



The empire of Napoleon about 1810.



Europe after the congress of Vienna.



The kingdom of Italy in 1861.



Tunisia, present French-Italian "arena."

THE AGE-OLD territorial dispute between the Italians and the French has flared up again. In the past it was France that reached out for lands at the expense of the Italians. Today it is Italy that wants lands at the expense of France.

Italy's proposals for imperial expansion involve the protectorate of Tunisia and French Somaliland in Africa, the purely French areas of Savoy and Nice in Europe, and the historic Mediterranean island of Corsica, where Napoleon Bonaparte was born. The Italian government in addition wants a share in the control of the Suez canal, which is owned by a French company but defended by the British army and navy.

While Italy, from the fall of the Roman empire until comparatively recent times, was a land without political unity, a land of many states, some independent and some not, the Italian people of today nevertheless have been encouraged by Mussolini to think of their nation as a revival of the empire once ruled by the Caesars.

Frenchmen centuries ago exploited Italy. During the time of Charlemagne the empire of the Franks (western Europeans of German origin) extended down into Italy almost to Naples. In 1495 Charles VIII of France crossed the Alps, marched to Naples, and there had himself crowned. His invasion is remembered from the fact that it was his soldiers who spread the plague of syphilis throughout central Europe.

From 1530 until late in the eighteenth century the Italians had no history of their own, their lands, except those held by the church, being under the domination of the Spanish and Austrian dynasties. Although the quarrels between the French and the Italians extended through the centuries, the modern aspects of their territorial dispute date from the time of the first Napoleon.

As a general of the French republic Bonaparte overran Italy. He destroyed the maritime republic of Venice (Venetia) when he seized it on the pretext that it was hostile to him in his campaign against the Austrians and that it threatened his line of retreat. In 1797, however, he handed it over to Austria by the peace of Campo Formio. It reverted back to France during the time of the empire after Napoleon as the first emperor had crowned himself king of Italy on May 26, 1805, in the cathedral of Milan, using for the purpose the ancient iron crown of Lombardy, a former independent Italian state.

The French empire of Napoleon controlled all of Italy except the islands of Sardinia and Sicily. Most of the Italian mainland was under direct rule of France, while the southernmost part, the kingdom of Naples, was a subject state, with a king appointed by Napoleon.

After the collapse of Bonaparte's rule the powers that had crushed him agreed among themselves at the treaty of Paris and the congress of Vienna to restore a large part of the Italian political boundaries to what they had been in the pre-Napoleonic era. There were some exceptions made, however. The old republic of Venice and a portion of north Italy down to a point below Milan were definitely assigned to Austria. In the settlements France ceded to the kingdom of Sardinia the provinces of Nice and Savoy. Also to Sardinia went the territory of the former republic of Genoa, a one-time independent

The Mediterranean Marathon

France, Italy Renew Land Rivalry

By JOHN A. MENAUGH

Italian state. Sardinia was to be a buffer state between France and the smaller states of Italy, which at that time were Parma, Modena, Tuscany, the papal states, and the kingdom of the two Sicilies. It should be pointed out that Sardinia, then merely a buffer state, was the nucleus of the present-day Italy which is threatening France.

The ambitions of another member of the Bonaparte family later in history led to French interventions in Italy. When King Victor Emmanuel II. of Sardinia sought to expel the Austrians from Piedmont, his territory on the Italian mainland, so that this region could be expanded into a kingdom of northern Italy, Napoleon III. of France agreed to supply 200,000 troops to assist in the task. Austria at this period of history was a direct threat to Sardinia, by trying to halt its growth in Italy. This was in 1858.

But Napoleon III. put a price on his alliance with Victor Em-

Austria in 1866 led to the incorporation of Venice in the united Italy. It was not until 1871, however, that Victor Emmanuel entered Rome and the Eternal city became the capital of Italy. Napoleon all those ten years from 1861 to 1871 had refused to permit the occupation of Rome. He had maintained French troops there for the purported protection of the pope—he didn't want to lose the support of the French clericals.

Italy's participation in the international scramble for far colonies naturally came after its establishment as a kingdom. It actually began to reach out for foreign possessions in the early eighties. It never, as the kingdom of Italy, owned Corsica. Its claim to that island presumably is based upon the fact that the republic of Genoa, a former independent Italian state, possessed Corsica uninterruptedly for 161 years, from 1568 to 1729. From the last-named year, which marked the outbreak of a rebellion in Corsica, until 1768 there was almost constant trouble in the island, in which Great Britain and Sardinia both intervened.

In 1768 Genoa signed a treaty transferring the sovereignty of the island to France. Two years later a general assembly of Corsicans was called, the deputies swearing allegiance to the French crown.

