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AP Euro
Period C
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Historical Essay Analysis

Title: Giuseppe Garibaldi

Author: Denis Mack Smith

Author's thesis: Denis Mack Smith was a fascinating character from Italy's history, whose colorful personality complemented his numerous achievements, especially his work and writings towards Italian unification.

Author's evidence:

- a) He had numerous jobs and wives, and gained citizenship in several countries
- b) Half his adult life, he was a guerrilla leader in Brazil and Argentina
- c) Wanted to be a hero and make the world a better place
- d) Fought Austria in a private war and defended Rome
- e) Conquered half of Italian kingdom, forcing Cavour into action
- f) Spent his last days on a farm on Caprera

Author's conclusion about the significance of the topic:

The author concludes that Garibaldi was a very unique and charismatic figure in Italian history. His goal of freedom for all people, coupled with his courageous desire to fight for it, earned him the attention of all of Europe.

List below questions you have about the reading.

1. Was Garibaldi crucial for Italian unification to be achieved?
2. Did Garibaldi have a Don Quixote-like tendency at times?

To what extent does your knowledge of the period support or conflict with the author's thesis?

My knowledge of the period supports that Garibaldi was a crucial figure of the time, if not only for his role in securing Italian unification, but for his political writings and ideas during a time when the concept of a nation-state was finally coming into play

Write a paragraph in your own words explaining the gist of the article, the nature of the evidence, and the significance of the topic.

Giuseppe Garibaldi is one of the greatest men from the nineteenth century. He was a patriotic hero, a liberal, a fighter, and a political activist. He was a greatly charismatic figure, and was like the most widely known and loved person in the world at the time. His main contributions were his political writings and ideas, as his main goals in politics were to support liberty and social justice. He also organized guerrilla cells and attempted to conquer Italy, only to give it up just in order for him to see his goal of Italian unification succeed. The boundless enthusiasm and political ideas helped to make Garibaldi one of the most famous, if not infamous, people of the era.