

of basic civil and political freedoms to the rest of the peninsula, the Piedmontese statesman simply extended in a uniform manner the bureaucracy, constitution, and legal, financial, and educational systems first developed in Turin to the rest of the country. As the national capital, the city underwent a rapid face lift with the construction of new state office buildings and the development of broad avenues, public parks, and other services needed to accommodate its expanded governmental responsibilities and growing army of civil servants.

Turin enjoyed only a brief moment in the national political limelight, however. The sudden and unexpected death of Cavour in June 1861 deprived the city of the only political figure in whom most local citizens could identify. To make matters worse, the limited material and human resources of the House of Savoy made it virtually impossible for Turin and its political class to dominate Italy in the way that the Prussian monarchy and Junker aristocracy did after they had unified Germany. As a result, the process of state-building in the new Kingdom of Italy entailed greater concessions to the other old regional states, concessions that further eroded the city's claims to national leadership. Such developments foreshadowed a far more traumatic event, the transfer of the national capital from Turin to Florence in January 1865.