

Contemporary chronicles, among which the celebrated *Journal historique* of Solaro della Margarita, undoubtedly represent sources for most of the later historiography, which is consolidated around the *topoi* of social cohesion in the times of the siege and of the dawns of the spirit of 'Italian-ness', creating in parallel the myth of popular heroism and of devout obedience to the monarchy embodied in the figure of Pietro Micca. This historical reconstruction is first strongly codified in the period of Carlo Alberto, then continued through the work of moderate historians up to the celebrations of 1906, until finally finding a significant point of arrival in a series of initiatives during the twenty-year period of Fascism, which interpreted the events in terms of a declared predestination of the Savoy to guide and realise Italian Unity through the exaltation of the figures of Princes Eugenio and Vittorio Amedeo II.

*Translation by Harriet Graham*