

# Italy's New Government Strongly Christian – Soros Accuses Putin of Collusion

[Newera Global Intelligence Report:](#)

ITALY HAS TAKEN A MAJOR STEP into the future. Governed by a new coalition of two populist parties (“*Northern League*” and “*Five Star*”) the beleaguered nation has taken its first major step away from liberalism and EU diktat toward national sovereignty. Following Austria in Central Europe and Poland and Hungary in Eastern Europe, Italy is the first Western European country to elect populist leaders committed to much needed systemic economic, political and cultural change. As such, it did not take long for liberal billionaire financier and philanthropist, George Soros to drum up the his brand of conspiracy theory invoked whenever Christians get elected – [Putin did it:](#)

*“There is “a strong threat and I’m really worried” says Soros. “There is a close relationship between Matteo Salvini and [Russian President Vladimir] Putin... I do not know if Putin actually finances his party, but Italian public opinion has the right to know if Salvini is in Putin’s pay check.”*

Emanuele Fiano, deputy of the ousted Democratic Party, also weighed in on the debate, telling *Radio Cusano Campus* listeners that:

*“Parliament should have some more certainty about the relations between the League, M5S and Russia.”*

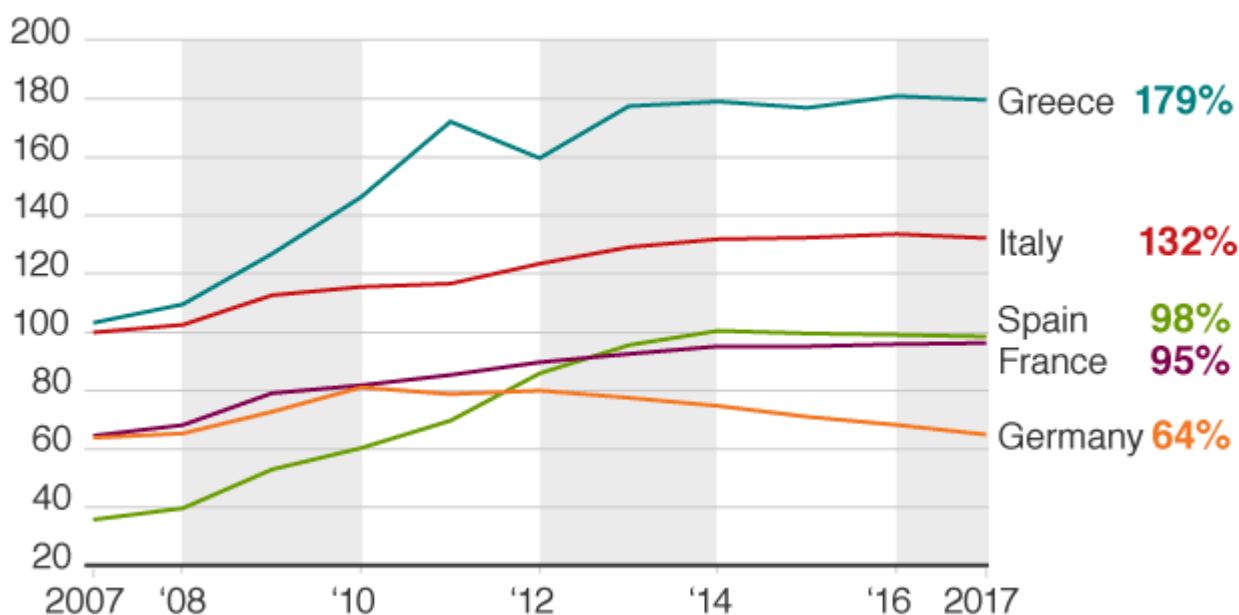
Matteo Salvini, head of the newly elected Northern League, strongly denied the allegations:

*"I have never received a lira, a euro or a rouble from Russia," adding, "I am ashamed that a speculator like him is invited to speak" at the Trento Festival of Economics."*

Soros' rhetoric is worn and increasingly ineffective; Italy's problems will not be solved by giving time to his brand of dying liberalism. Italy stands in dire need of an alternative economic plan that could very well emerge throughout the Peninsula. Although the third largest economy in the European Union, and historically a major player in both European and world affairs, Italy is racked with overwhelming economic challenges effecting its current and future stability. Italian debt is now the second highest in Europe after Greece – it has reached 132% of GDP.

