

29/4/2025:

UNIFICATION OF ITALY:

QUESTION:-

Italy was is a political geographical expression politically speaking there was no Italy.

ANSWER:-

1)

INTRODUCTION:

"Italy is nothing more than a geographical expression."

-Metternich.

The above statement was given by Metternich before the Unification of Italy and during Congress of Vienna in 1815. Congress of Vienna divided Italy into different fragments ruled by different authorities. This became the main reason of Italy's disruption and it was mainly

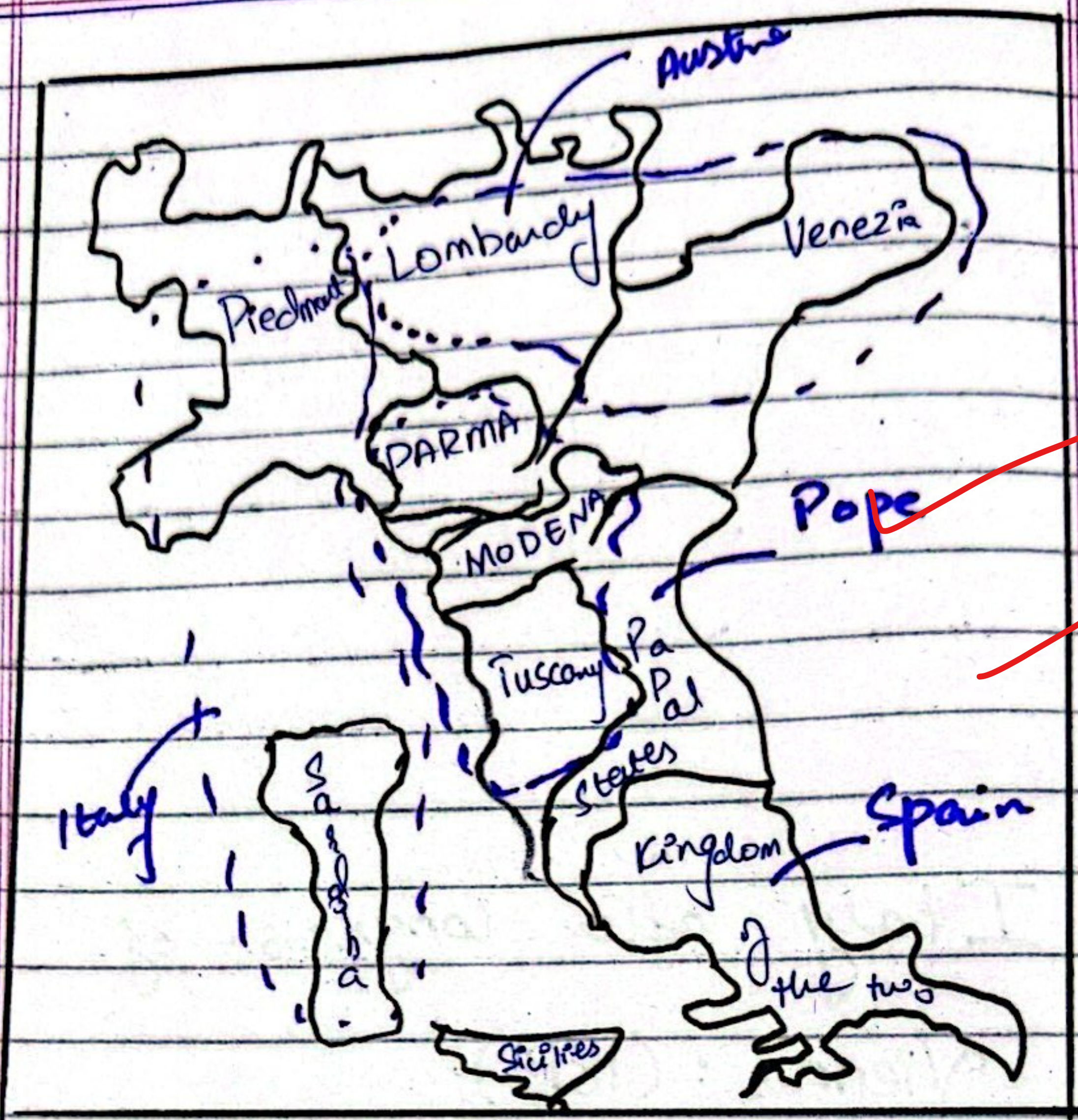
in the interest of Austria to prevent Italian unification. The economic backwardness of territories aggravated the situation. All these collectively were the reasons for Italy's disunity. Even after unification in 1871 Massimo said,

"Italy is made, now we must make Italians."

