomacy, revolution, and the outbreak of new ideas and technologies, has always been my favorite time period to study; hence why this committee focused on Giribaldi's ragtag group of revolutionaries banding together (with some help from larger players) to unify Italy and bring an idea they've been dreaming their entire lives for. In committee, this will be a full historical crisis with a normal 2-pad system, and although I will allow alternative history and creative ideas that will tap into the full potential of your arcs, I am limiting arcs to be very real and grounded in reality, so please consider that when planning for your arcs. That being said, I am looking forward to the ideas you will come up with for this committee!

Sincerely,

Gonzalo Palenzuela

I. Napoleonic Prelude and the Rise of National Consciousness (1796–1815)

When Napoleon Bonaparte's armies marched into Italy in 1796, they shattered centuries of dynastic rule and feudal privilege. The Cisalpine Republic in Lombardy, the Ligurian Republic around Genoa, and the short-lived Parthenopean Republic in Naples introduced modern administration, secular law, and the concept of citizenship. The Kingdom of Italy (1805–1814), ruled directly by Napoleon, connected northern Italy more closely to French institutions, even conscripting Italians into his armies.

The Napoleonic presence was double-edged. Many Italians resented French exploitation, forced conscription, and heavy taxation. But others embraced the reforms — the abolition of feudal dues, secularization of church lands, codified laws, and centralized administration. For the first time, educated Italians began to imagine that they belonged to something larger than Tuscany, Lombardy, or Sicily: a nation.

The Congress of Vienna (1815) erased these republics. Austria received Lombardy-Venetia outright, the Pope regained the Papal States, the Bourbons were restored in Naples and Sicily, and the dukes of Modena, Parma, and Tuscany were put back on their thrones. The peninsula looked like a reactionary mosaic — but the Napoleonic seed of nationalism could not be uprooted.

II. The Age of Secret Societies and the Revolutions of 1830

After 1815, Austrian garrisons stood watch from Venice to Modena. Conservative rulers censored the press, banned assemblies, and empowered secret police. But resistance thrived underground. The **Carbonari**, a network of conspiratorial cells, recruited officers, students, and middle-class professionals. Their plots aimed to overthrow tyrannical rulers and establish constitutional governments.

In 1820–21, revolts flared in Naples and Piedmont, demanding constitutional charters. At first, King Ferdinand I of the Two Sicilies grudgingly accepted a constitution — only to appeal to Austria for help. Austrian troops crushed both revolts, restoring absolute rule.

The July Revolution of 1830 in France inspired another wave. Carbonari conspiracies sparked uprisings in Modena, Parma, and the Papal Legations. Leaders like **Ciro Menotti** in Modena paid with their lives. Austria intervened again, reasserting control. The **Congress of Laibach (1821)** and **Congress of Verona (1822)** had already affirmed that the Holy Alliance would uphold monarchs' rights against revolution. Each defeat underscored how tightly Austria guarded the Italian order.

In 1831, Giuseppe Mazzini — a fiery Genoese exile — founded **Young Italy (Giovine Italia)**. Unlike the Carbonari's secrecy, Mazzini preached openly: Italy must be “one, free, independent, republican.” Though his attempted uprisings failed, his vision electrified exiles and students. The Bourbon kingdom, the Pope, and the Habsburgs remained entrenched, but Mazzini had given Italian nationalism a creed.

III. The Firestorm of 1848

The “Springtime of Nations” reached its climax in Italy. On January 12, 1848, **Palermo erupted in revolt**, demanding a constitution and autonomy. Within weeks, King Ferdinand II of Naples conceded a constitution — though he would soon betray it.

In March, Milan rose against Austrian troops in the **Five Days of Milan**, forcing Field Marshal Radetzky to retreat temporarily. Venice declared the **Republic of San Marco** under Daniele Manin. Charles Albert of Piedmont-Sardinia, casting himself as the sword of Italy, declared war on Austria. Volunteers flocked to his banner, including Garibaldi, returning from exile in South America.

Yet enthusiasm met the cold steel of Austrian discipline. Radetzky defeated Charles Albert at **Custoza (1848)** and again at **Novara (1849)**, forcing his abdication in favor of Victor Emmanuel II.

Meanwhile, Rome expelled Pope Pius IX, forming the **Roman Republic** led by Mazzini, with Garibaldi commanding its defense. Garibaldi’s redshirts fought French troops heroically at the Janiculum, but Louis-Napoleon sent 30,000 men to restore papal rule. Tuscany, Venice, and the south also fell back under old regimes.

