

by holding plebiscites that approved Piedmontese annexation of the new territories by early November. The process of political unification culminated in the first months of 1861 with the election of the first parliament and its recognition of Victor Emanuel II as the first King of Italy with its national capital in Turin.

Turin remained at the center of power, especially in the pivotal first six months after unification. The extraordinary events of the years 1859-1860 confronted Cavour's government with the task of devising a new system of administration, law, political representation, education, and communications for the entire country as rapidly as possible without the luxuries of long preparation and careful deliberation. In order to present a unified front to the Great Powers and assure a uniform system

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Map 6.

Map of the city and neighborhoods of Turin as a national capital (1862).