Thus, Italy's unification was realised in 1871, but loyalty and nationhood followed later.

2) Italy after Congress of Vienna : (1815).

Italy was divided into 8 territories under Congress of Vienna - 1815.



Lombardy - Venezia :- Direct Control of Austria:

Lombardy and Venezia were in direct control of Austria. Thus, the Austrian influence in the economically developed and agrarian territories was stronger, which eventually increased Austria's political and economic strength.

Central Italy, Parma, Modena and Tuscany

The central Italy was in the control of Duchies. These belonged to Austrian noble families. Thus, this further increased indirect control of Austria in the region.

Papal States - Pope:-

The Papal States posed huge threat to the territorial unification of Italy. In order to maintain its control, the Pope had to retain powers in this region and suppressed nationalism.

Bosworth,

"The papal states were the greatest obstacle to territorial unification."

Kingdom of the two Sicilies:

This included Spain in the domination. The Southern region of Italy was under Bourbon territory. This did not only made the unification problematic but

population : 11% rate

Piedmont - Sardinia (Italian Control):

Piedmont - Sardinia were the only region in Italy under Italy's control. The other parts were divided thus suppressing unity and the feelings of nationalism.

"Piedmont became the nucleus around which Italy crystallised"

- Trevelyan.

3) How Italy was mere a geographical expression?

i- Fragmented Nation:

Italy before unification was together geographically but under control of different powers. This further brought Italy down to Fragmented Nation into territories.

Historian, David mentions in his work : The Pursuit of Italy :

"Italy before unification was a mosaic of states with nothing to bind them politically."

ii- Predominant influence of Austria:

Austria did not only influence the two prestigious and modern territories of Italy: Venezia and Lombardy, but also had indirect control through Duchies and Pope as both were in good terms with Austria.