The revolutions of 1848–49 ended in disaster. But the martyrs of Rome, Milan, and Venice gave the Risorgimento its heroes and myths. For many Italians, Austria and the Papacy had shown themselves to be enemies of national freedom.

IV. The Rise of Piedmont-Sardinia and Diplomatic Realignment (1850–1859)

After 1849, Piedmont alone kept its constitution. Under **Victor Emmanuel II** and his brilliant prime minister **Count Camillo di Cavour**, it became the nucleus of a liberal, modern Italy. Railways expanded, industry grew, and Piedmont’s parliament gained prestige as the only constitutional regime in Italy.

Cavour recognized that Italy could not be freed without allies. Piedmont joined Britain and France in the **Crimean War (1855)**, sending a small but symbolic expedition to Sevastopol. At the **Congress of Paris (1856)**, Cavour raised the “Italian Question,” warning that Austria’s domination threatened European peace.

In 1858, Cavour met Napoleon III at **Plombières**, striking a secret deal: France would aid Piedmont if Austria attacked, in exchange for Nice and Savoy. The following year, Austria blundered into declaring war. The **Second Italian War of Independence (1859)** saw Franco-Piedmontese armies victorious at **Magenta** and **Solferino**. Napoleon III, unnerved by the bloodshed, abruptly made peace at **Villafranca**, leaving Austria in Venetia but ceding Lombardy to Piedmont.

Yet nationalism surged beyond diplomacy. In Parma, Modena, and Tuscany, dukes fled as crowds demanded union with Piedmont. Central Italy voted itself into the unification project. By 1860, a “Kingdom of Northern Italy” was taking shape, but Rome and Naples remained outside it.

V. A Kingdom Divided: The Bourbons, the Pope, and the People

The **Kingdom of the Two Sicilies** was the largest Italian state, ruling 9 million people across southern Italy and Sicily. Under **Ferdinand II (r. 1830–1859)**, known as “King Bomba” for his bombardment of rebellious Palermo, the Bourbons had resisted every reform. His successor, **Francis II**, was only 23 when he inherited the throne in 1859. Pious, shy, and indecisive, he relied on reactionary advisers.

The Bourbon army was large — over 100,000 men — but plagued by corruption and poor morale. The economy lagged behind the north, with aristocrats clinging to vast estates and peasants burdened by heavy taxes. Sicily, in particular, harbored deep resentment, having staged multiple revolts in 1820, 1837, and 1848.

In central Italy, the **Papal States** stretched from Rome to Bologna. Pope Pius IX, once hailed as a liberal reformer, had turned conservative after 1848. Protected by French garrisons, he rejected both Italian unity and republicanism, insisting that papal temporal power was divinely ordained.

Thus by 1860, Italy was a patchwork of contradictions: the modernizing Piedmont in the north, the Bourbon south suffocated by repression, and a Papacy frozen in time — all under the shadow of Austria. The stage was primed for a bold strike.



VI. Global Powers and the Italian Question

The Risorgimento was always hostage to Europe's balance of power.

- **Austria:** the chief obstacle, determined to hold Venetia and block further Piedmontese expansion.
- **France:** Napoleon III played a double game — aiding Italian nationalism against Austria, yet defending the Pope in Rome to appease French Catholics.
- **Britain:** cheered Italian unification as a blow to absolutism, but offered no troops. Instead, British naval dominance ensured Garibaldi's landing at Marsala would not be intercepted.

- **Russia and Prussia:** wary of nationalism, they preferred stability and sided with Austria in principle.
- **The United States:** far away, but American opinion — inspired by republican ideals — admired Garibaldi, even inviting him to command Union troops in the Civil War.

Foreign support, caution, or indifference meant that any Italian move risked triggering intervention. This fragile balance made Garibaldi's gamble all the more daring.

VII. The Threshold of the Thousand (1860)

Giuseppe Garibaldi was no ordinary rebel. Born in Nice, he had spent years in exile, fighting alongside republicans in South America — in Brazil's Ragamuffin War and Uruguay's defense against dictatorship. There, he mastered guerrilla warfare and became a legendary leader of irregular troops.

After the failure of 1848–49, Garibaldi returned to Italy, leading volunteer forces in the wars of 1859. But by 1860, his eyes turned south. When Sicily exploded in revolt against Bourbon rule, Garibaldi raised a volunteer corps — the “**Mille**” (**Thousand**) — mostly young men, students, and adventurers. Dressed in red shirts (a legacy of Uruguay), they embodied romantic nationalism.

