

The unbearable lightness of the politically correct



They probably do not know it but the Italian Prime Minister and the President of the United States share one unsuspectable feature. They, in fact, are – according to a survey that a team of Vision has carried out – the two most cited politicians of the world. But is such an interest from international media justified? Is there something that international media misses when they seem to not fully account for the reasons of the strengths of a politician that – like him or not – has been the only one to have the luxury to welcome all other heads of state at each of the G8 that his country has hosted in the last twenty years? [...]

We Want You!



Vision is in the process of transforming its newsletter into a proper weekly e-magazine, open to all those willing to embark in a new experience. We are looking for contributors and authors, many of which are already contacting us from the academic and media worlds. Vision will be editing the newsletter, indicating on a weekly basis the issues to be developed. Vision's projects will serve as a basis for the issues of the e-magazine. Topics will range from education to Europe, from migration to intelligent cities and the environment.

We are working on our advertising, and the intention is to split the revenues between contributors. We are waiting for you. For more information, please contact info@vision-forum.org.

Next Issue

The next issue of Vision's magazine addresses minister Gelmini's reforms. To be expected on 19 November...

Vision in Facebook



Now you can join the Vision Group on facebook and be constantly updated in real time on all projects and initiatives underway. The facebook group is "Vision - The Italian Think Tank".

If you want to join Vision's projects or be author of Vision web magazine write to: info@vision-forum.org.

The B Factor



The results of Vision's analysis on media citations are sort of surprising: based on Google, the Italian Prime Minister is the most quoted politician internationally after Barack Obama (although with a large distance between the first and the second and a much smaller margin between the second and the third – the French President).

Vision rarely gets engaged into affairs that directly belong to Italian domestic politics. However we believe that this particular inquiry into the B Factor may provide rather important insights into an evolution that is not only political and not only Italian. Our contributors to the topic include Bill Emmot, The Economist's editor until 2006, Geoff Andrews, author of "Not a Normal Country", and Richard Gowan, Associate Director for Multilateral Diplomacy at NYU's Center on International Cooperation.

Together with OpenDemocracy, Vision will organize in February the one day seminar 'After Berlusconi: Prospects for Italy', at the Open University in London. The event will investigate possible scenarios for the country after the successful political life of the Prime Minister will be completed.

As far as polls: Tony Blair won very narrowly our [last newsletter's](#) referendum on the next EU president (with a 51% to 49% margin); do vote on this week's poll, expressing your opinion on the amount of attention that you would like media to dedicate to our premier's personal life; next newsletter will focus on universities, and you will be invited to vote on the latest reform that the Italian Government put forward.

Berlusconismo: the real reason why foreign media should pay attention

by Bill Emmott



We foreign commentators often sit and wonder why it is that we are so fascinated by Silvio Berlusconi. Certainly, he is a rather livelier piece of show business than other political leaders (certainly livelier than Gordon Brown). Certainly too, his blend of sex, machismo, conspicuous wealth and direct and indirect links to criminality play into a traditional stereotype about Italy, one that has some truth to it yet is also misleading. But there is a lot more to it than that [...]

Berlusconi: should we all be worried?

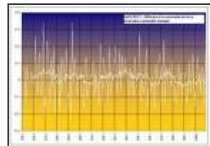
by Geoff Andrews



'Berlusconismo', the way of ruling which has dominated Italian politics in recent years, has largely been seen as a specifically Italian phenomenon. The roots of this type of rule, consisting of a new populist rapport with the people, control and effective use of a range of media – but notably TV – and continual undermining of Italy's traditional political class and constitutional norms, lie in the political crisis in Italy in the early 1990s, known as 'Tangentopoli', when the entire system was brought into question [...]

