CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

**The Politics of Italy**

This innovative text offers a completely fresh approach to Italian politics by placing it in its historical, institutional, social and international contexts. Students will get to grips with the theories and concepts of comparative politics and how they apply specifically to Italy, while gaining real insight into more controversial topics such as the Mafia, corruption and the striking success of Berlusconi. The textbook uses clear and simple language to analyse critically Italy's institutions, its political culture, parties and interest groups, public policy, and its place in the international system. Often regarded as an anomaly, Italy is frequently described in terms of 'crisis', 'instability' and 'alienation'. Sceptical of these conventional accounts, Newell argues that, if understood in its own terms, the Italian political system is just as effective as other established democracies. With features including text boxes and further reading suggestions, this is an unbeatable introduction to the politics of Italy.

JAMES L. NEWELL is Professor of Politics in the School of English, Sociology, Politics and Contemporary History at the University of Salford. He is the author of *Italian Politics: Adjustment under Duress* (with Martin Bull, 2005) and *Parties and Democracy in Italy* (2000), as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters on Italian politics.

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

CAMBRIDGE TEXTBOOKS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

**Series Editors**
Jan W. Van Deth, *Universität Mannheim, Germany*
Kenneth Newton, *University of Southampton, United Kingdom*

Comparative research is central to the study of politics. This series offers accessible but sophisticated materials for students of comparative politics at the introductory level and beyond. It comprises an authoritative introductory textbook, *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, accompanied by volumes devoted to the politics of individual countries, and an introduction to methodology in comparative politics. The books share a common structure and approach, allowing teachers to choose combinations of volumes to suit their particular course. The volumes are also suitable for use independent of one other. Attractively designed and accessibly written, this series provides an up-to-date and flexible teaching resource.

*Other books in this series:*

RICHARD GUNTHER & JOSÉ RAMÓN MONTERO
*The Politics of Spain*

KENNETH NEWTON & JAN W. VAN DETH
*Foundations of Comparative Politics*

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

# The Politics of Italy

## Governance in a Normal Country

JAMES L. NEWELL

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521600460

© James L. Newell 2010

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2010

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-0-521-84070-5 Hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-60046-0 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or
accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet websites referred to in
this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is,
or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

# Contents

*List of figures* *page vii*
*List of maps* viii
*List of tables* ix
*List of boxes* xi
*Acknowledgements* xiii
*List of abbreviations* xiv
*Chronology* xvii

Introduction 1

**I**
**Historical background** 7

1 History 9

**II**
**The polity: structures and institutions of the regime** 47

2 The constitutional framework 49

3 Multi-level government 79

4 Policy-making and policy implementation: executives, legislatures and bureaucrats 108

**III**
**Politics: citizens, elites and interest mediation** 143

5 Political culture and behaviour 145

6 Interests and interest mediation: voluntary associations and pressure groups 179

7 Elections, voting and political parties 210



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



**IV**
Policies and performances 251

8 Economic policy 253

9 Welfare and rights 283

10 Foreign policy 318

*Appendix: The electoral system for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate* 352
*References* 358
*Index* 373



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

# Figures

1.1 Giuseppe Garibaldi © Mary Evans Picture Library / Alamy *page* 10
1.2 Benito Mussolini © Bettmann/CORBIS 21
2.1 Interior of the Palazzo di Montecitorio © Araldo de Luca/CORBIS 51
5.1 Altare della Patria, Monument of Vittorio Emanuele II, Rome © Images&Stories / Alamy 154
5.2 Scene of Giovanni Falcone's murder © Alberto Pizzoli/Sygma/Corbis 168
(Box 6.3) Number of members of Italian political parties, 1945–2000 192
6.1 The Red Brigades' Kidnapping Photo of Aldo Moro © ARCHVIO / ANSA/Corbis 201
7.1 Vote by geographical area (Chamber proportional vote 2001) 230
7.2 Turnout at general elections in twelve democracies 235
8.1 Growth of GDP in Italy as compared to growth rates of principal competitors 255
(Box 8.2) Italian lire and euro banknotes © Corbis / SuperStock and © Prisma / SuperStock 268
9.1 Percentage of families in relative poverty by geographical area, 2003–2007 289
9.2 At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers, EU-25 2003 289
10.1 Per cent 'for' 'One common foreign policy among the member states of the European Union' 341



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

# Maps

1 Italian regions and major cities *page* xxix
2 The Italian states at the time of the Treaty of Vienna, 1815 12
3 The Italian empire in 1940 323



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

# Tables


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.1 | Governments of the democratic transition, 1943–1948 | *page* 22 |
| 1.2 | Governments of the first republican period, 1948–1994 | 29 |
| 1.3 | Governments of the second republican period, 1994–2008 | 38 |
| 3.1 | Municipalities in Italy | 92 |
| 3.2 | Composition of the Italian Government, December 2008 | 97 |
| 4.1 | Success rate of government bills | 118 |
| 4.2 | Oversight activity and laws of delegation | 119 |
| 4.3 | Ministries of the Italian Republic | 133 |
| 4.4 | Principal independent administrative authorities in Italy | 136 |
| 6.1 | Density of trade union membership, 1995 | 187 |
| 6.2 | Left–right self-placement and church attendance in Italy, 2001 | 206 |
| 7.1 | Political participation in Italy, 2001 | 211 |
| 7.2 | The Chamber of Deputies Elections of 2001 | 214 |
| 7.3 | European Parliament elections, 2004 | 224 |
| 7.4 | Vote by geographical area (Chamber proportional vote), 2001 | 230 |
| 7.5 | Religious observance and party support, 1992 and 2001 | 233 |
| 7.6 | Value priorities and left–right self-placement, 1994 | 237 |
| 7.7 | Election results, Chamber of Deputies, 2006 | 238 |
| 7.8 | Vote flows 1996–2001 (Chamber plurality arena) and 2001–2006 | 239 |
| 7.9 | Chamber of Deputies election results, 2006 and 2008 | 244 |
| 7.10 | Composition of the parliamentary groups, Chamber of Deputies and Senate, 2008 | 246 |
| 8.1 | Value added of manufacturing sectors (as percentage of total) for various countries, 1999 | 258 |
| 8.2 | Economic decline? Key indicators 1971–2005 | 260 |
| 8.3 | Rates of population growth, fertility, and GDP per capita, 1971–2005 | 260 |
| 8.4 | Italy compared with major competitors on a range of economic indicators, 2006 | 261 |
| 8.5 | Government debt, education and size of enterprises: Italy compared with major competitors | 263 |
| 8.6 | Components of public expenditure, 2001–2005 | 272 |
| 8.7 | Proportion of population over 65, and employment rates: Italy compared with major competitors | 274 |




© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



9.1 Public expenditure in Italy, 2006 286
9.2 Relative poverty by geographic area, 2006–2007 (000s and percentages) 288
9.3 The changing age structure of the Italian population 293
9.4 Total tax revenue as a percentage of GDP, 1955–2005 294
9.5 Public spending on pensions as a proportion of GDP in the EU15, estimates 2000–2050 299
9.6 Average duration of civil proceedings, in days, in courts of first instance and in appeal courts 308
10.1 Italy's trading partners: principal trading partners in 2006 (in millions of euros) 338
10.2 The use of force to resolve international problems: Italian public opinion compared to opinion in other European countries (2002 Worldviews survey) 340



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

# Boxes


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.1 | The protagonists of Italian unification: Victor Emmanuel II, Camillo di Cavour, Giuseppe Garibaldi | *page* 13 |
| 1.2 | Key terms: nationalism and liberalism | 17 |
| 1.3 | Mussolini and Fascism | 20 |
| 1.4 | Main parties of the first republican period | 27 |
| 1.5 | Berlusconi and Forza Italia | 36 |
| 1.6 | Main parties of the second republican period | 41 |
| 2.1 | The Constituent Assembly | 50 |
| 2.2 | Referenda in Italy | 54 |
| 2.3 | President of the Republic, Giorgio Napolitano | 57 |
| 2.4 | Italy's life senators | 60 |
| 2.5 | Key terms: federalism | 62 |
| 2.6 | Key terms: concurrent powers, exclusive powers, sovereignty, majoritarian democracy | 63 |
| 3.1 | Key terms: clientelism | 87 |
| 3.2 | Achille Lauro | 88 |
| 3.3 | Regional diversity in Italy | 91 |
| 4.1 | Key terms: power, globalisation, supra-national organisations, policy communities | 109 |
| 4.2 | Inside the Italian parliament: making law | 113 |
| 4.3 | Inside the Italian parliament: the chambers' standing commissions | 115 |
| 4.4 | Inside the Italian parliament: holding the Government to account | 119 |
| 5.1 | Key terms: institutions, behavouralism, rational choice | 146 |
| 5.2 | Path dependency | 150 |
| 5.3 | The Vittoriano and the Quirinale | 153 |
| 5.4 | Public goods | 154 |
| 5.5 | Bettino Craxi | 162 |
| 5.6 | Key terms: universalism, social closure | 163 |
| 5.7 | Corruption: the problem of definition | 164 |
| 5.8 | The Mafia and voting | 167 |
| 5.9 | Key terms: free-riding and generalised reciprocity | 172 |




© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



6.1 Key terms: the law of anticipated reactions, pluralism, corporatism, position issues 182
6.2 The Workers' Statute 189
6.3 Pressure-group activity 192
6.4 The Red Brigades 200
7.1 The 1993 electoral system 213
7.2 Ideological diversity on the centre left 218
7.3 The October 2005 centre-left primary elections 223
7.4 Candidate-centred campaigning 226
7.5 The significance of class in Italian electoral politics 232
8.1 Key terms: single market, economic and monetary union 264
8.2 Introduction of the euro 268
8.3 The new economy 273
9.1 Key terms: social assistance, national minimum income scheme, relative and absolute poverty 287
9.2 Unemployment protection in Italy 290
10.1 Italy and the major international organisations 321
10.2 The Treaty of Paris 324
10.3 Post-war European institutions 327
10.4 Italy and the Common Agricultural Policy 330
10.5 Protagonists of post-war Italian foreign policy 334
10.6 The American presence in Italy 346



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

# Acknowledgements

Most authors incur multiple debts in the process of writing a book and this one is no exception. Debts of gratitude are owed to the Leverhulme Trust for the Study Abroad Fellowship that provided the time spent in Italy where the bulk of the book was written, and to the University of Salford for agreeing to the sabbatical leave the funding of which the Leverhulme Fellowship made possible. My thanks go to Susan Senior for generously providing me with the office space I used for most of the actual writing and to the staff of the various libraries in and around Siena and its university. The stock of research materials contained in these libraries is second to none. Finally, thanks are owed to all the colleagues with whom I have been in contact during the period of the book's writing, and with whom, at various points, I have had occasion to discuss ideas, developed in the following pages or sometimes discarded: Daniele Albertazzi, Felia Allum, Geoff Andrews, Luciano Bardi, Roberto Biorcio, Martin Bull, Donatella Campus, Maurizio Carbone, Nicolò Conti, Aldo Di Virgilio, Mark Donovan, Ilaria Favretto, Stefano Fella, Giovanna Antonia Fois, Paul Furlong, Mark Gilbert, Carlo Guarnieri, David Hine, Jonathan Hopkin, Salvatore Lupo, Wainer Lusoli, Alfio Mastropaolo, Paola Mattei, Duncan McDonnell, Caterina Paolucci, Adriano Pappalardo, Gianfranco Pasquino, Martin Rhodes, Franca Roncarolo, Marco Tarchi, Alberto Vannucci, Luca Verzichelli. The usual disclaimers apply.



