

during a wartime emergency, in 1752 to enforce the rules for the election of councilors, in 1759 to require tighter accounting of the city's revenues. In 1767 the king issued a comprehensive new regulation for the city council, following up the edict of 1687. The councilors accepted it with alacrity and without question – in striking contrast to the confrontation that had erupted in 1687. Royal bureaucrats took the lead in directing the city's economic life. They fostered the formation of craft guilds as a way to increase production, maintain quality, and mediate relations between employers and their workers. The king's architects and engineers continued to supervise the rebuilding projects for beautifying and rationalizing the urban environment. The king's executive officials, the Vicario and the Judge, assumed an ever-greater role in running the municipality, at the expense of the councilors. In all these spheres of activity, the king and his indefatigable minister Giambattista Bogino were following the maxims of enlightened absolutist government: the goal of their reforms, in Turin as in the state as a whole, was to make government more rational, more efficient, and thus more beneficial to society at large.

II. *The End of the Old Regime.*

The year 1773 was marked by two decisive events. The first was religious. Under pressure from many of Europe's Catholic sovereigns, Pope Clement XIV dissolved the Society of Jesus. The Jesuits were banished from Turin, forfeiting the dominant position they had held for two centuries in the city's spiritual life and in its educational system. Their numerous properties, including their College, were taken over by the government. Their expulsion marked a victory for state officials eager to reduce the influence of the Church, for a broad segment of the clergy critical of the Jesuits' theology and devotional practices, and for the adherents of the Enlightenment, who saw the Jesuits as the embodiment of all that was reactionary and obscurantist.

The second event was political. Charles Emanuel III died in February 1773. His death led at once to a radical change in state policy. Within a few days the new king, Victor Amadeus III, dismissed his father's right-hand man Giambattista Bogino, and the leading administrative technocrats who had run the government under him. In their places he appointed an entirely new group of ministers, drawn from the high aristocracy and linked to the court: the antithesis of the old ministerial elite, which came from lowlier stock and had risen to power through