

The Rt. Hon. Silvio Berlusconi
Prime Minister



Born in Milan on 29 September 1936. Married, five children. Resident in Milan.

Graduated with a first class degree in Law. Entrepreneur.

Knight of Labour (Cavaliere del lavoro).

In 1962 he began his professional life in the building construction industry, and his company became Italy's leading builder of residential estates and commercial centres. In 1980 he incorporated Canale 5, the first nationwide television network, joined subsequently by Italia 1 (1982) and Rete 4 (1984). The success of commercial TV enabled him to develop other business undertakings, all of which were controlled, like the first companies, by the Fininvest Holding Company, incorporated in 1978.

His commercial television interests then spread to other European countries: France, with La Cinq (1986), Germany, with Telefünf (1987), and Spain, with Telecinco (1989). With Mondadori (1989) he became Italy's leading publisher of books and periodicals. The Fininvest Group, through the Mediolanum and Programma Italia companies, is a major force in the insurance and financial products sectors. In 1986 he became the President of the Milan A.C. football club, taking it on to become one of the world's leading clubs in terms of the number of international matches won.

On 26 January 1994, after having founded and become President of the Political Movement "Forza Italia", he immediately resigned all his corporate posts in the Fininvest Group.

He served as Prime Minister from May to December 1994. He subsequently sat on the 3rd Foreign and Community Affairs Standing Committee. In 1994, he stood in the European Parliamentary elections and was elected in all five Italian Constituencies although he did not take up his seat in the European Parliament because of the incompatibility with his post as Prime Minister which he then held. In 1999, re-elected to the 5th European Parliament, he resigned on 10 June 2001 to serve as Italian Prime Minister. He was acting Minister of Foreign Affairs from 6 January 2002 to 14 November 2002, acting Minister of the Economy and Finance from 3 to 16 July 2004, and acting Minister of Health on 11 March 2006.

On 18 November 2007 he announced the establishment of the future Movement "Popolo della Libertà" -"People of Freedom"- which was officially founded on the 27th of February 2008, becoming Italy's most voted political party in the 2008 General Election.

Following the 13-14 April 2008 General Election, for the 4th time, he was appointed Prime Minister.