

that pitted father against son and brother against brother. Angelo di Saluzzo recalled in his memoirs how ideological and private conflicts in this era became so intertwined that “the discord [was] often with the family [and] the diversity of political principles became the motive for personal animosities”. Indeed, in no other city on the Italian peninsula did frustrations within the old privileged orders give rise to so much bitterness and acrimony as in Turin, where they erupted into open rebellion, criminal trials, and the forced exile of young men from some of the most illustrious noble families.

#### 4. *The Revolution of 1821 and Reaction in Turin.*

From the moment of his re-entry into Turin in 1814, Victor Emanuel I's stubborn refusal to make any meaningful concessions to new social and political realities that had emerged during the French occupation aroused mounting opposition from enlightened elements of the old nobility and from the increasingly self-confident professional classes of Turin. Efforts by cautious reformers like Prospero Balbo to remove the most retrograde aspects of the Restoration legislation, but not advocate constitutional changes, met with scant support from the throne and did little to ease discontent. On the contrary, their efforts to blend innovation and tradition disappointed the liberal opposition without softening the resistance of advocates of intransigence at court and in the government. As a result, a growing number of ex-officials of the French administration, teachers, students, and merchants began to join secret societies or sects. By 1818, Turin had become the hub of a sectarian network of conspiratorial groups throughout northern Italy, committed to the goal of arming the people and forcing the princely rulers to introduce constitutions. Meanwhile, the reactionary policies of the government and the mistreatment of those families associated with the French imperial regime angered and frustrated a group of idealistic, young aristocrats, for the most part army officers, led by Santorre Derossi di Santarosa, Carlo Asinari di San Marzano, Giacinto Provana di Collegno, and Guglielmo Moffa di Liseo. Motivated by a contradictory blend of Italian nationalism, Piedmontese military expansionism, constitutionalism, and loyalty to the House of Savoy, these men spearheaded a military revolt in March 1821 to force the abdication of Victor Emanuel I and his replacement by the supposedly more liberal Prince of Carignano, Charles Albert.

The origins of the Piedmontese Revolution of 1821 lay in develop-