## Italian debt is the second highest in Europe

Debt as percentage of national GDP



Source: Eurostat, AMECO European Commission

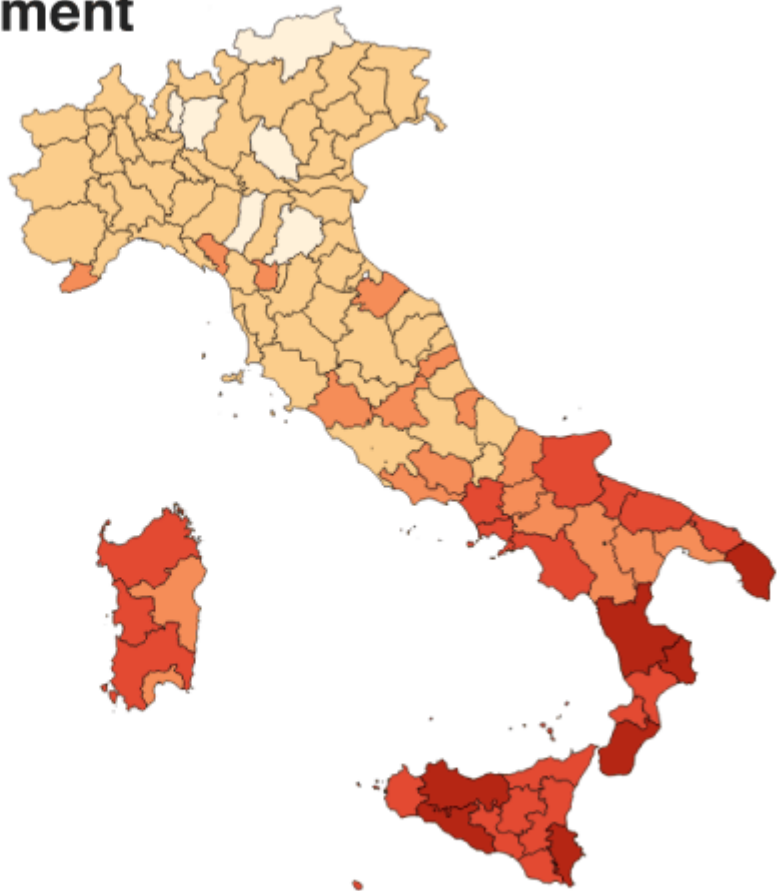
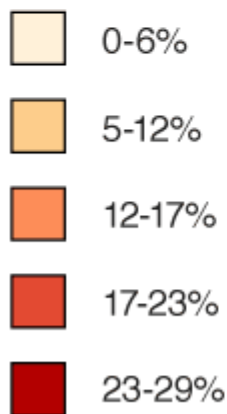
BBC

Italy is suffering an economic crisis, a crisis exacerbated by pressures from foreign powers who have successfully persuaded Italian leaders to curtail trade with Russia, a move supported by the government of Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. To compound its trade and debt problems,

unemployment has skyrocketed in some areas (primarily in the south) to nearly 30%.

## Italian unemployment rate in 2017

Unemployment rate  
by provinces



Source: ISTAT

BBC

Economic facts such as these help account for the resignation of Prime Minister Renzi (December 2016) following a Renzi sponsored referendum to reduce the powers of the Senate thereby increasing those of his left-leaning Democratic government by making it easier to enact legislation through the lower Chamber of Deputies without having to face resistance from the various regions represented in the Senate. Italian voters soundly rejected the proposal and then threw their votes to Italy's two new populist parties, Five Star (M5S) and Lega Nord (Northern League), which emerged as Italy's *two most influential parties* following the country's general election in March, 2018.

Despite their success, neither Lega Nord nor M5S were large

enough to form a majority and thus had to look for coalition partners. The Five Star Movement refused to form a coalition with any of its rivals, but acknowledged that if forced to, it would partner up with the Northern League. Eventually forced, the two combined having well over the 40% threshold needed to govern.

#### Election Results:

- Five Star Movement 32.22
- Democratic Party 18.9
- Lega 17.69 (Lega was part of the Right-Centre Coalition" [Forza Italia, Fratelli, and Lega Nord] that garnered 37% of the vote)
- Forza Italia 13.94
- Fratelli d'Italia 4.35
- Free and Equal 3.38

*Northern League garnered 124 seats in the Chamber of Deputies (lower house) out of a total of 630 and 58 in the Senate out of a total of 315.*

*M5S attained 227 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 112 in the Senate.*

Together they have

- 351 seats in the Chamber out of 630 and
- 170 seats in the Senate out of 315

Most pundits ruled out or fretted a Five Star-Northern League alliance. According to the [UK Business Insider](#), such a coalition would be "worst case scenario for markets." Likewise, [BBC](#) Europe Editor Katya Adler said such an alliance would be the "EU's nightmare result to come true." According to the [Guardian](#),

*“Many analysts believed the left-wing of M5S would revolt were there a hookup with the League.”*

However, if a coalition had not be formed, Italians would have been forced to vote all over again, in which case both the League and M5S would risk *not* repeating at the polls. Short of that, there were two options: (1) Form a broad “grand coalition” of cross spectrum parties or (2) Form a “Euro-skeptic anti-establishment alliance.” Surprisingly, Northern League and Five Star chose the latter option.

League Leader Matteo Salvini approached M5S leader Luigi Di Maio with a deal: Northern League would form a coalition with M5S if League ally *Forza Italia*, headed by ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi was part of the ruling coalition.

*“Di Maio refused the deal, saying Salvini was “choosing restoration instead of revolution” because “Berlusconi represents the past.” He added that his movement was “not interested in remaining stuck or in looking to the past, we want to look to the future.”*

To drive the point further, [Alessandro Di Battista](#), a prominent Five Star member, staunchly opposed any alliance with *Forza Italia*, describing Berlusconi as the “[pure evil of our country](#).”

