

were not answerable to him. The emperor's overriding motive in making these concessions, at Turin as in his grants to other cities, was to foster urban independence as a counterweight to the power of the aristocracy, always the main threat to his authority. The charters asserted his sovereignty over the citizens as their overlord, denied the jurisdiction of the local counts and marquises over them, and made them (and their bishops) his direct subjects. And in this instance the emperor had a specific aim in mind: it was to gain the loyalty of Turin's citizens and ensure that the route to the Alps remained in friendly hands.

The charter of 1116 reveals that relations between the bishop and the citizens were tense. This tension increased: a decade later an uprising of the citizens forced the bishop to flee from Turin. His flight seems to have created the opportunity for a new political actor, the count of Savoy, to intervene. Until then the counts of Savoy had not figured on the urban political scene, but in 1131 Amadeus III, the son of Humbert II, occupied the city and proclaimed himself *comes Taurinensis*, or count of Turin. He was presumably acting at the request of the citizens, or at least of a faction of them, who wished to enlist his aid in their conflict with the bishop. But he could not maintain his hold on the city for very long. In 1136, during one of his periodic appearances in the Kingdom of Italy, the Emperor Lothar II expelled Amadeus III from Turin and punished the citizens who had supported him, probably at the instigation of the new Bishop Arbert, who had recently succeeded to the diocese. It is important to note, however, that this episode did not bring down the emperor's lasting wrath on Turin and its people. Maintaining an amicable relationship with the city was too important to him. So after he had put Amadeus III to flight, Lothar issued a new charter to the citizens, describing them as his "faithful" subjects and confirming their "liberties", while reserving the rights of the bishop as before.

These events set a pattern that would be followed for decades to come. Successive bishops would rely on the emperor to maintain them in command of their city, and in turn they would support the emperors in their struggle with the papacy. But the bishops' rights were contested: the count of Savoy had shown himself ready to seize any opportunity to advance his family's claims to Turin. Given the opposition he faced, however, Amadeus III could not pursue these claims. Instead he concentrated on improving the administration of his transalpine domains, until finally in 1147 he joined the Second Crusade and departed for the Holy Land. This was the second time Amadeus had embarked on crusade; he had already done so as a young man, probably about 1111. Taking the crusader's vow was probably the reason why he adopted the cross