

posits of coal or petroleum in the region, a factor which held back Turin's industrial development until the Alpine torrents were dammed at the end of the nineteenth century to provide hydroelectric power. The industrial revolution came late to Turin, but when it came, its impact would transform the city and the region beyond all recognition, in the space of little more than a century. The results of millennia of slow agrarian development and centuries of political dominion as the capital city of a regional state were rapidly overlaid by the headlong rush of industrialization. Around Turin's symmetrical urban nucleus, a widening belt of factories and industrial suburbs would spread into the countryside, in the pattern we see today. Turin today is a great industrial metropolis, but the industrial development that gives the city its character today is of recent vintage.

2. *The Earliest Inhabitants.*

The first evidence of human life in Piedmont can be dated to some time between 190,000 and 130,000 years ago. Stone tools characteristic of the late Palaeolithic era have been found in a few places, left by early hunters and gatherers. The first stable human habitation, however, dates from the Neolithic era, between 5,000 and 4,000 years ago. At that time the land would have been covered by forest and scrubland, interspersed with broad expanses of marsh. The Neolithic farmers carved small scattered villages out of the forest with their primitive tools. With the passage of time they developed more advanced technology that allowed them to take greater control of their environment. At some point they began to smelt copper, and to use scratch-plows to till the soil. The archaeological record is sparse, but it seems to indicate that by the late Neolithic era human settlements had become fairly numerous, and that the population was relatively dense. Technological development continued: by about 1800 B.C.E there is clear evidence of the use of bronze, and from this time the archaeological record of the region that would become Piedmont can be followed continuously.

The earliest inhabitants of Piedmont whom we can identify by name are Celts and Ligurians. It seems likely that some Celtic tribes may have migrated into Piedmont well before the fourth century B.C.E. We know that by that time a group of Celtic peoples, probably originating in central Europe, had established themselves in northern Italy. These migrating Celts would have found Piedmont already inhabited by several Ligurian tribes, part of an earlier pattern of settlement that had spread