

sar's heir Augustus, and that the new town was named after him. (He ceased using his original name, Octavian, and assumed the title "Augustus" in 27 B.C.E). We can thus hypothesize that there may have been two distinct but sequential foundations, separated by the climactic phase of the civil wars that brought down the Roman republic, and left Augustus the sole undisputed ruler of the Roman world. Such archaeological evidence as we have is inconclusive, but tends to support this hypothesis. The Roman field-system around Turin seems to have been laid out in two phases, for the strips of arable land around the town – whose outline is still discernible in aerial photographs – are oriented in two different directions, suggesting that the land might well have been surveyed and divided up among the new town's inhabitants at two different times.

The Taurini already had a settlement on this site, and the Romans – whether under Julius Caesar or Augustus – took it over and developed it into a Roman military colony, just as they were doing with many other indigenous settlements all over northern Italy at this time. Following the usual Roman practice, this original colony subsequently evolved into a town with its own administrative structure, or *civitas*. The rudiments of municipal organization may have begun to take shape in the earlier period, during Julius Caesar's campaigning in Gaul, and would then have achieved their final form under Augustus. The definitive establishment of the new colony probably occurred soon after 25 B.C.E, when the end of the civil wars and the return of political stability made it possible for Augustus to organize the recently-acquired territories in northwestern Italy, and to endow them with permanent political institutions. At this time he was completing the conquest of the Alpine tribes in order to secure the entire frontier zone from the Mediterranean to Lake Geneva. The foundation of Augusta Taurinorum should therefore be seen as part of a systematic campaign to pacify the region and Romanize it, by planting new towns at strategic points in it, with populations of loyal immigrants. To this end the colony of Augusta Pretoria – today the city of Aosta – was established about the same time, to bring the valley around it firmly under Roman control, and to guard the entry to the Great and Little St Bernard passes, just as the new colony of Augusta Taurinorum controlled access to the Susa valley and its passes.

The actual building of Augusta Taurinorum took place in the last decades of the first century B.C.E. and the early first century C.E. All traces of the original settlement of the Taurini were erased by the Roman foundation. It is possible that a bridge may have been built across the Po, although it is more likely that the crossing was by means of a ferry, or a nearby ford. Following their standard practice, the Roman