On **May 11, 1860**, under the cover of the British fleet, Garibaldi landed at Marsala in western Sicily. Declaring himself dictator in the name of Victor Emmanuel II, he marched inland. At **Calatafimi**, his redshirts defeated Bourbon forces despite being outnumbered. Peasants joined his cause, swelling his army. By July, he had captured Palermo; by September, he crossed into the mainland.

The Bourbon regime teetered. Naples itself erupted in unrest. European powers watched uneasily. And Piedmont — though cautious of Garibaldi's republicanism — prepared to seize the moment to crown Victor Emmanuel as king of a united Italy.

The fuse had been lit.

Current Situation and Agenda

It is May 1860. You are one of the Thousand. With little more than a red shirt, an old rifle, and the promise of Italian liberty, you have landed at Marsala alongside Giuseppe Garibaldi. Around you are students, artisans, sailors, and adventurers — all bound together by conviction, but not by discipline.

The Bourbon army is large, but hated. Sicily is restless. Naples is uneasy. And Europe is watching. What happens next depends not on great kings or foreign treaties, but on the choices of those who dare to fight on the ground.

Agenda

Rallying Sicily – The island is fertile ground for rebellion, but also a tinderbox of competing interests. Peasant bands rise against landlords, demanding land redistribution and revenge against centuries of oppression. Yet Sicily's nobility and urban elites fear social chaos more than Bourbon rule. Delegates must decide how to balance these forces: do you promise sweeping reforms to ignite peasant support, or restrain popular anger to gain the loyalty of landowners and notables who could provide money, food, and legitimacy? A misstep could turn potential allies into sworn enemies.

Fighting the Bourbons – The Bourbon army may be bloated and demoralized, but it is still one of the largest standing forces in Europe. Its officers are fiercely loyal, and its arsenals dwarf the expedition's meager supplies. Every clash — from Calatafimi to the gates of Palermo — will determine whether the Thousand inspire Sicily to rise, or are crushed in obscurity. Delegates must strategize how to use limited men and ammunition to win symbolic victories, capture depots, and turn Bourbon desertion into a weapon.

Building Authority – Garibaldi has declared himself dictator of Sicily in the name of King Victor Emmanuel II, but the expedition is far from united on this vision. Many redshirts are radical republicans inspired by Mazzini, who see monarchy as betrayal. Others are monarchists who only fight to expand Piedmont's crown. Still others are Sicilian locals who prize autonomy over either option. Delegates will have to manage these ideological fractures — or exploit them — while projecting unity to the outside world.

The Church and the People – In rural Sicily, priests often matter more than soldiers. They shape loyalties, bless (or curse) the cause, and sway entire villages. Some parish priests sympathize with the peasantry and quietly support rebellion; others preach obedience to the Bourbon crown as divinely ordained. The expedition must decide: do you court the Church's backing, moderating radicalism to preserve legitimacy, or confront clerical opposition, risking alienation of the deeply religious population? The wrong choice could see entire regions rise up — for or against you.

Foreign Shadows – The Thousand are not alone. British ships shadowed your landing at Marsala, ensuring Bourbon forces did not interfere, but Britain's support is ambiguous. France under Napoleon III

remains the “protector” of the Pope, yet he, too, despises Bourbon stagnation. Austria eyes any excuse to reassert control. Each foreign power may intervene if the expedition grows too radical or too successful. Delegates must tread carefully: how openly do you claim to act for Piedmont, how much do you court or defy foreign interests, and what provocations are worth the risk?

Survival and Supply – The expedition began with barely a thousand men, most armed with outdated muskets and short of powder. Food is uncertain, dependent on sympathetic villagers or hurried seizures. Disease, exhaustion, and desertion loom as much as Bourbon muskets. Every successful campaign depends not only on courage but on logistics — capturing weapons, feeding men, and holding morale. Delegates must constantly weigh whether to spend resources consolidating, or gamble them all on bold strikes that could win glory — or end in ruin

Important Questions to Consider

1. How should the expedition rile up support in Sicily, gaining a larger army and potentially undermining the local authorities?
2. Can captured Bourbon soldiers and officers be trusted, or should they be punished as enemies?
3. What vision of Italy should the expedition advance — a republic, a monarchy under Piedmont, or a looser autonomy for Sicily and Naples?
4. How can Garibaldi’s volunteers maintain unity despite divisions between radicals and moderates?
5. Should the expedition work with the Church for legitimacy, or challenge its power to win over secular and radical supporters?
6. How much should the expedition rely on Piedmontese backing, knowing that Cavour distrusts Garibaldi’s republicanism?
7. What risks might foreign intervention pose, and how can the expedition avoid provoking it?
8. If Sicily is secured, how should the Thousand push into Naples — by military advance, by sparking popular uprisings, or by negotiating with Bourbon defectors?

