

west of the Alps were severed from the March of Turin, and reverted to the House of Savoy, while Turin became an independent city ruled by its bishop and its citizens. These two territorial units would remain separate until the end of the thirteenth century. But a connection had been established that would lead eventually to the union of the two Alpine territories under the House of Savoy.

After Oddo died, some time around 1060, Adelaide governed the March of Turin for a time as regent for their eldest son Peter, with the title of marchioness, until he came of age and was invested with the March in 1064. Her daughters meanwhile had made brilliant marriages, carrying the Arduinid lineage to the apex of the imperial hierarchy. The elder daughter, Bertha, was betrothed to the young Emperor Henry IV in about 1055, and married him a decade later. The younger daughter, also named Adelaide, married Rudolf duke of Swabia, from one of Germany's greatest families. By 1078 Adelaide's son Peter was dead, leaving behind him a young daughter, Agnes. Peter's younger brother Amadeus then became marquis of Turin, but in 1080 he too died, leaving no successors. The March of Turin then reverted to Agnes and her husband, Count Frederick of Montbéliard, but in fact Adelaide governed it with the titles of both marchioness and countess, until her own death in 1091. She either created or inherited an embryonic administration for her domains, consisting of a number of "vicecomites" or viscounts, each in charge of a different area of the March, and removable at the countess's pleasure. These subordinate officials, who were also described as "judges", apparently lived in a special compound adjoining the countess's fortified residence at the Susa gate of the city.

For most of her adult life, and even when supreme authority was technically vested in her husbands or her sons, Adelaide remained a central figure in the politics of the March. What we know of her suggests that she was a commanding personality, very conscious of her exalted position, and jealous of her authority. It is not surprising therefore that she showed little sympathy for the reforming movement in the Church, or for the communal movement, which took root only late in Turin, while in Piedmont during these early years it was spearheaded by the densely populated and active city of Asti, whose citizens repeatedly rebelled against their bishops. Since Asti and its county formed part of her March (an uncle of hers, Alrico, had held the office of bishop), Adelaide was deeply concerned by this conflict. So twice, in 1070 and again in 1091, her forces intervened against the rebellious citizens, defeated them, and sacked the city. Ultimately, however, this military repression failed. Asti won its independence, flourished, and became a powerful commune.