Lecture 8: Euroscepticism as a response to decline



## Defining Euroscepticism in the Italian Context

- Soft vs. Hard Euroscepticism
- Economic vs. Political Euroscepticism
- Evolution of Eurosceptic sentiments in Italy



#### Main Eurosceptic Parties and Movements

- Lega (formerly Northern League)
- Five Star Movement (M5S)
- Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy)
- Minor parties and movements



## Lega's Eurosceptic Position

- From regionalism to national sovereignty
- Anti-immigration rhetoric linked to EU criticism
- Economic nationalism and Euro-skepticism
- Alliances with other European far-right parties



### Five Star Movement's Evolving Stance

- Initial strong Euroscepticism
- Calls for Euro referendum
- Gradual moderation of anti-EU positions
- Balancing act in government



## Fratelli d'Italia's Euroscepticism

- National conservatism and sovereignty
- Criticism of EU economic policies
- Pro-NATO stance vs. EU defense integration
- Vision of a "Europe of nations"



# Common Themes in Italian Euroscepticism

- Loss of economic sovereignty
- Criticism of austerity measures
- Immigration and border control
- Democratic deficit in EU institutions



## Economic Decline and Euroscepticism

- Correlation between economic performance and EU support
- Impact of austerity measures on public opinion
- Perception of EU as constraint rather than opportunity
- Blame attribution: national vs. EU responsibility



## Social and Demographic Factors

- Generational differences in EU attitudes
- Educational and socio-economic divides
- Urban vs. rural Euroscepticism
- Regional variations in anti-EU sentiment



#### Media and Public Discourse

- Role of traditional and social media in spreading Euroscepticism
- Framing of EU issues in Italian media
- Impact of disinformation and "fake news"
- EU communication strategy in Italy



#### Euroscepticism and National Identity

- Resurgence of nationalism and patriotism
- Cultural arguments against European integration
- Perception of EU as threat to Italian traditions
- Competing visions of Italy's place in Europe



# Future Trajectories of Italian Euroscepticism

- Potential for mainstream party adoption of Eurosceptic positions
- Impact of future economic and political crises
- Prospects for EU reform and its effect on Italian public opinion
- Scenarios for Italy-EU relations in the coming years