Political Orientations in the Risorgimento

- **Radical Left (Republicans, Reformers):** Wanted a democratic republic, social reforms, and an end to monarchy and Church power. Saw unification as part of a wider European revolution.
- **Moderate Left (Compromising Republicans):** Preferred a republic but accepted unification under Victor Emmanuel II as a step forward. Backed local autonomy and broader participation,

but less radical than the far left.

- **Liberals (Monarchist Reformers):** Supported the Savoy monarchy with a constitution, civil rights, and moderate reforms. Saw monarchy as the most stable path to unity.
- **Moderate Right (Constitutional Monarchists):** Favored a strong central monarchy under Victor Emmanuel II with limited democracy and emphasis on stability.
- **Conservatives (Bourbon & Papal Loyalists):** Opposed unification; defended the old monarchies, Austrian influence, and Papal power.

Character Dossier

1. **Nino Bixio**

A hot-blooded former sailor from Genoa, Bixio was one of Garibaldi's fiercest lieutenants, leading assaults in key battles like Calatafimi and known for his decisive, sometimes brutal leadership. Fiercely pragmatic, he had a reputation for discipline that made him invaluable in holding the Mille together during crises. He envisioned Italy as a centralized nation-state under a constitutional monarchy, but one with a strong executive authority, leaning toward the right politically. His naval background and fearlessness in combat gave him a commanding presence that set him apart among Garibaldi's men.

2. **Giuseppe Sirtori**

Originally a Catholic priest, Sirtori abandoned the Church for the revolutionary cause, becoming Garibaldi's chief of staff and one of the most organized minds of the expedition. His ability to keep the chaotic volunteer army coordinated made him indispensable, particularly when discipline wavered. He supported Italian unification under a liberal constitutional monarchy, though he retained strong democratic and federalist leanings, placing him on the moderate left. What made him unique was his rare combination of clerical education, oratorical skill, and strategic mind, which bridged religion, politics, and military planning.

3. **Giuseppe La Masa**

A Sicilian nobleman who embraced the revolutionary cause early, La Masa played a vital role in organizing peasant uprisings and securing crucial local support for Garibaldi's campaign. His deep roots in Sicilian society gave him influence among both the nobility and the rural poor, enabling him to mobilize militias effectively. La Masa hoped for a federal Italy with autonomy for Sicily, aligning with republican and regionalist ideals on the political left. His insider knowledge of Sicily's geography and politics, combined with his ability to navigate between social classes, distinguished him from other commanders.

4. **Francesco Crispi**

A lawyer and fiery revolutionary who had endured exile, Crispi was a political mastermind behind Garibaldi's landing and one of the most influential strategists in mobilizing revolt in Palermo. His sharp intellect and gift for persuasion made him as dangerous in politics as others were on the battlefield. Originally a radical republican, Crispi later shifted toward authoritarian nationalism, backing centralization and monarchy, moving from left to right over his career. His legal training, network of exiles, and rhetorical skill gave him a statesmanlike authority, foreshadowing his future as one of Italy's prime ministers.

5. **Ippolito Nievo**

A poetic writer and dreamer, Nievo served as vice-intendant, handling the expedition's logistics and documenting its struggles with vivid prose that would later immortalize the Mille. His ideological commitment to a democratic republic and staunch anti-clericalism placed him among the farthest left of the volunteers. What made him unique was his dual role as both organizer and myth-maker: his logistical competence kept the campaign supplied, while his writings gave future generations a heroic image of Garibaldi's men. His literary brilliance fused with political conviction in a way no other Redshirt could match.

6. **Giovanni Acerbi**

A nobleman and former Austrian officer, Acerbi defected to the Italian cause and became a

crucial civil commissioner in the south, managing occupied territories with a steady hand. His military background lent authority to his administrative role, ensuring the Redshirts could transition into governance rather than chaos. Acerbi supported unification under Victor Emmanuel II, advocating a moderate monarchist, liberal vision, leaning center-right. His unique combination of noble status, military training, and administrative pragmatism made him a key bridge between Garibaldi's volunteers and Piedmontese officialdom.