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

# Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| ACP | African, Caribbean and Pacific |
| AFSOUTH | Allied Forces Southern Europe |
| AN | National Alliance (Alleanza Nazionale) |
| ASL | Local Health Company (*Azienda sanitaria locale*) |
| BP | British Petroleum |
| CAP | Common Agricultural Policy |
| CCD-CDU | Christian Democratic Centre–Christian Democratic Union (Centro Cristiano Democratico–Cristiani Democratici Uniti) |
| CdL | House of Freedoms (Casa delle Libertà) |
| CFSP | Common Foreign and Security Policy |
| CGIL | Italian General Confederation of Labour (Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro) |
| CIG | Ordinary Wage Supplmentation Fund (*Cassa integrazione guadagni ordinaria*) |
| CIGS | Special Wage Supplementation Fund (*Cassa integrazione guadagni straordinaria*) |
| CIPE | Joint Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (Comitato Interministeriale per la Programmazione Economica) |
| CISL | Italian Confederation of Workers' Trade Unions (Confederazione Italiana dei Sindacati dei Lavoratori) |
| CLN | Committee for National Liberation (Comitato per la Liberazione Nazionale) |
| CSM | High Council of the Judiciary (Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura) |
| DC | Christian Democratic Party (Democrazia Cristiana) |
| DE | European Democracy (Democrazia Europea) |
| Dpef | Economic and Financial Planning Document (*Documento di programmazione economica e finanziaria*) |
| DS | Left Democrats (Democratici di Sinistra) |
| ECB | European Central Bank |
| EDC | European Defence Community |
| EEC | European Economic Community |
| EMU | European Monetary Union |
| ENI | National Hydrocarbon Corporation (Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi) |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| | |
|---|---|
| EU | European Union |
| FI | Go Italy! (Forza Italia) |
| FIFA | International Federation of Football Associations (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) |
| FRY | Former Republic of Yugoslavia |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GIP | Judge for the preliminary investigations (*Giudice delle indagini preliminari*) |
| GNP | Gross National Product |
| GUP | 'Judge of the preliminary hearing' (*Giudice dell'udienza preliminare*) |
| ICI | Local property tax (*Imposta comunale sugli immobili*) |
| ICT | information and communication technology |
| IdV | Italy of Values (Italia dei Valori) |
| IGO | intergovernmental organisation |
| ILOR | Local income tax (*Imposta locale sul reddito*) |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| INPS | National Social Security Institute (Istituto Nazionale della Previdenza Sociale) |
| INVALSI | National Institute for Evaluation of the Education System (Istituto Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Educativo) |
| IRAP | Regional Tax on Enterprises (*Imposta regionale sulle attività produttive*) |
| IRI | Institute for Industrial Reconstruction (Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale) |
| ISTAT | National Statistical Institute (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica) |
| ITANES | Italian National Election Study |
| LN | Northern League (Lega Nord) |
| MSFT | Social Movement – Tricoloured Flame (Movimento Sociale – Framma Tricolore) |
| MSI | Italian Social Movement (Movimento Sociale Italiano) |
| NATO | North Atlantic Treaty Organisation |
| NIC | newly industrialising country |
| Nioc | Iranian National Oil Company |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| OMC | Open method of co-ordination |
| PCI | Italian Communist Party (Partito Comunista Italiano) |
| PCM | Prime Minister's Office (Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri) |
| PD | Democratic Party (Partito Democratico) |
| Pd'A | Party of Action (Partito d'Azione) |
| PdCI | Party of Italian Communists (Partito dei Comunisti Italiani) |
| PdL | People of Freedom (Popolo della Libertà) |
| PDL | Democratic Party of Labour (Partito Democratico del Lavoro) |
| PDS | Democratic Party of the Left (Partito Democratico della Sinistra) |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| | |
|---|---|
| PLI | Italian Liberal Party (Partito Liberale Italiano) |
| PLO | Palestine Liberation Organisation |
| PNF | National Fascist Party (Partito Nazionale Fascista) |
| PPI | Italian People's Party (Partito Popolare Italiano) |
| PPP | Purchasing Power Party |
| PRI | Italian Republican Party (Partito Repubblicano Italiano) |
| PSDI | Italian Social Democratic Party (Partito Socialista Democratico Italiano) |
| PSI | Italian Socialist Party (Partito Socialista Italiano) |
| PSIUP | Italian Socialist Party of Workers' Unity (Partito Socialista di Unità Proletaria) |
| PSLI | Italian Socialist Workers' Party (Partito Socialista Lavoratori Italiani) |
| PSU | Unified Socialist Party (Partito Socialista Unificato) |
| QMV | qualified majority voting |
| RC | Communist Refoundation (Rifondazione Comunista) |
| RI | Italian Renewal (Rinnovamento Italiano) |
| RMI | Minimum Insertion Income (*Reddito minimo di inserimento*) |
| RnP | Rose in the Fist (Rosa nel Pugno) |
| RSC | regional security complex |
| RUI | Income of Last Resort (*Reddito di ultima istanza*) |
| SA | Rainbow Left (Sinistra l'Arcobaleno) |
| SD | Democratic Left (Sinistra Democratica) |
| SDI | Italian Democratic Socialists (Socialisti Democratici Italiani) |
| SIRIP | Iranian–Italian Oil Company (Société Irano-Italienne des Pétroles) |
| TAR | Regional Administrative Tribunal |
| TI | Transparency International |
| UD | Democratic Union (Unione Democratica) |
| UdC | Union of the Centre (Unione di Centro) |
| UDC | Union of Christian Democrats and Centre Democrats (Unione dei Democratici Cristiani) |
| UDEUR | Union of Democrats for Europe (Unione dei Democratici per l'Europa) |
| UIL | Italian Workers' Union (Unione Italiana dei Lavoratori) |
| UN | United Nations |
| USL | Local Health Unit (*Unità sanitaria locale*) |
| USSR | Union of Soviet Socialist Republics |
| WEU | Western European Union |
| WTO | World Trade Organization |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