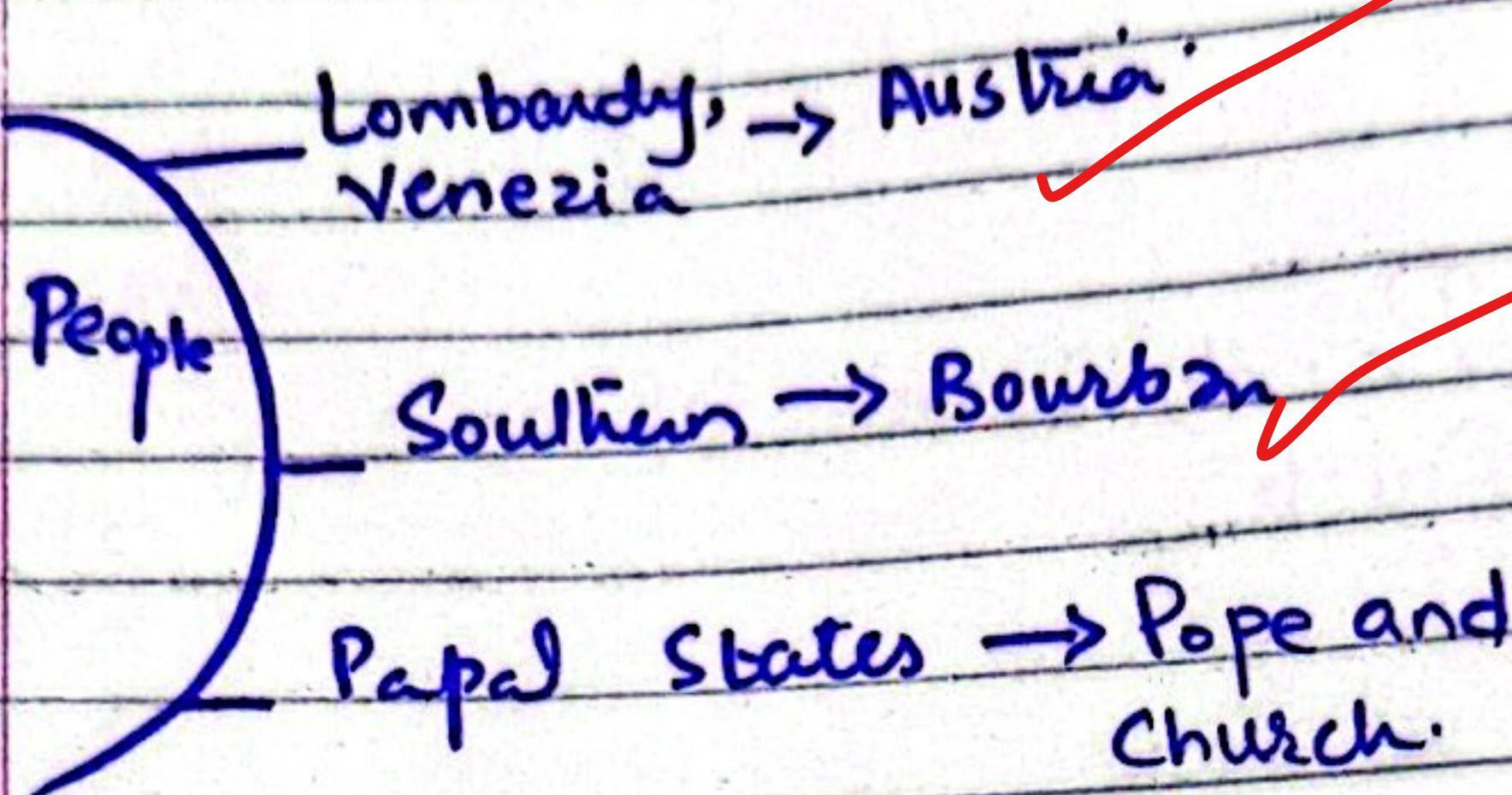
"Foreign domination ensured that nationalism remained an idea not a reality"

- H. Hearder (Italy in the Age of Risorgimento).

iii- Loyalty was to the state:

Italians were under different influences. There was no feeling of

nationalism. People were not true to the idea of Italy as a nation but loyal to their respective states and rulers.



"No Italian thought of Italy as a nation, loyalty was local?"

iv. Economic backwardness:

The Italian territories were unequal. There was inequality and huge difference in the status and Italian's economy. Southern was the most poor, illiterate and backward whereas Lombardy was developed and fertile. This was the stark difference.

v. Cultural disunity and disparity:

Italians were not only under different dominations but all their life styles, cultures, cuisine and language were different. This left nothing in common except Italy's geography. Thus, widening the gap.

4. Despite All the differences,

Italy unified. How?

- Piedmont challenged Austria:

Piedmont became the center that unified Italy. Cavour's efforts and Emmanuel's support as well as King Charles Constitution were the starting points to instill the feeling of nationalism and fight for unification.

"Italy was a playground of Austria, until Piedmont challenged it."

Main contributors in Italian

Unification:

"Cavour is the brain,
Mazzini the soul and
Garibaldi the sword of
Unification"

- G.M. Traveller.

Italian
Unification
(1831-1871)

1) Mazzini

→ Ideological
Father.

→ Young Italy (1831) → Developed
Piedmont.

→ God and
people.

2) Cavour.

→ Diplomat

→ Brains.

→ Lombardy
and Central
Italy victory.

3) Garibaldi

→ Sword.

→ Red shirts

→ Thousand
→ captured

Southern
Italy and

handed it
over to king.

CONCLUSION:

Italian Unification was indeed, found out of a lot of perseverance, struggle and determination. From instilling the feeling of Nationalism to wars and plebiscite. ~~Mellini's~~ ^{Mellini's} ideology failed in 1871 when Italy unified. The struggle to unify people followed.

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