

pedagogy and discipline typical of the old order that largely excluded girls and emphasized religious devotions and cults, a rigid system of prizes and punishments, and rote memorization. The University of Turin also underwent a purge of its faculty after its closing in May 1814, a purge that hit the disciplines of Theology and Medicine with particular force. The university reopened in October under the guiding influence of the Jesuit Order with tightened standards for admission of students and strict controls on faculty schedules in order to produce "devout, loyal, studious" students. Newly appointed clerical prefects imposed a strict discipline on university students, monitoring their attendance at religious services, their observance of monthly confession, and their participation in spiritual exercises. A similar climate of rigid censorship affected Turin's publishing industry, its journals and magazines, and its theaters, at least in the first years of the Restoration.

The Savoyard monarchy also adopted an ultra-conservative approach to economic matters after 1814 with the goal of halting or reversing changes that had taken place during the previous decade and a half. With Turin once again serving as the regional center of financial and commercial policy-making, the new government raised protective tariffs on agricultural products significantly, reduced the tax burdens of rural landowners at the expense of consumers, and imposed sweeping restrictions on agricultural lease-holding in order to bolster the old, but declining sharecropping or *mezzadria* system. Restrictions on exports as well as imports aggravated the already difficult economic situation after 1815 by provoking a sharp drop in the foreign purchases of silk, Piedmont's principal product for exportation, which accentuated a growing balance-of-trade deficit. The tangible shortcomings of these policies for the people of Turin quickly became evident in the first years of the Restoration. In 1816 and 1817, high duties on agricultural products aggravated a crisis provoked by a series of bad harvests. The resulting famine led to food shortages and a sharp rise in pauperism in the capital that forced the municipal authorities to organize an emergency distribution of soup and bread to head off mass starvation. To make matters worse, an outbreak of typhus hit the city in the spring of 1817, driving up the death rate still further that year.

Despite such misery and suffering, the principal threats to the regime of Victor Emanuel I in the years after 1814 came less from revolts by the urban laboring classes and the poor than from the seething discontents and resentments within Piedmont's traditional aristocratic military elite. At the highest levels of local society, contrasting moderate and conservative visions of state organization and policy fueled conflicts