# Chronology

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 18 February 1861 | Count Camilo di Cavour of Piedmont-Sardinia declares the creation of the Kingdom of Italy and Victor Emmanuel assembles the deputies of the first Italian parliament in Turin. |
| 17 March 1861 | Italian parliament proclaims Victor Emmanuel II the first king of Italy. |
| 29 February 1868 | Pope Pius IX issues 'Non Expedit' decree enjoining Catholics to abstain from participation in general elections. |
| 9 January 1878 | Victor Emmanuel dies, to be succeeded by his son, Umberto I. |
| 7 February 1878 | Pope Pius IX dies. |
| 16 May 1891 | Pope Leo XIII issues the encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. The document rejects communism and affirms the right to property while supporting the rights of labour to form unions and calling for amelioration of the condition of the working class. |
| 14 August 1892 | Party of Italian Workers founded at a congress in Genoa: it will take the name Italian Socialist Party from January 1895. |
| 29 July 1900 | Umberto I assassinated in Monza by the anarchist Gaetano Bresci. He is succeeded by his son Victor Emmauel III. |
| 20 June 1903 | Pope Leo XIII dies. |
| 11 June 1905 | Pope Pius X issues the encyclical, *Il fermo proposito* allowing Catholics to vote when doing so is necessary to help prevent the election of socialist candidates. |
| 26–29 April 1914 | Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia, thus initiating the process that will lead to the First World War. At the outset, the Italian socialists are strongly opposed to participation – but at the cost of severe internal tensions. |
| 20 August 1914 | Pope Pius X dies. |
| 26 April 1915 | Italy comes into the First World War on the side of the Triple Entente – Britain, France and Russia. |
| 5 May 1919 | Italian delegates return to the Paris peace conference. This follows a walk-out over the refusal of Britain, France and the United States to honour the pledges concerning territory that had brought Italy into the war. |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| August 1920 | Blackshirts used to break the general strike which had started at the Alfa Romeo factory in Milan. |
| 21 January 1921 | At the Italian Socialist Party congress in Livorno Amadeo Bordiga and Antonio Gramsci lead a split that gives birth to the Italian Communist Party (PCI). |
| 7 November 1921 | National Fascist Party (PNF) founded in Rome from the fusion of the Fasci Italiani di Combattimento (founded by Mussolini, 23 March 1919) and the Italian Nationalist Association (founded in Florence in 1910). |
| 22 January 1922 | Pope Benedict XV dies. |
| 27–29 October 1922 | Fascists march on Rome, as a consequence of which Mussolini is invited by King Victor Emmanuel III to form a government. |
| 21 July 1923 | Acerbo Law passed. Gives two-thirds of the seats in Parliament to the party or coalition winning 25 per cent of the vote. |
| 6 April 1924 | At the general election, the PNF obtains two-thirds of the seats in accordance with the Acerbo Law, allowing Mussolini to establish a dictatorship. |
| 10 June 1924 | The socialist politician Giacomo Matteotti is kidnapped and killed, allegedly by members of Mussolini's PNF. |
| 11 February 1929 | The Lateran Treaty, bringing about the mutual recognition of the Kingdom of Italy and the Vatican City state, is signed at the Palazzo Lateranense in Rome. |
| 3 October 1935 | 100,000 Italian troops begin the Fascist regime's invasion of Ethiopia. |
| 9 May 1936 | Italy annexes Ethiopia. |
| 1 June 1936 | Ethiopia, Eritrea and Italian Somaliland are united into Italian East Africa. |
| 10 February 1939 | Pope Pius XI dies. |
| 7 April 1939 | Italy invades Albania. |
| 22 May 1939 | Italy signs the 'Pact of Steel' with Germany: the countries commit themselves to follow a similar foreign policy and to aid the other country immediately in the event of war being declared. |
| 10 June 1940 | Italy declares war on France and Great Britain. |
| 3 August 1940 | Italy begins occupation of British Somaliland in East Africa. |
| 13 September 1940 | Italy invades Egypt. |
| 28 October 1940 | Italy invades Greece. |
| 5 May 1941 | Addis Ababa taken by the Allies. |
| 22 June 1941 | Italy joins Germany in declaring war on USSR. |
| 2 December 1942 | Enrico Fermi sets up an atomic reactor in Chicago. |
| 16 December 1942 | Italian troops defeated by Soviet forces on the river Don. |
| 13 May 1943 | German and Italian forces surrender in North Africa. |
| 9 July 1943 | Allied invasion of Sicily begins. |
| 25 July 1943 | Mussolini voted out of power by Fascist Grand Council and arrested upon leaving a meeting with the King. |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 8 September 1943 | Victor Emmanuel III makes public the armistice with the Allies without first ordering the royal army to defend Rome. Left without orders, the Italian army disintegrates. |
| 12 September 1943 | Germans launch 'Operation Oak' rescuing Mussolini from prison and enabling him to establish a new fascist state in Northern Italy, the Italian Social Republic. |
| 13 October 1943 | Italy declares war on Germany. |
| 27 March 1944 | PCI leader, Palmiro Togliatti, returns from exile and promotes the so-called *svolta di Salerno* (after the city that is the seat of Italian government until the Allied liberation of Rome on 4 June 1944) that will bring his party into government. |
| 4 June 1944 | Victor Emmanuel passes most of his constitutional powers to his son, Umberto, who assumes the title Lieutenant General of the Realm. |
| 9 June 1944 | The Pact of Rome, signed by Giuseppe De Vittorio of the PCI, Emilio Canevari of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI) and Achille Grandi of the Christian Democrats (DC), gives birth to the Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (General Confederation of Italian Workers). |
| 28 April 1945 | Mussolini is executed by partisans after being discovered attempting to escape to Switzerland as part of a German convoy. |
| 8 May 1945 | Victory in Europe (VE) Day. |
| 9 May 1946 | Victor Emmanuel III formally abdicates in favour of his son. Umberto II thus becomes the last king of Italy and is nicknamed *il Re di maggio* (the May king). |