7. Agostino Bertani

A radical physician from Milan, Bertani directed medical services for the Mille while advocating humane treatment of soldiers and civilians alike, often in stark contrast to the brutal realities of war. He envisioned a republic grounded in social justice, secularism, and public health reforms, making him one of the expedition's most outspoken radicals. His medical expertise, humanitarian ideals, and commitment to reform set him apart, giving the Redshirts both moral authority and critical medical infrastructure. Unlike others focused on immediate victory, Bertani carried a vision of a socially progressive Italy.

8. Benedetto Cairoli

A wealthy landowner who fought courageously with the Redshirts, Cairoli displayed bravery in battle, suffering wounds that earned him admiration among comrades. Later entering politics and even serving as Prime Minister, he advocated for a liberal monarchy that safeguarded civil rights, situating him in the liberal center-left. His wealth gave him resources to sustain his commitments, while his battlefield valor lent legitimacy to his political career. What distinguished Cairoli was his blend of aristocratic privilege and personal sacrifice, which made him a symbol of patriotic nobility willing to bleed for Italy.

9. Giuseppe Missori

A devoted follower of Garibaldi, Missori earned fame for saving his commander's life in a later campaign, though he otherwise shunned the limelight after unification. A committed republican, he regarded the monarchy as a temporary compromise, hoping for a democratic Italy in the future. His loyalty, courage, and reputation for selflessness gave him a quiet but enduring importance within the movement. Unlike many who pursued politics or fame, Missori's defining trait was his unshakable fidelity to both Garibaldi and the republican cause.

10. Stefano Canzio

An engineer by trade and Garibaldi's son-in-law, Canzio specialized in artillery and fortifications, ensuring the Redshirts had strong defensive positions. His technical expertise made him one of the more practical minds in the expedition, while his family ties to Garibaldi cemented his place among the leadership. Canzio supported a constitutional monarchy but favored significant local governance, leaning toward moderate liberalism. His engineering skills, combined with his personal connection to Garibaldi, gave him a unique influence that extended beyond the battlefield.

11. Rosolino Pilo

An impassioned Sicilian patriot, Pilo went ahead of Garibaldi to stir rebellion, sacrificing his life in the process and becoming one of the expedition's martyrs. His vision was of a free, republican Sicily independent of monarchy, aligning him with the radical left. Though he did not live to see success, his groundwork in rallying peasants set the stage for Garibaldi's victories. Pilo's legacy was one of fiery sacrifice, his determination and martyrdom inspiring others long after his death.

12. Giuseppe Bandi

A Tuscan journalist turned fighter, Bandi wielded both sword and pen during the expedition, later immortalizing the Mille in his celebrated memoir. His political stance leaned toward a liberal republic, opposing monarchy but embracing unity on democratic terms. What made him unique was his ability to transform lived experience into an enduring narrative, shaping Italy's collective memory of the campaign. His gift for words, coupled with his battlefield presence, allowed him to craft a legacy greater than most of his comrades.

13. Enrico Cosenz

A defector from the Bourbon army, Cosenz brought rare professional military skill to the largely amateur Redshirts, proving crucial in their success. He would later become the first Chief of Staff of the Italian Army, lending institutional weight to the new state. Though he had republican sympathies, he supported unification under a constitutional monarchy for the sake of stability, leaning center-right. His professional training, discipline, and credibility as a former Bourbon officer made him an indispensable figure in legitimizing the expedition militarily.

14. Antonio Mosto

A Genoese sailor who captained one of the vessels during the secret voyage to Sicily, Mosto's seamanship ensured the Mille even reached Marsala in the first place. Politically, he leaned toward liberal monarchy and believed in strengthening Italy's naval power as a foundation for unification. His maritime expertise, discretion, and daring at sea distinguished him from the land-based fighters. Mosto's quiet yet essential role as navigator and seafarer gave him a legacy of practical heroism that underpinned the expedition's very success.

15. Giuseppe Cesare Abba

A young Ligurian student swept up by idealism, Abba later became famous for his memoir of the Mille, which captured their hardships and triumphs with romantic flair. He was a committed democratic republican, envisioning a secular and egalitarian Italy. What set him apart was his youthful passion and ability to articulate the spirit of the Risorgimento for generations to come. Abba's contribution was not only his service in the field but his enduring role as the voice of Garibaldi's movement.

