

between the problems and obstacles he had to face to help deliver Italy from a state of weakness and division, and their own problems. They were particularly impressed by Garibaldi's extraordinary courage, power of leadership and his determination to defend Rome, at a time when other "revolutionaries" were offering little resistance to the return of the old regime. They likened their tasks to that of Garibaldi's "Red Shirts".⁶ The masses clamored for a decisive break with the past and the Italian experience seemed to provide guides for action.

In Guiseppe Mazzini the revolutionary Italian leader they found another example. They read him in depth studying his activities as a member of the patriotic secret society, the Carbonari, and as founder of Young Italy. From their reading of the Carbonari they learned the use of pseudonyms, passwords and other essential features of clandestine organizations. The experience of Young Italy confirmed their convictions that the means to be used for the fulfillment of their national objectives were education and armed struggle.⁷ Furthermore, Mazzini's stress on the unifying virtues of nationalism and his repudiation of class struggle had a lasting effect on the Kata'ibists.⁸

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Interview with Hani al-Hindi, June 30, 1970.

⁸ Interview with Jihad Dhahi, June 30, 1970.