| 2 June 1946 | Constituent Assembly elections and referendum on the future of the monarchy. 54 per cent vote in favour of a republic. |
| 28 June 1946 | Liberal Party politician Enrico de Nicola elected provisional head of state by the Constituent Assembly. |
| 10 February 1947 | Paris Peace Treaty signed. |
| 1 May 1947 | Portella della Ginestra massacre: eleven people killed and thirty-three wounded during May Day celebrations in Sicily. Presumed killers are the bandit and separatist leader Salvatore Giuliano and his band, though their motives and intentions remain unclear. |
| 1 January 1948 | Post-war Italian Constitution comes into force. |
| 18 April 1948 | At the first post-war general election, the DC obtains 49 per cent of the vote and the Popular Front (Communists and Socialists) 31 per cent. |
| 11 May 1948 | Luigi Einaudi, of the Italian Liberal Party, elected second President of the Italian Republic at the fourth round of voting, with 518 votes out of 872. |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 14 July 1948 | An attempt on the life of Palmiro Togliatti, by the law student Antonio Pallante, leaves the PCI leader severely wounded and provokes widespread violent demonstrations with several casualties. |
| 4 April 1949 | Italy signs the North Atlantic Treaty to become, along with eleven other countries, a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). |
| 5 March 1950 | Unione Italiana del Lavoro (Italian Workers' Union) founded. Inspired by social democratic and republican ideals, its aim is to provide a trade union confederation for those workers whose outlooks are neither communist nor confessional in nature. |
| 30 April 1950 | Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori (Italian Confederation of Workers' Trade Unions) founded. Its largest component is the Libera CGIL: Catholic workers who had seceded from the CGIL a few days after the attempt on Togliatti's life. They had been prompted to their action by the general strike the CGIL's leaders called in response to the attempt. |
| 18 April 1951 | Italy signs the Treaty of Paris to become a founder member, along with France, Germany and the Benelux countries, of the European Coal and Steel Community. |
| 11 March 1953 | Law no. 87 finally provides the enabling legislation necessary to give life to the Constitutional Court – five years after the 1948 Constitution had provided for such an institution. |
| 31 March 1953 | So-called swindle law (providing majority premium for the list or coalition of parties obtaining 50 per cent) promulgated. |
| 7 June 1953 | At the general election the DC and allies obtain 49.85 per cent of the vote thus narrowly failing to obtain the majority premium provided for by the 'swindle law'. |
| 31 July 1954 | Swindle law abrogated. |
| 29 April 1955 | Christian Democrat Giovanni Gronchi elected President of the Republic at the fourth round of voting with 658 votes out of 833. |
| 14 December 1955 | United Nations Security Council Resolution 109 recommends Italy for membership of the UN. |
| 23 October – 10 November 1956 | The Hungarian Revolution creates considerable difficulties for the PCI whose official position of support for the Soviet armed intervention results in the loss of over 200,000 members. |
| 25 March 1957 | Italy signs the Treaty of Rome to become a founder member, along with France, Germany and the Benelux countries, of the European Economic Community. |
| 24 March 1958 | Law no. 195 finally provides the enabling legislation necessary to give life to the Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura (High |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| | Council of the Judiciary) – ten years after articles 104–107 of the 1948 Constitution had provided for it. |
| 25 May 1958 | At the general election, the DC is confirmed as the largest party, increasing its share of the vote from 40.1 per cent to 42.4 per cent. Meanwhile, the PCI advances fractionally (from 22.6 to 22.7 per cent). |
| 9 October 1958 | Pope Pius XII dies. |
| 25 March 1960 | Minority DC government headed by Tambroni takes office with the external support of the Italian Social Movement (MSI). |
| 30 June 1960 | The MSI's national congress in Genoa provokes street demonstrations and clashes with the police. |
| 19 July 1960 | Tambroni forced to resign as Prime Minister thus closing the door on any further possibilities that governments might rely on the support of the MSI to sustain them in office. |
| 6 May 1962 | Christian Democrat politician Antonio Segni elected President at the ninth round of voting, the votes of the MSI and the Monarchists being decisive to the outcome. |
| 11 October 1962 | Pope John XXIII opens the Second Vatican Council. |
| 27 October 1962 | ENI president, Enrico Mattei is killed in an air crash during a flight from Sicily to Linate airport, Milan. |
| 28 April1963 | At the general election, the DC's share of the vote declines to 38.3 per cent, while the PCI increases its share to 25.3 per cent. |
| 4 December 1963 | For the first time the PSI becomes part of the governing majority – by joining a coalition headed by Christian Democrat Aldo Moro. |
| 3 June 1963 | Pope John XXIII dies, just two months after completion of his encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*. |
| 15 July 1964 | As part of the process leading to the formation of a new executive to replace the Moro government (which had fallen in June), President Antonio Segni takes the unprecedented step of calling the head of the Carabinieri, General Giovanni de Lorenzo, for consultations. |
| 6 December 1964 | Antonio Segni resigns as President of the Republic following illness. |
| 28 December 1964 | The Social Democrat Giuseppe Saragat is elected President of the Republic at the twenty-first round of voting, with 646 votes out of 937, thanks to the decisive support of the Communists and the Socialists. |
| 24 January 1966 | The first occupation of an Italian university takes place when students occupy the faculty of Sociology of the University of Trento. |
| 19 May 1968 | At the general election, the DC sees its support rise slightly to 39.1 per cent, while the PCI's vote increases to 26.9 per cent. |