Finally, on May 13, Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, the two reached a surprising agreement to form a coalition government drafting a contract in which they refer to themselves as “[the government of change](#)” (*Contratto per il governo del cambiamento*).

## **Who is the Northern League or Lega Nord**

Lega Nord represents the underdog that no one took seriously. According to [Politico](#):

*“When Matteo Salvini took over the leadership of the Northern League at the end of 2013, Italian politicians and the media said his job would be to officiate at the party’s funeral. Two years later, it is back from the near dead – and stronger than ever.”*

The party’s complete name is **Lega Nord per l’Indipendenza della Padania** (Northern League for the Independence of Padania). Born as a regional party in wealthy northern Italy, Lega Nord initially campaigned for independence from the poorer south. However, once Salvini assumed the helm, Lega softened its aspirations to succeed from Italy to that of more local or regional autonomy. Realizing the possibility of becoming a national party, it was re branded as **Lega** or simply *League* for the 2018 elections during which it focused heavily on the Islamic refugee crisis, the negative effects of the Euro and of continued membership in the European Union. According to [Reuters](#),

*“The Northern League...would aim to pull Italy out of the European Union if Brussels refused to re-negotiate fiscal and immigration rules.”*

Allied with other European populist parties in the European Parliament, such as Marine Le Pen’s *National Front* in France, Northern League advocates resumed trade with Russia and returning to EU’s status *before* the 1992 signing of the [Maastricht Treaty](#) (which laid the foundations for a single currency) thereby signaling a move away from the Euro.

In this regard, Salvini recently hosted a *Milan Conference* for a new group in the European Parliament known as [Europe of Nations and Freedom Group](#) (ENF), which includes Marine Le Pen and other Euroskeptic party leaders from throughout the continent. ENF is working to establish a “[Europe of free nations in which power is fully returned from the European Union to the voters of sovereign states.](#)” The group’s

commitments are to **sovereignty, democracy, freedom** and ending mass **immigration** so that members may advance their own interests at the domestic level. Along these lines, the League, promotes Italy's **cultural values**, supports the **traditional family**, is **opposed to same sex union, globalism**, and the spread of **liberalism**.

In the words of Marine le Pen VP of ENF:

*"Each day, the Europe of Brussels unveils its fatal design: deconstructing nations to build a new globalist order, dangerous for the security, prosperity, identity, the very survival of the European peoples."*

*"Faced with the proponents of federalism, we are the guardians informed of the national spirit and the defenders of the interests of European peoples."*

*"An opposing force that embodies the patriotic alternative to the globalist Europe, Brussels..."*

*"This pole of resistance, which today unites the elect of eight European nations, pursues a compelling purpose: to free Europe from the chains of servitude...and build a continent of peace and prosperity."*

At the close of the Milan meeting of ENF, Salvini had a photo taken with Le Pen and others containing the caption:

*"We will not surrender to the clandestine invasion."*

Whether it was the refugee crisis, the [Marine Le Pen](#) bandwagon or what party insiders prefer to call the "*Salvini Effect*",

the party that sank to an historic low of 4 percent in the 2013 election is now part of the ruling coalition leading Italy into the future.

Following the 2018 elections Salvini exclaimed:

*“It’s a fantastic victory which fills us with pride.” He claimed Italian voters had “made a step forward to be free from the cages and ties that are bringing back hunger and insecurity in Europe”.*

## **Who is Five Star**

Five Star is a “**populist, anti-establishment, anti-globalist**, increasingly popular” movement in Italy. The party was established by an Italian comedian, Beppe Grillo and web strategist [Gianroberto Casaleggio](#) in 2009. It is named Five Stars because it coalesces around five primary issues:

1. Transportation
2. Water (Green technology – anti-pollution – environmentalism)
3. Development (social justice oriented – the common good) it is anti-capitalist and anti-consumerist
4. Internet Access
5. Non-violence

Five Star is in favor of direct digital democracy (direct participation of all citizens in public affairs by use of computer technology). It rejects foreign military intervention in the Middle East and specifically American intervention in Syria. It also proposes “drastic” cuts to corporate taxes, slashing red tape by abolishing 400 “useless” laws and guaranteeing a minimum income of up to [780 euros for the poor](#).

It opposes



1. Extreme concentrations of wealth

2. *Neoliberalism*

As such, M5S favors limited but sustainable growth, reduced production and consumption, promotion of the arts and more humane use of leisure time.

Five Star *might* be populist, peace minded and social justice oriented, *but it is also a left wing movement committed to an aberrant moral agenda* and therefore has the backing of the liberal members of the [EU whose Constitution](#) “stipulates that countries draw inspiration from Europe’s cultural, religious and (liberal) humanist heritage.”

