

in the Napoleonic bureaucracy created unprecedented opportunities for men from the worlds of commerce, small manufacturing, finance, and the free professions to increase their wealth, status, and prestige.

At the same time, the emperor's concern with stability and consensus led French authorities to include and even favor the older aristocratic families in the distribution of lucrative public offices and posts at the court of Prince Camillo Borghese, the French governor of Piedmont, Parma, and Liguria. Such rewards and the prospect of regaining some of their old social and political influence gradually persuaded a number of prominent aristocrats to put aside their traditional loyalty to the House of Savoy and to assume important posts in the Napoleonic state. Enterprising nobles, like Camillo Benso di Cavour's father, Marchese Michele, also took advantage of the profitable investment opportunities that resulted from the abolition of restrictions on crop cultivation to expand their landed estates and wealth.

The resulting process of aristocratic-bourgeois fusion found its most visible expression in the imperial governing class of Turin and in the new social hierarchy which Napoleon attempted to develop after 1808. The municipal council, for instance, included former titled nobles (one-third), professional men, especially lawyers (one-fourth), as well as a number of merchants, bankers, and landowners. These groups also provided the members of the new imperial nobility and knightly orders founded between 1808 and 1814. Finally, the same mix of old-line aristocrats and bourgeois gentlemen and their wives began to rub elbows at the parties and other events of Napoleonic high society, which was organized around the court of Prince Camillo Borghese and his wife, Princess Paolina Bonaparte in Turin.

Nonetheless, the short-term achievements of French administrative reforms did not live up to their proponents' hopes and expectations. To begin with, Napoleonic police and welfare officials lacked the funds and manpower to implement fully their innovative methods and policies intended for managing Turin's growing population of poor and indigent. Ambitious plans for a state-run system of welfare agencies, homeless shelters and soup kitchens, for instance, had to be substantially scaled back and those institutions that did function tended to be inadequate, overcrowded, and filthy. Similar shortcomings limited the effectiveness of the new police force in controlling the city's huge transient population or reducing the problem of begging. The French preference for corrective punishment led, in practice, to the mass arrest of beggars and vagabonds, an approach that accomplished little. Those people arrested wound up being "buried alive" in over-crowded, parasite-infested