This book deals with the crucial relationship between war and state formation in early modern Europe by considering the role of the Duchy of Savoy and the rise of this hitherto weak state into one of the regular members of the anti-French coalitions of the eighteenth century.

Through his participation in the Nine Years War (1688–1697) and the War of the Spanish Succession (1701–1714), Victor Amadeus II, duke of Savoy, acquired a reputation for unrivalled ‘Machiavellian’ double-dealing on the international stage. The book puts this diplomacy in context, both to justify the duke’s diplomacy and to rehabilitate his reputation. It also charts the process of administrative change necessitated by war – considering how the duke raised men and money (at home and abroad), the administrative changes forced by war, the resulting domestic pressures, and how these were dealt with – while emphasising the continuing importance of traditional structures. In contrast to previous histories, the book explores for the first time the way in which war could provoke opposition to ducal policy and also how it could generate new bonds and an unusual version of state nationalism. There is also a re-evaluation of the role of the nobility in the Savoyard state, which argues that they were as much collaborators with as victims of ducal absolutism.

CHRISTOPHER STORRS is Lecturer in History, University of Dundee.
This series comprises monographs and a variety of collaborative volumes, including translated works, which concentrate on the period of Italian history from late medieval times up to the Risorgimento. The editors aim to stimulate scholarly debate over a range of issues which have not hitherto received, in English, the attention they deserve. As it develops, the series will emphasise the interest and vigour of current international debates on this central period of Italian history and the persistent influence of Italian culture on the rest of Europe.

For a list of titles in the series, see end of book
Relief of Victor Amadeus' coronation as King of Sicily, Palermo 1714
WAR, DIPLOMACY AND
THE RISE OF SAVOY
1690–1720

CHRISTOPHER STORRS
For my mother and Anne-Marie
## CONTENTS

*List of illustrations*  
*Acknowledgements*  
*List of abbreviations*  
*Map: The Savoyard state, 1690–1720*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 The Savoyard army, 1690–1720</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Savoyard finance, 1690–1720</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Savoyard diplomacy, 1690–1720</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Government and politics in the Savoyard state, 1690–1720</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 The Savoyard nobility, 1690–1720</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Regions and communities in the Savoyard state, 1690–1720</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Select bibliography*  
*Index*  

ix
ILLUSTRATIONS

Relief depicting Victor Amadeus’ coronation as king of Sicily, Palermo, 1714

Frontispiece

1.1 Print depicting Victor Amadeus II with, in the background, the plans of Casale and Pinerolo (Biblioteca Reale, Turin, Iconografia Sabauda, Vittorio Amedeo II, 9/29) 28

1.2 Soldier of new provincial (or militia) battalion (or regiment) of Casale (Monferrato), 1713 (Biblioteca Reale, Turin, Manoscritti Militari, 134) 69

1.3 Soldier of new provincial (or militia) battalion (or regiment) of Mondovi, 1713 (Biblioteca Reale, Turin, Manoscritti Militari, 134) 70

3.1 Illustration depicting bust of Victor Amadeus, the arms of the House of Savoy and his territories, including the kingdoms of Cyprus and Sicily (Biblioteca Reale, Iconografia Varia 26/249) 157

4.1 Medal, 1706, celebrating victory at Turin (Biblioteca Reale, Iconografia Varia 21/2) 210

4.2 Part of firework display in Turin, September 1713, to celebrate the conclusion of the War of the Spanish Succession (Biblioteca Reale, Turin, Miscellanea di Storia Patria, 302) 211

