The anniversary of the Unification of Italy recalls the events that one hundred and fifty years ago, through the heroic deeds of the Risorgimento, led to the proclamation of the independence and the unity of the country.

In commemorating this one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, we all turn our thoughts to those who made this great event possible. And our commemoration comes out of a calm, objective evaluation, such as to set those great figures above any partisan spirit, in that the work they accomplished was aimed at one purpose only: the making of Italy.

Each of the great figures in the Unification of Italy, within their limits and their principles, strove and made prodigal efforts to achieve the same enterprise: so if Garibaldi’s deeds were legendary, no less effective and decisive was the unifying work of Victor Emanuel II, the political sagacity of Count Cavour, the patriotic fervor of Giuseppe Mazzini.

But around these great men moved a dense band of Italians of every class and age, tireless in helping, encouraging and all motivated by the desire for national unity.

The solemn celebration of Unification is a duty because through the celebrations a basis for discussion on the future of our country can be built, and only through careful thought and rigorous study of the events that followed on one another up to the achieving of Unification may our younger generation ideally feel part of the events themselves.
Above, The opening of the first Italian Parliament in Turin 18 February 1861, Théodore Tetar van Elven, National Museum of the Risorgimento, Turin

Below, the President of the Republic of Italy Giorgio Napolitano, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and the Presidents of the Senate and House of Deputies at the celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Unification of Italy, Altare della Patria, Rome, 17 March 2011

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