| 20 August 1968 | Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia condemned unequivocally by the PCI, underscoring how far it had changed since 1956. |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 12 December 1969 | Bomb explodes at the Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura in Piazza Fontana, Milan, killing seventeen people and wounding eighty-eight. |
| 28 January 1970 | The institutions of government of the 'ordinary-statute' regions finally become operative – twenty-two years after regions were provided for by article 131 of the 1948 Constitution. |
| 20 May 1970 | Law no. 300, known as the Workers' Statute, introduces a series of important measures designed to enhance conditions of employment. It is destined to become the cornerstone of the Italian system of labour law. |
| 24 December 1971 | Christian Democrat Giovanni Leone elected President of the Republic at the twenty-third round of voting with 518 votes out of 996. |
| 7 May 1972 | At the general election, the DC's support declines slightly – to 38.7 per cent – while the PCI's increases slightly – to 27.1 per cent. |
| 12 May 1974 | Referendum on a proposal to abrogate the 1970 Fortuna–Baslini Law, providing for divorce, is decisively defeated, with 59.3 per cent of the votes against. |
| 20 June 1976 | At the general election, the PCI makes spectacular gains, increasing its share of the vote to 34.4 per cent, while the DC remains stationary at 38.7 per cent. |
| 11 March 1977 | Police kill Lotta Continua activist Francesco Lo Russo, provoking a series of violent demonstrations. The event symbolises 'the Movement of '77', a spontaneous protest movement of students and the extra-parliamentary left against the authoritarianism and repressive attitudes of the trade unions and the established parties of the left. |
| 16 March 1978 | Aldo Moro kidnapped by the Red Brigades. |
| 9 May 1978 | Aldo Moro's body found in a car parked symbolically halfway between the headquarters of the DC and the PCI. |
| 28 May 1978 | Against the will of the DC and the Vatican, Parliament legalises abortion by enacting the most liberal abortion laws in Europe: any woman over eighteen is free to seek a termination during the first ninety days of pregnancy. |
| 15 June 1978 | Giovanni Leone resigns as President following allegations of his involvement in the Lockheed corruption scandal. |
| 8 July 1978 | Socialist Sandro Pertini elected seventh President of the Republic at the sixteenth round of voting, with 832 votes out of 995. |
| 6 August 1978 | Pope Paul VI dies. |
| 28 September 1978 | Pope John-Paul I dies after one of the shortest reigns in papal history. In Italy he is known affectionately as the 'smiling Pope'. |
| 23 December 1978 | Law no. 833 establishes new national health service. |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 3 June 1979 | At the general election, the PCI's vote declines substantially – to 30.4 per cent – while that of the DC again remains essentially stationary at 38.3 per cent. |
| 2 August 1980 | Bombing of Bologna railway station, linked to right-wing extremists, kills eighty-five. |
| 23 November 1980 | Earthquake in Irpinia leaves 3,000 dead, tens of thousands injured and incalculable infrastructural damage – the repair of which would still be incomplete in the early years of the new millennium. |
| 17 March 1981 | Police raid the Arezzo office of Licio Gelli and discover the P2 masonic membership list, which includes 4 cabinet ministers, 3 under-secretaries, 38 parliamentarians, 195 military officers, as well as industrialists, bankers, diplomats, civil servants, judges, journalists, secret service officers and police officials. |
| 26 June 1983 | At the general election, the DC's vote declines spectacularly – to 32.3 per cent – while the PCI declines slightly – to 29.9 percent. |
| 4 August 1983 | Bettino Craxi becomes Italy's first Socialist prime minister. |
| 24 June 1985 | Christian Democrat Francesco Cossiga elected eighth President of the Republic at the first round of voting, with 752 votes out of 977. |
| 10 October 1985 | Stand-off between US and Italian armed forces at the Sigonella air base in the wake of the Achille Lauro hijacking. |
| 14 June 1987 | At the general election, the DC makes some gains (rising to 34.3 per cent of the vote), while the PCI suffers a third successive decline (to 26.6 per cent). Meanwhile, the PSI makes significant gains (rising to 14.3 per cent). |
| 9 November 1989 | Berlin Wall comes down. This leads PCI leader, Achille Ochetto, to announce, on 12 November, that his party will change its name, its symbol and its political programme. |
| 3 June 1990 | Referenda held on the issues of hunting, and pesticides in agriculture. The referenda fail for the lack of a quorum – the first time this has happened in the history of the Republic. |
| 3–4 February 1991 | Twentieth congress of the PCI in Rimini puts the seal on the party's transformation into a non-communist party with a new name: the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS). |
| 9 June 1991 | Referendum proposal to reduce the number of preference votes in Chamber of Deputies elections to one only achieves the support of 95.6 per cent of the votes. |
| 17 February 1992 | Carabinieri burst into the offices of Mario Chiesa, director of the old people's home, the Pio Albergo Trivulzio, catching him in the act of taking a bribe, and so initiate the investigations that lead to the great *Tangentopoli* corruption scandal. |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 12 March 1992 | Giulio Andreotti's ally and 'proconsul' in Sicily, the DC politician Salvatore Lima is killed by the Mafia. |
| 5 April 1992 | At the general election (which sees the Northern League (LN) take 8.7 per cent of the vote) support for the DC falls to 29.7 per cent – while the PDS's share of the vote fails to rise above 16.1 per cent. |
| 23 May 1992 | Public Prosecutor and anti-Mafia investigator Giovanni Falcone is killed by Cosa Nostra along with his wife and three of his bodyguards. |
| 25 May 1992 | Christian Democrat Oscar Luigi Scalfaro elected ninth President of the Republic at the sixteenth round of voting, with 672 votes out of 1,002. |
