

would provide the template for the new extensions. The streets extending the Roman grid into the new areas were wider, and were interspersed with grand public spaces, but the rectilinear pattern of the city's Roman nucleus was replicated by the architects of the baroque era, who fashioned Turin into a classic example of regular urban planning.

We do not know where the original inhabitants of the new Roman colony came from, except that they must have been mostly immigrants. We can surmise that some were military veterans, who were given building plots in the city and allotments of farmland just outside; others may have been part of the overflow from Rome's own burgeoning population; yet others would have been indigenous Taurini, judging by the names on a number of gravestones found in the city and its immediate vicinity. At its height the Roman population may have totaled as many as 5,000 – far more than it did during most of the middle ages. The new town prospered: the bulk of its wealth came from the farmlands around it, but revenues also flowed in from the tolls levied on transit traffic along the road to and from the Alpine passes, and along the Po, which

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Map 1.

Roman Turin, *Augusta Taurinorum*.