Fattore B: è vera anomalia?

di Ylenia Berardi



Nell'ambito del dibattito politico italiano degli ultimi anni, la parola "anomalia" spesso e volentieri è usata come sinonimo di Silvio Berlusconi. Ma forse è giunto il momento di riflettere sul fatto che un'anomalia in quanto tale è portata ad esaurirsi, proprio perché evento eccezionale, mentre invece quest'uomo continua a governare il Paese e a godere della fiducia degli italiani da ormai 15 anni.[...]

Italy's future and Mr. B

by Asif Parvez



Power for the sake of power is certainly not desirable. The reason why power for power is bad is that it does not follow any coherent design on how to improve on Italian welfare. Pragmatism in Mr. B's sense is highly volatile, follows the fads and moods of the population far too closely. In the short run, its pay-offs are clear in terms of electoral results and popularity. But the country suffers, and suffers greatly.[...]

Difficult change: Italy and the berlusconi factor

by Teodor Stan



Italy's prime minister is an attractive freak show for the international media outlets. Berlusconi faces trials of tax evasion, corruption, bribery; he is accused of intimidating journalists and political opponents, of abusing his public position to mock the judicial system [...]

Il Servizio Pubblico nel Mercato Globale dell'Informazione



Vision's [analysis](#) of the quality of the information offered by the Public Service television is under way. The project starts from the interpretation of the television Public Service as a Public good, that is a good the market would not produce spontaneously, and envisions a cycle of conferences starting in mid 2010. The objective is not to abstractly speak about "correct information" criteria, but to alert the Italian Public media services that it is shifting towards irrelevance if it is not able to adapt to some specific changes...

The attention that national and international media pay to the Italian Prime Minister in your opinion should:

- Be reduced
- Be increased
- Remain the same

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Silvio Berlusconi: a normal European leader?

by Richard Gowan



Silvio Berlusconi's diplomatic gaffes and personal difficulties consistently fascinate foreign observers. But his personal impact on international affairs is much more limited. The premier's admirers and critics may search for signs of "Berlusconismo", but Italy's diplomacy hasn't demonstrated a truly distinctive philosophy. If you strip away Mr. Berlusconi's undeniable showmanship, his decision-making looks fairly normal for the leader of a middle-size European power struggling to retain a residual world role [...]

La politica del possibile: per un rinnovato miracolo italiano

di Matteo Bocci



Con la politica italiana non ci si annoia mai! Lo dice del resto anche Terry Gilliam, guru di Monthly Python, interrogato in un programma televisivo italiano: "Il vostro premier a differenza del nostro fa divertire!". Occorre quindi interrogarsi su quale sia il motivo di tale miracolo. Perché questa dote così unica è patrimonio del nostro beneamato paese? Suggesto una risposta: l'amor patrio per il possibile.. [...]

Falsi Specchi

di Francesco Di Pisa



Ricchezze naturali dissipate, valori che evaporano come bolle di sapone, potenzialità intellettuali ignorate: il presente si maschera con una morale apparente. Corruzione, collusione, corrosione mentale, ferite di un Paese che addolorano chi da sempre e oggi ancor più vorrebbe che l'Italia cambiasse veramente pelle, una volta per tutte, per avvicinarsi al resto del Mondo pensante [...]

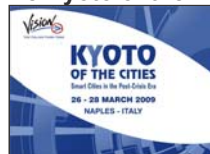
Che cos'è il B factor

di Annalisa Piras



Che cos'e' che spiega come Silvio Berlusconi sia diventato, apparentemente, il politico piu' citato al mondo dopo Obama ? Per chi come me, lavora come giornalista italiana all'estero da quando Berlusconi scese in campo nel 1994, sono ormai piu di 15 anni che tento di spiegarmi l'attenzione mediatica planetaria suscitata dal Cavaliere. [...]

The Kyoto of the Cities



After the launching, "framework" conference held in Naples last April, the project "Kyoto of the Cities" continues its activities. Following next is the conference focusing on the first of the three areas of intervention that Vision identified in order to tackle the problem of Climate Change: "Intelligent Cities" and the issue of Public Participation as a solution to the urban congestion. [...]