

Could default be a better option?



The financial crisis that risks to make five governments to go bankrupt is only a symptom of a much bigger question that is about redefining **the role of the State** in the society. If we do not understand that this is the nature of the problem, we will end up with piece meal solutions that are not sustainable not even in the short period. In a sense the severity of the markets can be, in this circumstance, a formidable ally of whoever has been seeking profound reforms of the way European societies are governed. [...]

The future of the Universities



On april 14th, Vision held in Perugia its 5th annual conference on Universities. Speakers' presentations,

position paper, agenda and photos in the [project page](#).

The rise of the Big Society



Vision held a conference in Rome (May 13th) on "The End of the Leviathan and the rise of Big

Society". Paper, agenda, photos in the [project page](#).

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Il Pensatoio dei Visionari



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What is right of the right and What's left of the left?



The current newsletter anticipates the issue of the conference series (*What is right of the right?* and *What's left of the left?*) to be organized by Vision and Demos in the fall.

The left-right political spectrum has been the common way of classifying political positions, parties, politicians in the 20th century. Nowadays, do the categories "left" and "right" still maintain their validity? Considering current political landscape in Europe, is there some structural reason that can explain why the left is outside of government in most of EU countries and why, on the contrary, the right is governing most of it? **May Cameron and Obama represent a new synthesis** of the two historical categories of politics? Is the lack of this synthesis the reason why continental Europe's governing coalitions appear doomed to be (always) defeated in general elections? **Is Italy the most obsolete political arena** or, paradoxically, a laboratory of innovation in political supply with its ever changing political parties?

LAST VISION PROJECTS

On **May 13th**, Vision was at the *British School at Rome* ([agenda](#) and [photos](#)), for the event "**The end of the Leviathan and the Rise of the Big Society**" ([position paper](#)) launching the project "**European Social Innovation Index**", to be conducted together with **ResPublica**, **Expanzio** and other european partners. Following Vision [presentation](#), a Round Table chaired by **John Hooper** (correspondent from Italy for The Economist and The Guardian), where speakers discussed different paths toward Big Society taken by Italy and UK.

In April Vision was in **Perugia** for the event "*The future of Universities in the global market of Ideas: Internationalization and new competitors*" ([photos](#)). Our 5th annual conference was held on **April 14th**, at University for Foreign Students ([AGENDA](#)). At the conference Vision released the paper "*The Internationalization Imperative*", the ranking of "*the most international italian universities*"(in italian) and the results of the pilot "*market research on international students motivations*".

The language of Right and Left is not dead. As for other things...

by Asheem Singh



Suppose I were to ask you to name one thing that characterised the right and one thing that characterised the left: what would it be? For some of you, your answers would evoke a set of easy binaries. Individual versus collective. Market versus State. Liberty versus socialism. [...]

Left & right across Europe

by Jamie Bartlett and Laurence Elliot



Some things tend to split relatively naturally across left and right political lines: security, welfare, or markets. But other things do not. Culture, for example, tends to sprawl, evading any classification. This obvious point is now of great significance, because much of Europe is witnessing an increase in parties and political movements that are commonly referred to as the far-right [...]

The (variegated) obsolescence of the left/right divide in Britain

by Adrian Hornsby



Last year I was talking to an American political journalist who was in London covering the British election. "It's all so boring," he was complaining, "what your guys talk about. Where are the arguments over guns, gays and God? All I get to listen to is debates on fiscal policy." It was true, but nevertheless I felt a little injured. [...]

Few differences in the political chaos

by Gianmario Mariniello



Right and left? Exceeded categories! It's the mantra of the moment. It's cool, very anti-political. This message seems to have passed, in the common sense. It pierced. Yet, I believe this cliché will be exceeded, it will become old. Let's be clear: especially in Italy, the nation of eight thousand municipalities and a thousand and more Saints, there are so many types of left and right....([article in Italian](#)) [...]

Which future for left and right?

by Edoardo Riccio



Left and right represent the position in which sit the different political forces in Parliament. Traditionally, the relative position of each force with respect to the other indicates a greater or lesser degree of polarization of political views. ([article in Italian](#)) [...]

European Left, the reasons of the crisis

by Sandro Gozi



Recent political battles appear to say of a strong crisis of the Left in Europe and of an almost unstoppable rise of the populist right. In fact the situation is much more articulated and interesting than that. ([article in Italian](#)) [...]

Right, Left or directionless?

by Max Wind-Cowie



Politics in the UK is evolving and, as it does so, is breaking the ties that have bound it. Coalition may be the norm in most of mainland Europe but here, on our small island, we are better used to the simplicity (and purity) of single party rule. [...]

Right & Left

by Maria Rotolo



The issue addressed by this newsletter reminded me of a song by the famous italian singer Giorgio Gaber. That song - "Right-Left" (1994) - attempted an answer by referring to society and not to politics. ([article in Italian](#)) [...]

Innovators and Conservatives

by Maddalena Monaco



Distinguishing right and left policies seems to be yet easy: an old thinker suggested, to understand what is right and what is left, the words chosen as the motto of the French Revolution, at least the two most important, freedom and égalité. ([article in Italian](#)) [...]

From left to right, and back

by Gianluca Squeo



There are two factors that deserve to be taken into account when determining whether, first of all, there is a crisis of the Left in Europe and, alternatively, identify the new parameters to define the (new?) Ideological boundaries ([article in Italian](#)) [...]

Myths of the French left archived by polls

by Emanuele Gentile



The glory days of Roi François Mitterrand are far and lead to a poignant melancholy. The Left had finally conquered the heart of a country - France - tend to be right. It is often said: the national government to right-wing, cities to the left. ([article in Italian](#)) [...]