Realizing the rise of populist parties throughout Europe, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) had a choice in Italy: Back Northern League, back Five Star or bash both. BBC pinned its hopes on Five Star thereby presenting the movement as another populist party like those coming to the fore throughout Europe. Although Five Star has an innovative *political* and *economic* reform package, *morally* Five Star appears to be just another appendage of British liberalism. [In 2014 the party voted for gay rights and same sex unions](#). They also support euthanasia and artificial insemination

That was 2014, during the 2018 elections, Five Star back peddled on the issue. According to the [Guardian](#):

*“After seemingly supporting the legislation for months, Beppe Grillo, the former comic who heads the protest party (Five Star), announced that members of his party could vote their conscience on the bill (advocating same sex unions).”*

*“It was a reflection, analysts said, of the changing*

*political landscape in Italy. The country's conservative and right-wing parties are largely in disarray and Grillo likely sees an opportunity to pick up conservative voters in upcoming local elections if he can scupper or weaken the civil unions bill."*

*"They are also opportunistic. There is an opportunity to grab votes from centre-right parties, which at this point cannot even put forward candidates in key cities," said Wolfango Piccoli, an analyst at Teneo Intelligence in London."*

The "opportunistic shift," politically motivated as it might be, might forebode good things to come as the two coalition partners make accommodations for each other. The League is, by definition, Conservative. It has a traditional Christian moral agenda and gives signs of being under the influence of old conservative economic policies such as those represented by Silvio Berlusconi whom M5S leader Luigi Di Maio rejected as an artifact that "represents the past." M5S, he said, is "*not interested in remaining stuck or in looking to the past, we want to look to the future.*" Berlusconi, according to another M5S stalwart represents the "pure evil of our country."

Both parties are **populist, anti-globalist and are skeptical of the EU.** In addition, "both parties are actively declaring that they are in favor of rapprochement with Moscow and the abolition of anti-Russian sanctions. The leader of the "League" Matteo Salvini has repeatedly visited Moscow, where he met with Vladimir Putin, State Duma deputies and journalists."

**This might be enough "new thinking" to hold them together. Quite simply, they need each other in the struggle against more powerful globalist forces.**

## Will this Coalition Work?

On the surface Five Star and the League appear to be a good fit; however, on closer examination, the fit does *not* appear so good. On third look, however, the match might be made in Heaven. Although both the League and Five Star oppose immigration (see note below), globalism, European dictates and approve of economic relations with Russia, they are deeply opposed on several, key moral issues. Nonetheless, both are percipient enough to realize that If one losses the support of the other, they are both losers. Simply stated, they need each other – They are the only two members in the coalition. Since they also have a common core to build upon, dialogue followed by compromise is expected.

Five Star is the more liberal of the two, their liberalism however includes economic ideas that have the support of the Catholic Church: opposition to deregulation, materialism and hedonistic capitalism, to wealth concentration, to excessive individualism and lack of social conscience for the “common good.” Although often anathema to economic conservatives, the foregoing list contains morally sound attributes in tune with Christian individual-communal anthropology rooted in the Holy Trinity favorable to moral conservatives.

The League is the more conservative of the two. It is opposed to same-sex marriages, homosexuality etc. It also holds both economic and cultural paradigms opposed by Five Star. Something is going to have to give or there will be no cooperation and further dissolution – something Italy can no longer afford.

If the League is going to get along with its new coalition partner, it is going to have to learn some new economic thinking. M5S is definitely liberal by conservative eyes. It promotes homosexuality, stands for social justice, fair distribution, serving the common good etc. Although **social** and

**distributive justice** have long been associated with socialism or communism, with hippies on the left etc., they are in actuality moral issues advocated by the Catholic Church, which is certainly *not* liberal. In the light of Italy's failing economy, the League might be persuaded to at least quasi accept Five Star's economic platform – this task can be made easier if League leaders can be persuaded that they are not communist or socialist ideas *per se* – in fact, they are plain old Christian. If League leaders can grasp this, it becomes perhaps the key for compromise. The League can adopt innovative forward looking economic proposals and remain true to its Christian values at the same time. This compromise is based on the League moving first; something which should be much easier for them since they are both the minority in the coalition and able to maintain their Christian stance while moving in the direction of Five Star's economic proposals.

Leaving the European Union or attaining more sovereignty while remaining in the EU will *not* be enough to solve Italy's problems. The problem is more deeply rooted than the euro; there is no simple way out of the euro. "An extreme crisis in Italy would most likely result not in euro exit but a debt restructuring. And the costs of that wouldn't fall on the European Central Bank, as the coalition partners fondly imagine. They would fall on the Italian savers and pensioners—and, yes, voters—who hold 70% of the country's debt" ([Wall Street Journal](#)).

Realizing this, Five Star has "steadily rowed back on an early plan to hold a referendum on whether Italy should leave the common currency zone, and this month its new, moderate leader Luigi Di Maio said it was no longer a party policy" ([Reuters](#)).

The problem is not the euro, it is systemic. Five Star has the stronger moral hand *economically*. The old model of usurious finance, unrestricted concentration of wealth, mass consumer society, speculation that benefits a few to the detriment of

the common good are all associated with economic liberalism, which Five Star wants to modify, regulate or abandon.

The League might be willing to give some slack in this domain, if M5S softened its objectionable moral agenda and becomes more amenable to traditional family values. If Five Star expects compromise from the League it too will have to compromise; family morality seems the likely choice. Five Star might be loathe to so compromise, but the future of Italy, and of their remaining in power, depends upon it. In return Five Star gets their way on Russia and agreement about EU diktat; they also gain support for their economic program and predictable clash with the financial establishment; all they have to do is compromise on family values. The League also gets their way on Russia, agreement about EU diktat and their cherished family and traditional values; all they have to do is compromise on the economy – something discussion with Pope Francis and the Italian episcopate can speed along.

