

ginning of one of the most difficult periods in the history of Turin. The transfer of the capital meant more than wounded pride and a loss of political status for the city and its residents. It entailed the departure of important institutions and groups, which had either long defined Turin's identity or made the city an important cultural and intellectual center on the peninsula in the 1850s. At the same time, the transfer entailed the sudden loss of jobs that had provided work directly or indirectly for a sizable segment of the local population. Nor did the resulting demographic, economic, and social crises of the 1860s and early 1870s mark the end of the city's trials and tribulations. Turin suffered additional setbacks in the 1880s and '90s as a result of a global agricultural depression, a prolonged tariff war with France, and a wave of financial scandals and bank failures.

This sequence of crises in the late nineteenth century, however, forced municipal leaders to develop a new vision of the former capital as the city that "works and thinks". Beginning in the 1880s, a broad coalition of interests from the university and business community began to develop and promote an alternative identity for Turin. In their view, the city had to reinvent itself as a center of modern economic production, where science and technology linked with industrial enterprise to create a modern society of wealth, progress, and social harmony. Significantly, the vision of the 1880s largely became a reality in the decade after 1900, but with unintended as well as intended consequences. On the eve of World War I, Turin had emerged both as one of the major centers of Italy's industrial "take-off" and as the home of the country's most disciplined and militant Socialist labor movement.

2. *Dilemmas of an Ex-Capital.*

The violence of September 1864 did not delay the transfer of the capital to Florence. That process unfolded in three stages in the spring and summer of 1865. In April and May, the parliament in Turin closed its doors. In the months that followed, first the government ministries and then the rest of the state bureaucracy followed suit, shutting down their operations in the city, packing up, and moving to the new capital. By the end of the summer, the only remaining political institution in Turin was its municipal government. In a belated effort to soften the blow, the national government provided the city with substantial monetary compensation in the form of an initial 100 million lire grant and an annual subsidy.