

duce much scholarship, art, or literature of note. Throughout the 1920s, the University of Turin remained an arena of anti-fascist resistance by some professors and students. The more aggressive intervention of the regime within the university the following decade accelerated the process of voluntary or forced submission to Fascism, but faculty support remained pro forma and pockets of resistance persisted, largely around issues of autonomy of scholarly pursuits and teaching. Likewise, the Polytechnic Institute of Turin, the toughest engineering school in Italy, increased its close ties with Fiat and the other larger firms in the city during the inter-war years so that its faculty could carry out their work with a minimum of political interference. Outside the academic institutions, the Fascist regime had equally little success in winning over a younger generation of local intellectuals and artists like Giulio Einaudi, Leone Ginzburg, Cesare Pavese, Norberto Bobbio, and Carlo Levi, many of whom would go on to play prominent roles in Italy's cultural life after 1945. While few of these men became active anti-fascists in the 1930s, they did remain mostly "afascists", influenced more by liberal mentors such as Piero Gobetti and Lionello Venturi than by Mussolini and the cultural arbiters of the dictatorship.

By the late 1930s, the fragile public support enjoyed by Fascism in Turin gave way to mounting distrust, fear, and hostility. As one government official conceded on the eve of World War II, "one has the sensation of finding oneself in a city that is not Fascist". Mussolini's shift to an aggressive, expansionist foreign policy, his costly wars in Ethiopia and Spain, his emerging alliance with Hitler, his adoption of anti-semitic measures, and his increasingly harsh "anti-bourgeois" rhetoric alienated most segments of Turinese society. Industrial leaders began to voice their concern over the economic and financial consequences of the Duce's new course in domestic and foreign policy. Fear of the ambitions of German industry, mounting tax burdens, and disrupted commercial relations led Agnelli and other local entrepreneurs to join with the monarchy and the Vatican in counseling against Italian military entanglements with Nazi Germany. Mussolini's reluctant decision to remain neutral when Hitler invaded Poland in September 1939 met with widespread relief in the Piedmontese capital. The aging dictator's determination to bring his country into the war alongside his Nazi ally in the summer of the following year made such relief short-lived. After nearly two decades of collaboration with Mussolini, the captains of industry, the monarchy, and the Catholic Church were reluctant to risk the stability of the entire regime and their own established positions within it by provoking a confrontation with the Duce over the