

# Nuova Rivista Storica

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## Abstracts

### GIUSEPPE FAUSTINI, Garibaldi and De Rohan: the American Contribution and Stratagem Leading to the Unification of Italy

This study examines the significant American contribution for the unification of Italy. It analyzes the actions of Americans as well as Italian exiles living in the United States during the years leading to the unification of Italy. Furthermore, it investigates the extensive pivotal role of an American *garibaldino* named William De Rohan who was instrumental in determining the successful outcome in Garibaldi's Southern Campaign. De Rohan's remarkable and significant participation in Italy's unification still remains uncharted territory. This study also examines the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia's *secretive* utilization of four American ships and Garibaldi's use of the American flag in order to transport soldiers and volunteers as well as ammunition and supplies for the General's Southern Expedition. De Rohan served as an American straw-owner of the *Washington*, the *Franklin* and the *Oregon*, ships travelling under the American flag, utilized for the Medici-Cosenz expeditions to Sicily and, on several occasions, by Garibaldi himself.

Based mostly on *hitherto unpublished* documents, dispatches and letters from American and Italian government and diplomatic leaders as well as private American citizens fighting for Italy's unification, this study analyzes and evaluates the significant intervention of Americans (*and English*) in aiding Garibaldi's cause for the unification of the Kingdom of Italy. Even after 150 years, De Rohan's and America's influential and decisive participation in the unification of Italy remains a subject of very limited scholarly attention. Furthermore, this study brings to light the extensive documentation of De Rohan's twenty plus years of legal claims against the Kingdom of Italy for his participation in and for Italy's use of (his) American ships in aiding Garibaldi's military campaign. In fact, the American *garibaldino* petitioned and met with not only several American Secretaries of State and Presidents (Grant and Hayes), but De Rohan succeeded in meeting with King Vittorio Emanuele II and several Italian Prime Ministers as well as in petitioning the American Congress (both chambers) to pass a resolution in support of his claims against the Italian government. This study documents America's critical contribution for Garibaldi's campaign throughout Southern Italy leading to the unification of Italy.