

Gianfranco Fini profile

■ **1952:** Born January 3, in Bologna

■ **1983:** First elected to parliament as member of ***Italian Social Movement*** (MSI) – heir to wartime dictator ***Benito Mussolini's*** Fascist party

■ **1988:** Elected leader of MSI

■ **1990s:** Gradually moves MSI from neo-fascist to more traditionally conservative ideology

■ **1995:** Forms ***National Alliance*** (AN) after merging MSI with conservatives of disbanded Christian Democrats

■ **2001:** Named deputy prime minister in Berlusconi's second government

■ **2004:** Becomes foreign minister

■ **2008:** Appointed speaker of lower house of parliament

■ **2009:** Berlusconi's ***Forza Italia*** and Fini's AN fuse, creating centre-right **People of Freedom Party** (PDL)



■ **Jul 2010:** After months of skirmishes Berlusconi breaks with Fini, whose followers detach from PDL, robbing Berlusconi of parliamentary majority

■ **Sep:** Berlusconi wins confidence vote thanks to backing from Fini's faction, which decides against provoking immediate government crisis

■ **Nov 8, 2010:** At rally of his new ***Future and Freedom*** party Fini says he will bring government down unless Berlusconi – beset by fresh string of sex scandals – resigns or forms new coalition