[Cardinal Parolin, Secretary of State for the Vatican](#), summed up the situation well: the Holy See, he said, would continue its “work of education”

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#### NOTE:

The pope hasn't retracted any Catholic doctrine, but he expects mercy and compassion, respect, and welcome. When it comes to homosexuality, his response: “Who am I to judge?” When it comes to immigration both Francis and Salvini might have to compromise – there seems to be ample room. Salvini is strongest anti-immigrant voice in Italy. He crossed Francis by leading the charge against the *ius solis* (*right of the soils*) or birthright citizenship meaning anyone born on the soil or territory of a state has the right of citizenship. On this point, Francis seems to hold the stronger hand, without it children could be separated from parents. On the broader question, Salvini seems to hold the stronger hand. Not everyone is admissible; even the Jews knew that: Relations with people who had been hostile, such as the Ammonites and Moabites, Aquinas says ([First Part of Second](#)

*"Were never to be admitted to citizenship; while the Amalekites, who were yet more hostile to them, and had no fellowship of kindred with them, were to be held as foes in perpetuity: for it is written ([Ex. 17:16](#)): "The war of the Lord shall be against Amalec from generation to generation."*

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# Liberalism Coming to an End in Germany – Alternative for Deutschland?

**GERMAN INVESTIGATORS ARE LABORING** to identify the person(s) who perpetrated the December 19 manslaughter of twelve people and the wanton injury of 48 more. The attack was purportedly carried out by a Daesh operative who used a 25 ton vehicle to maliciously mow down innocent people shopping at a Berlin Christmas market. Police announced Monday that a Pakistani national who had requested asylum in Germany was thought to be the driver of the vehicular weapon, but he was released due to insufficient evidence. The driver's accomplice was found dead in the passengers seat. Although the suspect has not been

found, Daesh claims that it was "[their soldier](#)" who carried out the operation.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who made the decision to openly greet asylum seekers, is acutely concerned about the culprit being an apprehended Pakistani seeking asylum. Earlier in July of this year another Pakistani asylum seeker, a Pakistani wielding a knife, attacked German train passengers. These incidents are part of an emerging and apparent pattern of asylum seekers attacking their generous hosts in their hosts own neighborhoods. Merkel should be concerned, very concerned; there is a pro-Traditional Europe, anti-liberal Euro-skeptic movement sweeping Europe. It is readily apparent in Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, England, France, Italy Transdnistria, Greece, the Netherlands and Russia in which political parties rooted in Christian values are winning elections and democratically acquiring seats of power.

French voters head to the ballot boxes in the spring of 2017 during which time they are likely to elect a pro-traditional European cultural candidate (either Marine Le Pen from the National Front or the conservative Francois Fillon from the Republican Party), a candidate opposed to open borders and favoring a rapprochement with Russia. Though Le Pen is the more anti-liberal and "traditional" of the two, regardless who prevails, France will move to amend or abrogate the [Schengen Agreement](#), which created open borders among EU member states.

Following the French elections, Germans will head to the ballot boxes in the fall of 2017 (September-October). In addition to French election results impacting German results, today's assault will likely add fuel to the already kindled fire that is gaining momentum as it moves across Germany in the form of **a new political party that calls itself "Alternative for Germany" (AfD)**. AfD is a conservative, Euro-skeptic populist party that seems to be the German counterpart of the anti-liberal front that is raging in Eastern Europe and

gaining momentum in the West. In the wake of today's heinous crime AfD leader, Frauke Petry, denounced Merkel saying that her over-zealous decision to host over a million asylum seekers in is threatening German peace and security. According to AfD spokesman, Ronald Glaser, Germany's liberal minded leaders seem more concerned about globalism and political correctness than they do about identifying the underlying causes of social problems and doing something about them.

"Two days ago I joined a meeting of Berlin's... local secret state police. Their focus was on Islamo-critics or Islamophobes, as they call them. No one was talking about radical Islam, which is of course the main reason for growing anger of these Islamo-critics. But our government agencies are [so] obsessed by their dream of a multicultural world that they won't do what's necessary" (Ronald Glaser Spokesman for AfD).

## WHO IS ALTERNATIVE FOR GERMANY?

Originally, the AfD was founded to oppose the euro and Chancellor Merkel's handling of the euro economic crisis. Since then AfD has adopted a pro-family, traditional values, anti-immigrant platform, a platform that has made them, according to [\*Der Spiegel\*](#), a "dangerous party",

*"...a collection of radical-Christian ideologues, arch-conservative military veterans, buttoned-up business professors and disillusioned business owners."*

Interpreted in positive terms this means, a collection of deeply religious men and women committed to their faith and its social cultural expression, virile military veterans committed to upholding Germany's Christian patrimony and family traditions, and who are in favor of moral values (rather than an unseen hand) regulating the market place. AfD's leader is "dangerous" because she has brazenly committed



political heresy by daring to trample on political correctness and announce what is wrong in Germany:

*“...the refugee crisis, problems with the education system, the “premature sexualization of children.”*

Nonetheless, AfD continues to gain popularity. The party was founded in 2013, a year in which it surprisingly won 4.7% of the vote barely missing the 5% threshold necessary to sit in the Bundestag (the Lower House of Parliament that represents the people and elects the Chancellor *aka* the Prime Minister). A year later AfD managed to acquire 7.1% of the vote and 7 of Germany's 96 seats in the European Parliament. By 2016 AfD gained MP seats in ten of Germany's 16 **state parliaments** and is poised to gain seats in next fall's **federal** elections.

