

mate sons and daughters. At the same time, Napoleon introduced a modern commercial code, eliminated the city guilds, which had incorporated roughly two-thirds of the trades people in 1792, and removed tariff barriers and other obstacles to production and trade. These legal reforms cleared the way for important new institutions in Turin like the chamber of commerce, a stock exchange, and a business tribunal, all designed to promote contacts between city's business groups and the agronomists, merchants, and entrepreneurs from the more advanced French economy.

The modernizing thrust of Napoleon's civil and commercial codes also carried over to the administrative systems he imposed on Turin in order to make the city and its citizens more responsive to the imperatives of the central government in Paris. Accordingly, French authorities expanded the power of the mayor at the expense of the city council, introduced more systematic accounting methods, and streamlined local government agencies to increase their efficiency. The restructured municipal administration assumed in turn expanded responsibilities for policing the city, improving public health, caring for the needy, and overseeing the operations of the hospitals.

The Napoleonic police, in particular, brought an unprecedented degree of methodical attention and organizational efficiency to the tasks of law enforcement and social control in Turin. Applying a system already tested in Paris, they required an array of new documents from identity cards and internal passports to residential and work permits in order to regulate the comings and goings of the people within the city. In each district, commissariats or police stations were set up, headed by commissioners who provided their superiors with daily reports on the state of public order in their respective areas. Since homicides and other violent crimes remained comparatively rare, police officials concentrated their efforts on controlling the floating population of vagabonds and homeless people who were held responsible for begging, thefts, purse-snatchings, and other crimes against property. In fact vagabonds accounted for 11% of all arrests in the years between 1806 and 1810. As part of their crime-fighting campaign, police also increased their physical presence in the problem areas of the city during the peak periods of illegal activity and intensified their surveillance of the trades and enterprises most closely associated with crimes against property such as bars, coffee houses, hotels, lock smiths, and fencers of stolen goods.

The twin goals of centralization and standardization informed Napoleonic administrative policies in the areas of hospitals, public health, and social assistance as well. French authorities developed an in-