| 19 July 1992 | Public Prosecutor and anti-Mafia investigator Giovanni Falcone killed by a Cosa Nostra car bomb. |
| 2 September 1992 | Socialist Deputy, Sergio Moroni, having become caught up in the *Tangentopoli* scandal and accused of numerous acts of corruption, commits suicide. |
| 29 October 1992 | Italian parliament ratifies the Maastricht Treaty. |
| 15 December 1992 | Bettino Craxi receives from the judicial authorities the first of the *avvisi di guaranzia* notifying him that he is under investigation for corruption as a result of allegations arising from the *Tangentopoli* scandal. |
| 15 January 1993 | Mafia boss Salvatore 'Toto' Riina arrested. |
| 10 February 1993 | Having received an *avviso di guaranzia* notifying him that he is under investigation for fraudulent bankruptcy, Claudio Martelli resigns as Minister of Justice. |
| 11 February 1993 | Thoroughly compromised by the *Tangentopoli* scandal, Bettino Craxi resigns his position as General Secretary of the Socialist Party. |
| 25 February 1993 | Having received an *avviso di garanzia* for presumed violations of the law on the public funding of political parties, Giorgio la Malfa resigns as General Secretary of the Italian Republican Party. |
| 16 March 1993 | Caught up in the *Tangentopoli* scandal, Renato Altissimo resigns as Secretary of the Italian Liberal Party. |
| 25 March 1993 | Parliament approves a new majoritarian electoral law for municipalities with up to 15,000 inhabitants. |
| 18–19 April 1993 | Referendum proposal to abrogate parts of the Senate electoral law (with the aim, thereby, of introducing a majoritarian system) is supported by 82.7 per cent of the votes. |
| 28 April 1993 | The first 'technocratic' prime minister in the history of the Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, publishes his list of cabinet ministers including three drawn from the ex-Communist PDS. |
| 29 April 1993 | Chamber of Deputies refuses judicial requests for the lifting of Bettino Craxi's parliamentary immunity, as a result of which the three PDS ministers resign from the Ciampi government. |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 20 July 1993 | Ex-president of National Hydrocarbon Corporation (ENI), Gabriele Cagliari, commits suicide in San Vittore prison where he has been held since 9 March. |
| 23 July 1993 | Caught up in the *Tangentopoli* scandal, the industrialist, Raul Gardini, commits suicide. |
| 4 August 1993 | Parliament approves law nos. 276 and 277 providing for new electoral systems for the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. |
| 5 December 1993 | The Progressive Alliance makes major gains at the municipal elections, taking the mayoralties of Rome, Naples, Venice, Genoa and Trieste. |
| 27–28 March 1994 | At the general election, Silvio Berlusconi's centre right wins with 42.8 per cent of the vote and 360 Chamber seats, while Forza Italia (FI) becomes the largest single party with 21.0 per cent. |
| 22 December 1994 | Berlusconi government falls following the LN's withdrawal from the coalition. |
| 25 January 1995 | At its congress held in Fiuggi, the MSI takes a further step to distance itself from its Fascist heritage, by merging fully with the recently formed Alleanza Nazionale (National Alliance, AN). |
| 21 April 1996 | At the general election the centre-left Ulivo coalition emerges victorious but is dependent for survival in office on the votes of twenty Communist Refoundation (RC) deputies. |
| 26 September 1997 | Earthquake in Umbria and Marche leaves ten people dead, thousands without homes and grave damage to the regions' artistic heritage. |
| 21 March 1998 | Ex-'*Mani pulite*' investigator, Antonio di Pietro, founds the new party, Italia dei Valori (Italy of Values, IdV). |
| 25 March 1998 | Italy officially included among the eleven countries which, from 1 January 1999, will adopt the euro. |
| 2 June 1998 | Final breakdown of negotiations between centre left and centre right to save the process of constitutional reform that is taking place through the work of the Bicameral Commission. |
| 9 October 1998 | Romano Prodi resigns as Prime Minister following the loss of a confidence vote. |
| 11 October 1998 | Party of Italian Communists (PdCI) founded as the result of a split in RC arising from the role of RC deputies in bringing about the fall of the Prodi government. |
| 21 October 1998 | New executive, under DS politician Massimo D'Alema replaces the fallen Prodi government, relying for a majority on the support of the PdCI and a number of parliamentarians originally elected as part of the centre right. |
| 18 April 1999 | Referendum on a proposal to remove the proportional component from the electoral law achieves a large majority in favour but is declared void owing to the narrow failure of turnout to reach the legally required minimum of 50 per cent. |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 13 May 1999 | Ex-Governor of the Bank of Italy, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, elected tenth President of the Republic at the first round of voting, with 707 votes out of 990. |
| 13 June 1999 | At the European elections, FI is confirmed as the largest party (with 25.2 per cent of the vote). The Democrats and the radicals perform well (with 7.7 and 8.5 per cent respectively). |
| 28 June 1999 | In local and provincial elections, the centre left performs disappointingly losing control of the symbolic 'red' city of Bologna for the first time in the history of the Republic. |
| 23 December 1999 | A new D'Alema government achieves the second of the two votes of confidence made necessary by a brief governmental crisis earlier in the month. |
| 17 April 2000 | Massimo D'Alema resigns as Prime Minister following poor performances for the centre left in the regional elections held the previous day. He is replaced by the law professor and former PSI politician Giuliano Amato. |
| 21 May 2000 | Voters called to the polls to decide on eight referendum questions including a proposed modification of the electoral law. With a turnout (32.8 per cent) far below the minimum of 50 per cent legally required, all are declared void. |