Speaking about the 2016 **state results in the Eastern state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania**, [the BBC](#) reported

*“Anxiety about immigration dominated the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania election on 4 September, enabling the AfD to take second place (almost 21%), behind the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD – 30.6%) but **ahead of Mrs Merkel's Christian Democrats** (CDU – 19%).”*

The [Telegraph](#) worded the Mecklenberg results this way:

*“Almost exactly a year after Mrs Merkel opened Germany's borders to more than 1m asylum-seekers, her party was beaten into third place in her own parliamentary constituency, according to preliminary exit polls.”*

*“The [anti-migrant Alternative for Germany party \(AfD\)](#) surged ahead of Mrs Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) in initial projections with around 21 per cent of the vote.”*

*"Perhaps this is the beginning of the end for Chancellor Merkel," Leif-Erik Holm, the AfD's regional leader, said as the results became clear."*

Reporting on 2016 state elections in the capital, Berlin, Politico reported that Germany's two leading parties, the Social Democrats and Christian Democrats, both suffered heavy losses while the AfD was catapulted into the state assembly.

[According to Politico:](#)

*"Berlin's voters have dealt the embattled chancellor [another heavy blow](#). But what is most remarkable is the fundamental shift in the country's party landscape and political process that this election heralds. Berlin is Germany's political and social laboratory par excellence. It is a microcosm where the country's major challenges play out as if under a microscope. So the stability and consensus that have long been Germany's political trademark may soon be a thing of the past."*

It seems that Germany's Euro-skeptic party is on the move making headway promoting a pro-Christian/Humanistic anti radical-Muslim values campaign. In May of this year, AfD adopted an anti-Islam policy that includes a section explaining why "Islam does not belong to Germany".

*"There is no room for Muslim practices and beliefs that go against "the free, democratic social foundation, our laws and **the Judaeo-Christian and humanistic bases of our culture**....Moderate (Muslims who accept integration) are valued members of society", the programme says. But it argues that multiculturalism does not work."*

Like other Euro-skeptic parties AfD advocates decentralization and opposes "Euro-federalism" as a type of centralization. If

the trend toward centralization is not reversed AfD leaders have stated that they will move to ["pull Germany out of the EU."](#)

As the result of increasing violence associated with the refugee crisis and the continued acquiescence of Germany to EU stipulations, [Merkel's political future looks compromised.](#)

*"Mrs Merkel's national approval ratings have fallen to a five-year low of 45 per cent, and she is yet to declare whether she will lead her party into next year's elections. For the AfD, the result is further confirmation that the party has arrived as a force to be reckoned with in German politics."*

## **LIBERALISM COMING TO AN END IN GERMANY**

**The developing trend (most advanced in Berlin) but in motion throughout most of Germany is clear: The age of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) leadership based on liberal European values is being seriously challenged, perhaps coming to an end.**

*"The AfD's rightward drift can be seen across Germany, but nowhere is it as clear as in the country's eastern states. Supporters of eastern German AfD chapters are not looking for a conservative alternative on the political spectrum. [They are interested in opposing and resisting the established political system.](#)"*

As indicated by the election results in Mecklenburg and especially in Berlin, it seems that in Germany, as elsewhere, liberalism is being questioned. In Germany, according to [Politico](#):

*“The political scene has traditionally been dominated by two Volksparteien, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD). Each typically garnered around 40 percent of the vote and alternated in leading governments. Sunday’s poll (the Berlin result , however, saw five parties land between 21 and 14 percent, effectively leveling the playing field between the erstwhile dominant CDU and SPD on the one hand, and the Greens, the Left, and the far-right (AfD) on the other.... Two-party alliances, long sufficient to secure necessary majorities to govern, will have to make way for three-party coalitions....Now, with representation in 10 of 16 states, the AfD is here to stay.”*

*“The recent vote in the German capital was more than a state election. It was a wake-up call to the fact that German politics is undergoing a sea change that will leave its imprint on the country’s federal elections in 2017 and beyond.”*

With just four years under its belt, the AfD is now the third strongest party in Germany. As in the United States, traditional family oriented European men, men tired of the abuse they have suffered under a liberal agenda, an agenda that has robbed them of their cultural patrimony, striped them of paternal authority, and reduced them to politically correct sycophants, these men have had enough. According to [\*Der Spiegel\*](#), Europe’s largest and Germany’s most influential weekly:

*“There are many conservative, upper middle-class voters – most of them older, white males – who had hoped that the AfD would provide them with a new political home reminiscent of the Helmut Kohl-era Christian Democrats. For these voters, Angela Merkel’s CDU has become too liberal, too unprincipled, too un-Catholic and too multicultural. It is a natural pool*