For the next nineteen years Corsica remained a dependency of France. Then came the rebellion of 1789 and the island was incorporated into France as a separate department. As the result of another insurrection the Corsicans offered their sovereignty to Great Britain, and

British troops occupied the island for two years. Bonaparte in 1796 sent an expedition against the island and regained it for the French. For a short while after the fall of Napoleon the British once more occupied Corsica, but in the settlements of 1815 it was restored to France and ever since then has remained French.

Italy's annexations in Africa had their beginning in the eighties. Her control over Libya dates from 1912, after her successful war against the Turks.

Italian claim to Tunisia, in which Mussolini wants a share of the administration, is based largely upon the fact that there were more Italians than French there when the French took possession in 1881. In addition there is the purely sentimental claim built upon the memory of ancient Carthage. The Romans took Carthage, in what is now Tunisia, as an outcome of the third Punic war.

In 1869 Tunisia was under the joint domination of Great Britain, France, and Italy, and in 1880 the Italians acquired a railway in the land from British owners. The following year French troops moved into Tunisia from Algeria to punish hostile tribesmen. They have been there ever since. They persuaded the ruling bey at the muzzle of a gun to accept the

said to compare favorably with the famous Maginot line of France. Of late newspaper correspondents have taken to calling it the Maginot line of Africa. The only way invaders from the east could get around this system of fortifications would be by a detour of several hundred miles into the waterless desert. France's African native troops are said to be the best desert fighters in the world.

Italian claim to French Somaliland, which has brought a demand for outright cession of the port of Djibouti and the French-owned Djibouti-Addis Ababa railway, linking Ethiopia with the coast, is founded on confusing diplomatic exchanges that reach back more than a generation.

The French acquired French Somaliland through treaties with Somali sultans in the years from 1883 to 1887. By a treaty with Great Britain in 1888 the southern limits of this land were defined, and by protocols with Italy in 1900 and 1901 its northern limits were fixed. The French

railway from Djibouti to Addis Ababa was completed in 1917.

Italy's first hold on Italian Somaliland dates from 1889. Its first colonization venture in Eritrea was in 1885. Its conquest of Ethiopia was only yesterday—1935 and 1936. The country is not yet completely pacified.

Out of the dispute over French Somaliland the Italians make two points that seem fairly clear. They are:

That French Somaliland, particularly the port of Djibouti, is the actual gateway to Ethiopia and as such should be Italian territory.

That Italy has a claim on French Somaliland because in 1935, through a Franco-Italian agreement, a portion of the country was ceded to Italy.

But Italy herself has repudiated this agreement on the pretext that it never was formally ratified by the two contracting nations, and the French have reoccupied the ceded area.

Back of the aforementioned specific claims of Italy is what may be termed a general claim to territory. This is founded upon the treaty of London of 1915. In this compact, as a reward for Italy's entry into the World war as an enemy of Germany and Austria, the Italians were to have a share in any African territory acquired as a result of the war.

What they actually got was a sliver of land known as Jubaland, which was detached from Great Britain's Kenya colony; a bit of worthless desert land on the southern fringe of Libya, the gift of the British and the French; and a few islands in the Aegean sea which they had occupied since the war with Turkey in 1912.

What some observers, including Dr. Arthur Scott of the history department of the University of Chicago, believe to be the underlying cause of Italy's current cry for territory is the feeling on Mussolini's part that Germany is getting all the "pork." Germany's annexation of Austria and Sudetenland, in other words, has given the Italians the idea that they, too, can get land by asking for it or making a bluff at taking it.



(Three Lions photo.)
Memorial to Corsica's 40,000 war dead.

manuel. He was to get back for France the provinces of Nice and Savoy. The Sardinians and French were victorious. Napoleon, however, feared Prussian intervention, so he concluded an early peace with Austria, which left the Italians with the suspicion that they had been betrayed.

Francis Joseph of Austria ceded the former territory of Lombardy to Napoleon, who in turn handed it over to Victor Emmanuel. France took its reward—Nice and Savoy were relinquished to Napoleon on May 24, 1860.

These two regions, then as now, were French both geographically and linguistically. A plebiscite held about the time of their return to France was carried overwhelmingly by the pro-French element among the voters.

On Feb. 18, 1861, the first Italian parliament met at Turin and Victor Emmanuel was proclaimed king of Italy. Modern Italy was born. This was just two weeks to the day before Lincoln's first inauguration as President of the United States—an event introduced into this article to show the relative youthfulness of the present-day kingdom of Italy. While Italy, as pointed out, is only seventy-eight years old, its king comes from an ancient line, the house of Savoy, which for nine centuries reigned over Savoy and Piedmont.

The war between Prussia and

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