

able to Turin's status as a capital. Taken together, nobles, bureaucrats and professionals far outnumbered the wealthy businessmen, described as "bankers" or "merchants", engaged in long-distance trade, the textile industry, or finance. The lower strata of the population consisted of many types of working people. The largest single category was made up of domestic servants, who accounted for nearly 10% of those on the rolls, with women outnumbering men. They were followed by people engaged in services: porters, tailors, dressmakers and shoemakers, persons in the food trades. The textile trades – spinning and weaving wool, linen and silk, dyeing, lacemaking – made up nearly 3% of the total. As one would expect in a city growing as fast as Turin, the census lists a number of persons in the building trades, mainly carpenters and masons. The demographic profile of Turin that emerges is that of a typical Old Regime capital city, with a larger-than-normal proportion of elite residents. If however we include the population of the suburbs, not counted in this census, the picture becomes less typical: Turin was not just a city of nobles, bureaucrats and servants, but was beginning to develop as a center of manufacturing as well.

10. *Society and Culture in the Eighteenth Century.*

The seventeenth century had been a grim time of plague, war and famine; the eighteenth century, the last century of the Old Regime, would prove slightly kinder to the people of Turin, until its closing decade. Between the siege of 1706 and the French invasion of 1796, Turin was spared the ravages of war. Piedmont was the scene of bitter fighting during the War of Austrian Succession, between 1743 and 1748, but the war did not come close to Turin. The economic climate also grew slightly more benign. The famine of 1733-34 proved to be the last in the cycle of deadly crises that had gone on for the past century and more. Serious food shortages recurred, to be sure, but they were less dangerous. The city grew: by 1796 its population had almost doubled, to 76,756, plus another 4,643 in the industrial suburbs. An important factor causing this growth was the expansion of manufacturing, especially in the silk industry. Turin's silk merchants were numerous enough to form a guild in 1714; the total of spinning plants in the city and its suburbs gradually increased, until by 1787 there were fifty-six in all, some powered by water, some still by hand – not counting those owned by Turinese merchants in the surrounding countryside. Signs of prosperity were evident. Old buildings in the city's core were being recon-