*of voters for a party to the right of the CDU.”*

Although opposed to the AdF, reporters at *Der Spiegel* are realists able to assess a situation well, even if they despise the result:

*“Currently, Chancellor Angela Merkel is governing in a coalition together with the Social Democrats, Germany’s large, center-left party. That means that those who disapprove of Chancellor Angela Merkel’s handling of the refugee crisis (many people) don’t have many choices when it comes to casting a protest vote, particularly given that the Greens are reliably pro-refugee.”*

Of course, this means that the AdF is the projected beneficiary. Whether or not the AdF will attain power in the fall remains to be seen; it is more of a long-shot than the National Front in France. But if Le Pen’s National Front pulls out the victory in the spring of next year and Chancellor Merkel’s CDU fails to fix the immigrant problem and address the surge in favor of protecting Germany’s cultural patrimony, AdF might be the beneficiary in more than one way in the fall.

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## **Italy Next in Line to Oppose Liberalism and Exit the EU?**

**UNTIL YESTERDAY ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER MATTEO RENZI** had been advocating a referendum to “slim down” and “defang” the Upper Chamber of the Italian Parliament (from 315 to 100). A move that would in effect eradicate a check on the lower house and

empower the central government thereby enabling Renzi to more efficiently implement his pro-European program. A widely advertised and highly emotional campaign resulted in a near 70 percent turnout of Italy's electorate. Of this large group a significant 60 percent voted no for the referendum.

A "No-Vote" to the Renzi sponsored referendum could be interpreted as a vote of no-confidence in Renzi and his attempts to strengthen ties with Paris and Berlin in favor of the EU and Eurozone. However, it should be pointed out upfront that this referendum did *not* involve an exit from the European Union *per se*. Unlike the Brexit referendum, the Renzi referendum sought to tie Italy closer to the EU. Thus, its failure may be indirectly interpreted as a vote to widen the gap between Italy and the EU.

Renzi promised his countrymen that if he failed to get his referendum approved, he would tender his resignation and step down from office. In wake of yesterday's referendum's failure, Renzi is faced with a dilemma, keeping his word and actually stepping down or ignoring his statement as political rhetoric. Renzi, has chosen the former.

Being a man of principle, he has kept his word. Sunday morning the Prime Minister announced:

*"When you lose you cannot pretend that nothing has happened and go to bed and sleep. My government ends here today"* ([Fox News](#)).

*"I take full responsibility for the defeat. I will greet my successor with a smile and a hug, whoever it might be"* ([CNN Money](#)).

The main beneficiary of the Renzi defeat *seems to be* the Italian "**Five Star**" movement, which is in favor of imitating

Brexit in Italy by spearheading plans for another referendum asking the Italian people to withdraw from the European Union and the Euro Zone thereby discontinuing use of the Euro and reinstating the Italian Lira in its place.

In the wake of Brexit and aspiring Euroskeptic movements in France, Greece and Spain exacerbated by successful Euroskeptic movements in Hungary, Poland, Moldova, and Slovakia, liberal globalists are awakening to the likelihood that another populist party, such as Five Star, will rise to national prominence in Italy thereby creating ever-deepening crisis leading to questions about the on going viability of the EU itself.

Matteo Renzi Accepts Defeat Giving Rise to Hopes among Euroskeptic Parties such as Five Star for an Italian Exit

## **WHO IS FIVE STAR**

As stated in the above video, Five Star is a “populist, anti-establishment, anti-European, increasingly popular” movement in Italy. Five Star was established by an Italian comedian, Beppe Grillo and web strategist [Gianroberto Casaleggio](#) in 2009. As stated, the party is populist, Euroskeptic, and anti globalist. It is named Five Stars because it coalesces around five primary issues: (1) transportation (2) water (3) development (4) internet access (5) non-violence. Five Stars is in favor of direct digital democracy (direct participation of all citizens in public affairs by use of computer technology) and rejects foreign military intervention in the Middle East and specifically American intervention in Syria.

Five Star favors green technology, is anti-pollution and social justice oriented, ecological-minded, anti-capitalist and anti-consumerist. As such, it favors limited but sustainable growth, reduced production and consumption, and the growth of arts and more humane use of leisure time. Currently, Five Star has 109 deputies in the

lower house known in Italy as the Chamber of Deputies, which consists of 630 members.

The BBC and other media agencies are focusing on Five Star and presenting it as the apparent front runner leading the way to change among Euroskeptic elements throughout Italy. New Era does *not* agree with the BBC, which seemingly forecasts and implicitly promotes the rise of Five Star. Five Star is a left wing movement committed to an aberrant moral agenda. The BBC is apparently pinning its hopes on a Five Star rise to power thereby presenting the movement as another populist party like those coming to the fore throughout Europe. Unfortunately, Five Star is not one of these.

### **A MORE LIKELY SCENARIO**

There are other populist parties developing in Italy, parties more in tune with what is happening in Eastern Europe, France, Asia and Africa than Five Star. Five Star has many valid and potentially good ideas, but without a moral foundation, it risks running the gamut of just another “hippie movement” backed by technological savvy.



