

gressive and combative than elsewhere on the peninsula in support of their position. The socialist labor movement dominated the anti-war campaign in Turin, giving it a distinctively radical, intransigent, and class-conscious character. Popular hostility to militarism, which had already manifested itself in demonstrations against Italian intervention in Libya in 1911, surfaced the first week of August when 30,000 workers attended a socialist rally in front of the Chamber of Labor. The short-term economic effects of the European conflict only accentuated the anti-war sentiments of the workers. The sudden influx of 70,000 refugees, shortages of raw materials, and a drop in manufacturing orders expanded the ranks of the unemployed and provoked a sharp rise in prices that led to protest demonstrations in the spring of 1915.

A movement in support of Italian intervention in the war did emerge in the city during the winter of 1914-15. From the outset, the cause of intervention benefited from the traditional pro-government attitudes of Turin's moderate middle classes. The war camp received additional support from a growing number of industrialists, who came to see intervention on the side of the Entente as the best solution to the obstacles to trade, access to raw materials and capital created by the European conflict. The same business leaders and other local notables dominated the new municipal committees that arose in February 1915 to prepare the city for war. Rounding out the ranks of Turin's interventionist movement was a sizable contingent of the university students as well as small groups of hard-line nationalists and democrats, drawn for the most part from the city's cultural and social elite. The city's second leading daily, *La Gazzetta del Popolo*, mounted an aggressive press campaign in favor of the war, laced with strong anti-socialist and nationalist overtones. The pro-war movement achieved considerably less success in the Piedmontese capital than in other urban centers. In contrast to Milan and Rome, the neutralists remained in control of Turin's public squares, where they did not shy away from battling both nationalists and the police throughout the spring of 1915. Significantly, Turin was the only city in Italy to anticipate the declaration of war in May with a general strike of protest.

Broad local opposition to the war did not prevent the city from becoming a giant arsenal after the summer of 1915. Construction of new factory space alone increased more than five fold between 1914 and 1916, with the engineering sector continuing to lead the way. Preferential treatment from the state in contracts, taxes, and imports ensured that transportation and armaments sectors would drive the impressive industrial expansion that took place during the war years. Such assis-