

title of marquis of Turin, while the younger sons received the title of count. But in the next generation this partition would not be repeated; the March would not be divided any further. Like the other great lineages of the Kingdom of Italy, the Arduinids were beginning to stabilize their rule, as the general political climate improved. This improvement came about largely because the Saracen and Magyar raids had ended. Arduin's victory over the Saracens was paralleled by the decisive defeat that Otto I inflicted on the Magyars in 955, halting their incursions for good. The relative peace that ensued in the later tenth century allowed Arduin and his heirs to foster the economic development of their March. They resettled peasants on deserted farmlands, and levied tolls on the commercial traffic over the Alpine passes, which was now starting to revive.

Their relationship to the emperor remained fraught with ambiguity, however. The power of territorial magnates like the Arduinids, not only in Piedmont but throughout the length and breadth of the empire, posed an inherent threat to the political order that Otto I and his successors were trying to create, and to the program of revitalized imperial authority – the *renovatio imperii* – they wished to implement. For all their military strength, and despite the luster conferred on them by the coronation ceremony at Rome, in practice the emperors disposed of only limited means for controlling their great vassals and compelling their obedience. So like the Carolingians before them, they came to rely on the clergy as the only authority that could offset the power of the great territorial lords. The empire was grounded in an alliance of the secular and religious authorities. The cornerstone of the emperors' policy was to appoint loyal bishops, who would uphold their interests against the territorial magnates.

For a time the new imperial order functioned smoothly in Piedmont. As far as we can tell from the scanty historical sources for the period, Marquis Manfred of Turin seems to have remained on good terms with his imperial overlord. When he died in about 1001 his son Ulderich Manfred succeeded without incident to his lands and titles. But the danger inherent in the way power was shared between the emperor and his great vassals was revealed dramatically by events in the neighboring March of Ivrea. Shortly after Ulderich Manfred's accession, Marquis Arduin of Ivrea proclaimed himself king of Italy, in defiance of the new Emperor Henry II. (This Arduin came from the Anscarid line that ruled the March of Ivrea, and was not a member of the Arduinid lineage of Turin, despite the similarity of names). His bid for the crown had been triggered by a dispute with the bishop of Vercelli, which climaxed in the latter's