

The extraordinary dynamism that characterized the city's economy in the two decades after World War II contributed as well to the vitality of Turin's cultural and intellectual life. With its two universities, numerous publishing houses, and wide range of magazines and journals, Turin served as a national laboratory, in which intellectuals from a variety of disciplines studied and debated the consequences of rapid industrial and social change. An innovative group of scholars associated with Giulio Einaudi and his publishing house stimulated a range of new interdisciplinary encounters and opened the city and the country as a whole to cultural and intellectual influences from the rest of Europe and the United States. Einaudi not only published important Italian novelists like Italo Calvino and Cesare Pavese, but also brought out translations of major foreign works and reintroduced to the reading public important intellectuals who had been in prison or exile during the Fascist regime. In these years, the city hosted important schools of history, philosophy, literature led by such international prominent scholars and writers as Franco Venturi, Norberto Bobbio, Primo Levi, and Mario Soldati. A similar openness to the latest trends in European culture also characterized the city's art world. After its move to a new building in via Magenta in 1959, the Turinese museum, the Galleria civica d'arte moderna, became one of the only two institutions in the country (along with the National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome) to organize exhibitions of contemporary artists at the international level.

The elevation of Turin to the status of Italy's industrial capital in the years of the economic miracle, however, entailed more than the cultural renewal and affluent consumers, enjoying the liberating blessings of material progress. Fiat's single-minded focus on the expansion of production at all costs came at the expense of any serious consideration of the potential impact such concentrated industrial development might have on the quality of life in the city. As a result, the business community and municipal leaders were woefully unprepared for the traumatic social changes their economic strategy unleashed at the local level, changes that fundamentally altered the cultural fabric of Turin and threatened to overwhelm its weak infrastructure of public order, transportation, sanitation, schools, and hospitals.

4. Mass Immigration and the Challenges of Cultural Diversity.

The years of the economic miracle coincided with a period of unprecedented mobility of Italy's population. Between 1955 and 1971,