

newed demands from the Fiom and threatened to fight the ensuing strike with a general lockout affecting the entire metal-making and machine-manufacturing sectors. Much to the outrage of the industrialists, the government threatened to deport the foreign-born president of the Industrial League and to withhold protection of the factories from worker violence in the event of a lockout. As a consequence, the three-month strike ended on terms largely favorable to the Fiom.

Developments in the auto industry reflected a more general climate of intensified social conflict and political polarization in Turin as the Great War approached. With the downturn in the economy, the Industrial League moved toward economic nationalism, calling on the government to protect domestic markets and promote national products. The Fiat executive and new president of the Industrial League, Dante Ferraris, supported the right-wing Nationalist political organization in Turin and helped fund that movement's newspaper, *L'Idea Nazionale*. The growing intransigence and conservatism of industrialists paralleled the increased radicalization of the Socialist party from 1912 onward. After a decade, in which positivist intellectuals had largely set the socialist agenda in the city, a new generation of militants began to step forward as spokesmen for an industrial workforce that was taking a more active role in the life of the party. Included in the ranks of the militants were the university students, Antonio Gramsci, Palmiro Togliatti, Angelo Tasca, and Umberto Terracini. From their base in industrial Turin, Gramsci and Togliatti, in particular, would go on to become the dominant figures of Italian left in the first half of the twentieth century. In the years between 1911 and 1914, these young radicals rejected the "cultural dilettantism" of the party's moderate old guard and identified instead with the fiery rhetoric and revolutionary extremism of the then socialist leader, Benito Mussolini, at the national level. More importantly, the Socialist party's shift to the left coincided with its growing political weight at the local level. In the first elections under universal male suffrage in October 1913, the Socialists captured three of the city's five electoral districts.

Thus, on the eve of World War I, Turin found itself at the front lines in an emerging war of position that pitted the opposing vanguards of Italian organized capitalism and labor. This struggle would not only dominate the life of the city for the better part of the twentieth century, but it would also make Turin a key battlefield in the larger social and political conflicts that tormented the Italian peninsula in the three decades after 1914.