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Italy

At first sight, the coming of a united Italian nation represented a major shift in the European balances. Instead of being a cluster of rivaling small states, partly under foreign sovereignty and always under the threat of foreign intervention, there was now a solid block of thirty million people growing so swiftly that it was coming close to France's total population by 1914. Its army and its navy in this period were not especially large, but as Tables 19 and 20 show, they were still very respectable.

Table 19. Military and Naval Personnel of the Powers, 1880-1914²⁶

	1880	1890	1900	1910	1914
Russia	791,000	677,000	1,162,000	1,285,000	1,352,000
France	543,000	542,000	715,000	769,000	910,000
Germany	426,000	504,000	524,000	694,000	891,000
Britain	367,000	420,000	624,000	571,000	532,000
Austria-Hungary	246,000	346,000	385,000	425,000	444,000
Italy	216,000	284,000	255,000	322,000	345,000
Japan	71,000	84,000	234,000	271,000	306,000
United States	34,000	39,000	96,000	127,000	164,000

Table 20. Warship Tonnage of the Powers, 1880-1914²⁷

	1880	1890	1900	1910	1914
Britain	650,000	679,000	1,065,000	2,174,000	2,714,000
France	271,000	319,000	499,000	725,000	900,000
Russia	200,000	180,000	383,000	401,000	679,000
United States	169,000	2240,000	333,000	824,000	985,000
Italy	100,000	242,000	245,000	327,000	498,000
Germany	88,000	190,000	285,000	964,000	1,305,000
Austria-Hungary	60,000	66,000	87,000	210,000	372,000
Japan	15,000	41,000	187,000	496,000	700,000

In diplomatic terms, as was noted above,²⁸ the rise of Italy certainly impinged upon its two Great Power neighbors, France and Austria-Hungary; and while its entry into the Triple Alliance in 1882 ostensibly

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Britain	426,000	504,000	524,000	694,000	891,000
Germany	543,000	543,000	712,000	769,000	910,000
France	791,000	677,000	1,162,000	1,282,000	1,325,000
Russia					

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	1880	1890	1900	1910	1914
Japan	12,000	41,000	187,000	496,000	700,000
Hungary	60,000	66,000	87,000	210,000	325,000
Austria-	88,000	190,000	282,000	964,000	1,302,000
Italy	100,000	242,000	242,000	327,000	498,000
United States	169,000	2240,000	333,000	824,000	982,000
Russia	200,000	180,000	383,000	401,000	679,000
France	271,000	312,000	492,000	722,000	900,000
Britain	620,000	679,000	1,062,000	2,174,000	2,714,000

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