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A Political and Mathematical Unification: The Case of Nineteenth-Century Italy.

The Unification of Italy was proclaimed in 1861. This event marked a key turning point not only in the country's political life, but also in the development of mathematical studies and research. This talk will discuss the revival and renewal of Italian mathematics in the years following the Unification and will show that, parallel to a political unification, a mathematical unification also took place in Italy in the second half of the nineteenth century. In particular, in an institutional, historical, political, and mathematical context, this talk will focus on algebraic developments: by tracing the contributions of Italian mathematicians throughout the peninsula, it will show that, contrary to conventional wisdom, Italy supported a wide range of algebraic research. (Received September 04, 2006)