16. Achille Majocchi

A pharmacist from Pavia, Majocchi volunteered to tend to the wounded and sick, symbolizing civic duty and compassion amid violence. His political outlook favored progressive reforms and local governance within a united Italy, situating him on the center-left. What made him unique was his embodiment of the civilian patriot, one who supported unification not through arms but through healing. His quiet, steady contributions gave the Redshirts resilience and underscored the importance of noncombatant roles in nation-building.

17. Francesco Nullo

A charismatic merchant turned fighter, Nullo led volunteers with infectious enthusiasm and later died fighting for Polish independence, embodying the transnational spirit of 19th-century revolution. He was a republican and internationalist, dreaming of a federal Europe of free peoples, placing him firmly on the radical left. Nullo's international activism, commercial connections, and selfless bravery distinguished him as both an Italian patriot and a global revolutionary. His uniqueness lay in his refusal to confine his ideals within Italy's borders.

18. Giacinto Carini

A former Bourbon officer who defected, Carini organized Sicilian militias and proved

instrumental in securing Palermo for the revolutionaries. Though republican at heart, he accepted monarchy as a temporary means to achieve unity, aligning with the moderate left. His insider knowledge of Bourbon tactics, combined with his ability to rally Sicilian fighters, made him uniquely effective. Carini's strength lay in turning former enemies into allies for Italy's liberation.

19. Alessandro Della Rovere

A professional Piedmontese officer, Della Rovere linked Garibaldi's irregulars with the royal army, helping to bring the Mille into alignment with official Piedmontese strategy. He became a high-ranking general in the new Italy and remained a staunch monarchist, advocating a strong centralized state under Savoy. His official status, military authority, and closeness to the Piedmontese establishment set him apart from the mostly volunteer fighters. Della Rovere embodied the institutional backbone of the new kingdom.

20. Nicola Fabrizi

A veteran of failed uprisings, Fabrizi carried decades of revolutionary experience and clandestine networks into the Sicilian campaign. His skill in guerrilla tactics and underground organization made him invaluable in sustaining rebellion. A lifelong radical republican, he rejected monarchy even after unification, remaining on the far left. What made him unique was his unyielding consistency: while others compromised, Fabrizi's revolutionary purity never faltered.

21. Alberto Mario

A journalist and fiery orator, Mario was instrumental in coordinating Garibaldi's propaganda and rallying public support, often alongside his wife Jessie White Mario. Politically radical and deeply anti-monarchist, he pushed for a democratic republic, secular education, and workers' rights. His uniqueness stemmed from his ability to galvanize opinion and spread revolutionary ideals through eloquence and print. Mario's pen and voice gave the Mille a political resonance that extended well beyond the battlefield.

22. Jessie White Mario

An Englishwoman who dedicated her life to Italy's liberation, Jessie White Mario nursed the wounded and chronicled Garibaldi's campaigns, earning the title "Angel of the Battlefields." She supported republicanism, social justice, and secularism, aligning with the left. Her foreign connections, journalistic skill, and tireless medical work gave her a distinctive role few others could fill. She bridged international sympathy and Italian struggle in a uniquely personal way.

23. Giuseppe Basile

A schoolteacher from Trapani, Basile guided Garibaldi's forces through the Sicilian countryside, using his knowledge of local terrain and population networks to great effect. He later promoted education reform in the south, seeing schooling as a key to national renewal. Politically, he supported a federal Italy with regional autonomy, leaning moderate-left. His grassroots influence, educational vision, and practical guidance on the ground gave him a quiet but crucial uniqueness among the Mille.

24. Salvatore Calvino

A radical organizer from Marsala, Calvino handled logistics and intelligence during the landing, helping to establish the Mille's foothold in Sicily. He championed land reform, secular education, and southern reform, identifying with left-leaning populism. His strong local ties, radical energy, and commitment to the southern cause made him stand out. Calvino's value lay in his ability to mobilize Sicily's grassroots at the most critical moment of Garibaldi's gamble.

25. Cesare Mori

A Sicilian-born revolutionary and patriot, Mori coordinated uprisings and intelligence in western Sicily, laying essential groundwork for Garibaldi's swift victories. Though not as famous as others, his commitment to a republican, decentralized Italy aligned him with the left. His intimate knowledge of rural Sicily and connections among peasant communities gave him a unique strength. Mori's distinctiveness was his ability to make the revolution truly Sicilian at its core.