| 25 September 2000 | Giuliano Amato announces withdrawal of his candidature to lead the centre left at the forthcoming general election. Mayor of Rome, Francesco Rutelli, is thus chosen to take on Silvio Berlusconi. |
| 13 May 2001 | At the general election, Berlusconi's House of Freedoms (CdL) emerges victorious, obtaining secure majoirties in both the Chamber (with 368 seats) and the Senate (with 176 seats). |
| 7 October 2001 | For the first time in the history of the Republic, voters are called to the polls to decide whether to confirm changes to the Constitution. The changes in question (concerning the powers of the regions) are supported by 62.4 per cent of the voters on a turnout of just 34 per cent. |
| 1 January 2002 | Euro notes and coins circulate for the first time, with the old currency ceasing to be legal tender on 28 February. |
| 6 January 2002 | Foreign Minister Renato Ruggiero resigns following disagreements with the Eurosceptical views of right-wing cabinet colleagues. |
| 24 March 2002 | Founding conference, in Parma, of the Margherita, bringing together the Italian People's Party (PPI), the Democrats and Italian Renewal (RI). |
| 10 October 2002 | Chamber of Deputies passes the so-called Cirami Law (allegedly designed to help Berlusconi avoid trial on corruption charges) after a debate which almost sees parliamentarians coming to blows. |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 17 June 2003 | In court on corruption charges, Berlusconi claims that he is the victim of a campaign to discredit him on the part of politically motivated judges and prosecutors. |
| 2 July 2003 | During his presentation to the European Parliament at the start of Italy's EU presidency, Berlusconi compares the German MEP Martin Schulz to a Nazi concentration-camp commander, provoking a diplomatic row with Germany and the Parliament. |
| 25 July 2003 | Seven-time prime minister Giulio Andretti is acquitted on charges of conspiring with the Mafia. |
| 12 November 2003 | Nineteen Italian servicemen are killed in a suicide bomb attack on their base at Nassiriya in southern Iraq. |
| 24 November 2003 | On an official visit to Israel, AN leader, Gianfranco Fini, condemns Mussolini's Italian Social Republic as among the most shameful episodes in human history. |
| 27 December 2003 | President of Parmalat, Calisto Tanzi, is arrested in Milan. The event leads to revelations of a multi-billion euro fraud and an eventual declaration of insolvency for the food giant. |
| 13 June 2004 | At the European elections, FI suffers a retreat in support (to 21.0 per cent) to the advantage of the UDC (5.9 per cent) and AN (11.5 per cent). The United Olive-tree Alliance (Ulivo) achieves 31.1 per cent. |
| 4 March 2005 | Italian military intelligence officer Major General Nicola Calipari killed by American troops in Iraq while escorting recently released hostage, Giuliana Sgrena, to Baghdad international airport. |
| 2 April 2005 | Pope John-Paul II dies. |
| 19 April 2005 | Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger elected Pope. Takes the name Benedict XVI. |
| 22 April 2005 | Berlusconi receives a presidential mandate to form a new executive following the governmental crisis and his resignation that followed the tension provoked by the centre right's poor performance in the regional elections of 5 April. |
| 12–13 June 2005 | Referendum proposals designed to relax the laws on embryo research and artificial insemination fail for the lack of a quorum following Church appeals to voters to abstain. |
| 16 October 2005 | More than 4 million people participate in the primary elections to choose the leader of the centre-left Unione coalition. Romano Prodi wins handsomely with 74.6 per cent of the vote. |
| 16 October 2005 | The vice-president of the Calabrian regional council, Francesco Fortugno, is assassinated at Locri. |
| 14 December 2005 | Parliament approves new proportional electoral law, replacing the majoritarian system introduced in 1993. |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 19 December 2005 | Governor of the Bank of Italy, Antonio Fazio, resigns in the wake of allegations of illegal interference in the takeover of a bank, the Banca Antonveneta. |
| 9–10 April 2006 | At the general election, the centre-left Unione wins a secure majority in the Chamber of Deputies, thanks to the majority premium, but in the Senate, where it is behind in terms of votes, its majority is just two seats. |
| 26 June 2006 | Called to the polls to decide whether to confirm thoroughgoing constitutional changes promoted by the outgoing Berlusconi government, voters reject them, with 61.7 per cent voting against. |
| 11 April 2006 | Mafia boss, Bernardo Provenzano arrested. |
| 10 May 2006 | Ex-Communist Giorgio Napolitano elected eleventh President of the Republic at the fourth round of voting, with 543 votes out of 990. |
| 21 February 2007 | Government defeat on an important foreign-policy resolution leads to the resignation of Prime Minister Prodi. |
| 2 March 2007 | Government wins the second of the two confidence votes arising from the President's decision to require verification of the continued existence of a government majority. |
| 14 October 2007 | More than 3.5 million people participate in the primary elections to choose the leader of the new Partito Democratico, born of the merger of the Left Democrats (DS) and Margherita. Mayor of Rome and DS politician Walter Veltroni wins by a landslide taking 75.8 per cent of the vote. |
| 24 January 2008 | Romano Prodi resigns as Prime Minister following his defeat on a confidence motion in the Senate. |
| 6 February 2008 | Parliament is dissolved by the President of the Republic following the failure of an 'exploratory mandate' for the formation of a government, given to Senate president Franco Marini. |
| 13–14 April 2008 | At the general election, Berlusconi's Popolo della Libertà wins comfortable majorities in both the Chamber (with 344 seats) and in the Senate (with 174 seats), while the parties of the radical left fail to win any seats whatsoever. |



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-60046-0 - The Politics of Italy: Governance in a Normal Country
James L. Newell
Frontmatter
More information

Map 1 Italian regions and major cities



© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org