

artisans, construction workers, domestic servants, and other manual laborers in the reduced state railroad and armaments plants to flood the ranks of the city's unemployed, who still numbered over 20% of the population in 1871. The resulting hardships were compounded by epidemics of cholera in 1866 and 1867 that led to the death of some 1,300 residents of the city.

Finally, the cultural life of Turin lost much of its luster after 1864 with the exodus of that talented group of emigrant intellectuals who had played a vital role in the media, performing arts, and academia during the decade and a half after 1850. Their departure, along with that of the national political elite, had a crushing effect on local newspapers and magazines, many of which ceased publication in 1865. To make matters worse, the surviving press lapsed into a "piedmontist" cultural reaction that led to a period of self-isolation and nostalgic provincialism. The year 1865 also marked the onset of a period of decline and crisis at the University of Turin. With the transfer of the capital, the university lost some of its most eminent scholars and scientists who moved on to other institutions, at a time when many Catholic intellectuals voluntarily withdrew from active participation in public life in accord with the wishes of the Vatican. Moreover, the academic community lost the national scientific societies and the technical offices of the civil and military authorities that now relocated to Florence. Not surprisingly, the University of Turin ceased attracting the best students in Italy as it had in the 1850s.

After an initial wave of protests and demonstrations, the city fathers attempted to come up with a more constructive response to the situation created by the loss of Turin's governmental role. Within the municipal council, the sole remaining political body in the ex-capital, a small group of aristocrats, bankers, merchants, and lawyers developed policies to deal with the immediate problems of social and economic distress and to nourish a new sense of identity in the local populace. While they continued to rely on traditional forms of social assistance and philanthropy, the city fathers were more innovative in their approach to public health. In 1865, for example, they instituted the first *Ufficio sanitario*, or Public health office, to ensure the qualifications of health inspectors and the implementation of modern public health policies in the city. Under the guidance of this office, local authorities responded far more effectively to the traditional scourge of epidemics. When a new outbreak of cholera hit Turin in 1873, policies of isolation of the sick and disinfection of locales reduced the number of deaths to only five. The municipal council devoted even more time and energy to the "pa-