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Abstracts

GIUSEPPE FAUSTINI, William De Rohan, Garibaldi, the Birth of the Italian Navy and the Naval Powers in 1860

Pursuant to William De Rohan's clandestine naval operation for the Medici-Cosenz expedition in aid of Giuseppe Garibaldi's invasion of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, the American soldier of fortune and self-described aid-de-camp to General Garibaldi wrote a confidential letter and an extensive memorandum in which he outlined the need to establish a strong and practical Italian Navy while also pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of the major naval powers in 1860. De Rohan puts forth a practical guide for both officers and soldiers for the soon to be established Regia Marina required by the newly unified Kingdom of Italy. In view of the Kingdom of Piedmont's limited naval force, compared to the large fleet owned by the defeated Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, De Rohan offers a plan for establishing a viable and robust naval power that could compete with the major European naval forces. De Rohan demonstrates a personal and professional familiarity with the majority of the world's naval powers, having served and even fought for several world naval forces from Chile to Turkey. De Rohan offers an assessment of the British, French, American, Spanish, Swedish, Denmark, Austrian, Turkish, Prussian naval forces in 1860. Of noteworthy importance are the do's and don'ts of a proper naval administration and for the soldiers of the nascent Regia Marina of the Kingdom of Italy.

Keywords:

*William De Rohan
Garibaldi, Regia Marina
World Navies in 1860*