

Italy – Political Situation

The current government of Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, his sixth since 1972, has been in power since July 1989. This is a five-party coalition with two main partners, Christian Democrats and Socialists; and three minor partners, Republicans, Liberals and Social Democrats.

The main opposition, the Communist Party, is changing its name to Democratic Party of the Left and will attempt to unite Italy's leftist forces. In regional elections held in May 1990, Communist support declined to 25% from 30.2% in 1985. These same elections saw the "leagues," regional parties calling for extensive reform of the political system, emerge as a major force in Northern Italy, obtaining up to 20% of the vote in some places.

National elections are tentatively scheduled for June 1992. Parliament will choose a President of the Republic the same year.

In the past year, the Andreotti government has passed legislation to combat drug trafficking and use, and to regulate broadcasting.