MAURIZIO MANNONI, Guerra corsara nel Mediterraneo. Garibaldi e la missione di Paolo Pilotti. Origini e sviluppi di una strategia antiborbonica

After conquering Sicily, at the end of July 1860, Garibaldi’s military campaign had to face the problem of landing troops on the peninsula. In the name of Italian unity, the openly declared purpose was to reach Calabria and proceed with the liberation of the Southern Italy. However, the passage of troops in the Strait of Messina could have been hampered by the powerful fleet of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, that was much stronger and more organized than Garibaldi’s Sicilian Navy. The text reveals the anti-Bourbon mission entrusted to Captain Paolo Pilotti on 24 July 1860, from its origins up to its rapid development, following the involvement of the Calabrian patriot Carlo Miletto in the enterprise. The action of Paolo Pilotti and the 85 members of the crew of the British steamer Orwell (protagonist, from 1860 to 1863, of a complex judicial affair between the Kingdom of Italy and Great Britain on the civil responsibility for the Piracy Act), if that was implemented, would have affected significantly the continuation of the “thousand” Enterprise, with probable repercussions on the Naples revolution and the conquest of the city.

Keywords:

Fall of Kingdom of the Two Sicilies
Garibaldi
Forcing the Strait of Messina
1860