All illustrations reproduced by permission of Il Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Like the achievements of the absolute princes of early modern Europe, those of many authors are in fact the results of co-operation on the part of numerous unsung collaborators. I am delighted to see the departure of this typescript to the publisher, not least because it allows me to acknowledge various obligations. I should like to thank the staff of the many archives and libraries in which I have worked on this project, and above all doctoressa Isabel Massabo Ricci of the Archivio di Stato, Turin. The foreign research needed to complete this study would have been impossible without substantial financial help. I should therefore also like to thank the Italian and Spanish governments, the Central Research Fund of the University of London, the Scouloudi Foundation, the Carnegie Trust, the Research Fund of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Dundee, and the Department of History of the University of Dundee for grants towards the cost of research abroad and the purchase of research materials. For their support in the pursuit of such grants, thanks go to Graham Gibbs and to Dr Derek McKay, who also supervised my Ph.D. thesis. Dr Hamish Scott, the external examiner of that thesis, and subsequently an inspiring collaborator on the European nobilities project, deserves thanks for commenting on an early version of one of the present chapters. I must also thank the editors of the present series, and in particular Dr Robert Oresko and Dr Geoffrey Syncox, for giving me the opportunity to publish this book, and for their encouragement and interest in my work over the years. Thanks are also due to Geoffrey for reading an early (and inevitably overlong) version of this book in typescript. I must also acknowledge the patience of Bill Davies of CUP in awaiting the arrival of this book, and of my copy-editor at CUP, Sheila Kane. Special thanks go to my friend, Dr Sandro Lombardini, of the University of Turin. Over many years he has proved invaluable in overcoming many of the difficulties encountered when researching abroad, in Turin. Our discussions of some of the issues dealt with in this book may have led him to expect
something different, but I hope he is not too disappointed. On recent trips to Turin I have also enjoyed the hospitality, and otherwise benefited from the enthusiastic interest and help of two new friends, Dr Paola Bianchi and Dr Andrea Merlotti. Last, but certainly not least, I am delighted to be able to give public thanks to two women. One is my mother, who has done so much. The other is my wife, Anne-Marie, an inspiring combination of integrity, intelligence and generosity. Without the affection, patience and support she has shown over many years, this book might not have been completed. It was a lucky day, in October 1978, when I walked into the bar of the Colegio Mayor Padre Poveda in Madrid.
ABBREVIATIONS

Archival references

AST Archivio di Stato, Turin
BRT Biblioteca Reale, Turin
CDC Camera dei Conti
LM Lettere Ministri
LP Lettere di Particolari
LPDS Lettere di Principi, Duchie e Sovrani
MC Materie Criminali
ME Materie Ecclesiastiche
MG Materie Giuridiche
MM Materie Militari
UGS Ufficio Generale del Soldo
PCF Patenti Controllo Finanze
ARAH Algemeen Rijks Archief, The Hague
EA Eerste Afdeeling
SG Staten Generaal
AGS Archivo General de Simancas
E Estado series
xiv

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

PRO Public Record Office, London
SP State Papers
Add British Library, Additional Manuscripts

Individuals
DLT Comte and president de la Tour
ST Marquis de Saint-Thomas (elder and younger)
VA Victor Amadeus II, duke of Savoy
VDM Albert van der Meer

Bibliographical
ASI Archivio Storico Italiano
BSBS Bollettino Storico-Bibliografico Subalpino
BSSV Bollettino della Societa di Studi Valdesi (formerly Bulletin de la Société d’Histoire Vaudoise)
CGP C. Contessa et al., eds., Le Campagne di Guerra in Piemonte (1703–1708) e l’assedio di Torino (1706), 10 vols. (Turin, 1908–1933)
DBI Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani, 33 vols. (Rome, 1960–87)
Duboin F. A. and C. Duboin, Raccolta per ordine di materia delle leggi . . . emanati negli stati sardi sino all’8 Dicembre 1798, 23 vols. (Turin, 1818–69)
MAST Memorie dell’Accademia delle Scienze di Torino
MSI Miscellanea di Storia Italiana
MDSSHAC Mémoires et Documents publiés par la Societé Savoisienne d’Histoire et d’Archéologie, Chambéry
RSI Rivista Storica Italiana
The Savoyard State, 1690–1720