

health care coverage and other special benefits. Valletta also displayed a willingness to work with labor representatives on the management councils that the anti-fascist parties had introduced in the spring of 1945 to handle difficult personnel decisions, maintain discipline on the shop floor, and ensure the smooth functioning of production during the period of reconstruction.

It soon became evident that Turin's local leftist government lacked the necessary resources and authority to rebuild the war-ravaged city, create affordable housing for its homeless, and restore fundamental public services in a timely fashion. The slow pace of economic recovery in the first two years after the war hampered its efforts to deal with the problems of unemployment and inflation in the city. Moreover, the failure of the central government in Rome to pass legislation allowing the municipalities to introduce a local progressive income tax made matters worse, since it forced city administrators to rely on inadequate and regressive consumer taxes that hit the working poor hardest. The Communists and Socialists had no more success in their efforts to establish a comprehensive city plan to regulate the reconstruction and future expansion of the city in the interests of the general public. Above all, they lacked the political will to resist pressures from powerful real estate interests and the building-trades unions. Together the two allies exploited the post-war housing shortage and high levels of unemployment in the city to obstruct implementation of any town planning scheme and to engage in the speculative development of private housing with few rules or governmental oversight.

The Communist-Socialist coalition managed to hold on to Turin's municipal council until early in the 1950s, but in the years after 1947 the two parties governed in a dramatically altered international and domestic political environment. The onset of the Cold War brought to an end the brief era of anti-fascist cooperation both in government and in the factories. Collaborative arrangements gave way to renewed political conflict and escalating confrontations in the workplace, the outcome of which would shape the course of Turin's development in the ensuing two decades.

## *2. The Cold War and the Defeat of the Left in Turin.*

The rapid deterioration of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union in the first half of 1947 had immediate repercussions in Italian political life. Pressure from American officials, who made the