Beppe Grillo, and Gianroberto Casaleggio Co-Founders of Five Star

Technological savvy and direct democracy, however, are not the answer to future problems. Future problems require deep roots in philosophy, theology, spirituality, social science and then technology and professional expertise.



Five Star is being presented favorably by outlets such as the BBC because the BBC and others are fully aware that the Euroskeptic anti-liberal movement is in full swing.

Unfortunately, although Five Star has an innovative *political* and *economic* reform package, *morally* Five Star is just another liberal program masquerading in progressive populist guise. [In 2014 the party voted for gay rights and same sex unions.](#)

That was 2014, given the current political landscape, Five Star is back peddling on the issue. According to the [Guardian](#):

*"After seemingly supporting the legislation for months, Beppe Grillo, the former comic who heads the protest party (Five Star), announced that members of his party could vote their conscience on the bill (advocating same sex unions)."*

*"It was a reflection, analysts said, of the changing political landscape in Italy. The country's [conservative and right-wing parties are largely in disarray](#) and Grillo likely sees an opportunity to pick up conservative voters in upcoming local elections if he can scupper or weaken the civil unions bill."*

*"There is an element in this of M5S (Five Star) generally not being reliable partners. They are also opportunistic. There is an opportunity to grab votes from centre-right parties, which at this point cannot even put forward candidates in key cities," said Wolfango Piccoli, an analyst at Teneo Intelligence in London."*

This is an opportunistic vote and party that is not to be

trusted. **Beppe Grillo is asking his followers to “trust their gut not their brain”**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37aUvz-v0FE> at 2:57 in video) as if they were a pack of animals unable to think for themselves. Thus, BBC and others are hoping that people are still dim-witted enough to be unable to see through the propaganda, but that is exactly what the Euroskeptic anti-liberal movement is about: People are tired of the propaganda and will see through this campaign with just a little insight:

*A win for Five Star is a win for liberalism.*

To hide this fact, leaders of Five Star are beginning to strategize. According to the Economist, “[Five Star is “Smartening Up”](#)” :

*“EVEN fans of the Five Star Movement, an Italian political group often described as populist, maverick and anti-establishment, would never have credited it with slickness.”*

Slickness, however is not wisdom. Given the current Christian family values renewal under way in Europe, and Five Star’s reluctance to form political alliances with other parties, Five Star’s chances of making it to power on a pro-gay agenda are slim. The Party has not definitively disowned or modified its agenda; it has merely refused to make a statement at this time and in an attempt to be “slick” it has merely left the vote to individual conscience. This ploy will have its effect, but it will not result in victory. A more likely political party candidate for the future of Italy is **Lega Nord**.

As reported by the Guardian:

*“When Matteo Salvini took over the leadership of the Northern League (Lega Nord) at the end of 2013, Italian politicians and the media said his job would be to officiate at the party’s funeral. Two years later, it is back from the near*

*dead – and stronger than ever.”*

*“Whether you credit the refugee crisis, the [Marine Le Pen](#) bandwagon or what party insiders prefer to call the [#effettoSalvini](#) (the Salvini effect), the party that sank to an historic low of 4 percent in the 2013 election – below the threshold for seats in the Senate – now has [16-17 percent support](#) in nationwide polls.*

A likely scenario for Italy is a coalition movement consisting of Silvio Berlusconi's **Forza Italia**, right-wing **Fratelli d'Italia** and **Lega Nord**.

Lega Nord, promotes Italy's cultural values, supports the traditional family, is opposed to same sex union, globalism, and the spread of liberalism.

Recently, Salvini, leader of Lega Nord, hosted a Milan Conference for a new group in the European Parliament known as [Europe of Nations and Freedom Group](#) (ENF), which includes Marine Le Pen and other Euroskeptic party leaders from throughout the continent. ENF is working to establish a [“Europe of free nations in which power is fully returned from the European Union to the voters of sovereign states. The group's commitments are to sovereignty, democracy, freedom and ending mass immigration so that members may advance their own interests at the domestic level.”](#)

In the words of Marine le Pen VP of ENF:

*“Each day, the Europe of Brussels unveils its fatal design: deconstructing nations to build a new globalist order, dangerous for the security, prosperity, identity, the very survival of the European peoples.”*

*“Faced with the proponents of federalism, we are the guardians informed of the national spirit and the defenders of the interests of European peoples.”*

*“An opposing force that embodies the patriotic alternative to the globalist Europe, Brussels...”*

*“This pole of resistance, which today unites the elect of eight European nations, pursues a compelling purpose: to free Europe from the chains of servitude...and build a continent of peace and prosperity.”*

At the close of the Milan meeting of ENF hosted by Salvini, Salvini had a photo taken with Le Pen and others containing the caption:

*““We will not surrender to the clandestine invasion.”*

In a recent Facebook Post carried by the Guardian, Salvini stated:

*[“We are the real alternative to Renzi.”](#)*

Then he thanked supporters on Twitter and beckoned Renzi

*“We’re coming”, #Salvini.*

If *Lega Nord* or *Five Star* happen to pull a surprise victory (a surprise victory like the Trump surprise and the many similar surprises occurring throughout Europe) in the next election, Italian voters should expect a referendum to withdraw from the European Union or Euro Zone.