

STEVE BANNON ON ANTI-DEMOCRATIC LEADERS

Highlights:

- Steve Bannon met with anti-democratic leaders and parties to try to build a right-wing movement internationally.
 - Bannon wanted to lead a right-wing populist revolt across Europe.
 - Bannon met with the leaders of several far-right European parties.
 - Bannon met with the leaders of several parties with racist or neo-Nazi origins.
 - Bannon met With Zeljka Cvijanovic, who was later sanctioned by the U.S. for trying to undermine unity in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
 - Bannon pledged to work with right-wing leaders in Hungary and Italy.
 - Bannon developed a relationship with the far-right president of Brazil.

Bannon Met With Anti-Democratic Leaders And Parties To Try To Build A Right-Wing Movement Internationally

BANNON WANTED TO LEAD A RIGHT-WING POPULIST REVOLT ACROSS EUROPE

Bannon Wanted To Lead A Right-Wing Populist Revolt Across Europe. According to the Daily Beast, “Steve Bannon plans to go toe-to-toe with George Soros and spark a right-wing revolution in Europe. Trump’s former White House chief advisor told The Daily Beast that he is setting up a foundation in Europe called The Movement which he hopes will lead a right-wing populist revolt across the continent starting with the European Parliament elections next spring.” [Daily Beast, [7/20/18](#)]

BANNON MET WITH THE LEADERS OF SEVERAL FAR-RIGHT EUROPEAN PARTIES

Bannon Headlined The 2018 Conference For Marine Le Pen’s Far-Right National Front Party. According to the New York Times, “On Saturday, he is set to headline the annual conference of France’s far-right National Front in the northern city of Lille, where he will be introduced by its leader, Marine Le Pen.” [New York Times, [3/9/18](#)]

Bannon Met With The Leaders Of Several Parties With Racist Or Neo-Nazi Origins

Bannon Met With The Leadership Of Germany’s Far-Right Alternative For Germany Party. According to the New York Times, “In Zurich, Mr. Bannon says, he had a ‘fascinating’ meeting on Tuesday with leaders of Germany’s far-right Alternative for Germany party.” [New York Times, [3/9/18](#)]

Bannon Met With The Leader Of The Sweden Democrats, A Party With Neo-Nazi Origins. According to the Daily Beast, “Kent Ekeroth of the Sweden Democrats was one of those who met Bannon in Central London in the last week. The party, which had its roots in the Neo-Nazi and white supremacist movements of the 1980s, has shot up to almost 20 percent in recent polls after adopting a more conventionally populist, anti-immigration message.” [Daily Beast, [7/20/18](#)]

Bannon Met With The Leader Of Vlaams Belang, A Belgian Party Formed After Their Predecessor Was Shut Down For Racism And Xenophobia. According to the Daily Beast, “Jérôme Rivière of Marine Le Pen’s Front National (Rassemblement National since June) also made the pilgrimage to London’s Mayfair, as did Mischaël Modrikamen of the People’s Party of Belgium, Nigel Farage of UKIP and Filip Dewinter of Vlaams Belang, a Flemish nationalist party formed in 2004 when its predecessor was found to be in breach of a Belgian law on racism and xenophobia.” [Daily Beast, [7/20/18](#)]

Bannon Met With Zeljka Cvijanovic, Who Was Later Sanctioned By The U.S. For Trying To Undermine Unity In Bosnia And Herzegovina

2018: Bannon Met With Then-Prime Minister Of Republika Srpska Zeljka Cvijanovic. According to the London Times, “Trump’s former chief strategist has sought to further his bid to build a far-right populist bloc in Europe by courting the leader of Serbian nationalists in Bosnia. Details of Steve Bannon’s meeting with Zeljka Cvijanovic, prime minister of the Republika Srpska, at his home in Washington emerged yesterday. Mr Bannon, who was sacked by the US president last year, is also the former chairman of the right-wing news website Breitbart and an architect of the brand of populism that is sweeping across Europe.” [London Times, 8/2/18]

- **2023: The United States Sanctioned Cvijanovic For “Threatening The Implementation Of The Dayton Peace Agreement” In Bosnia and Herzegovina.** According to a press release from the Department of the Treasury, “Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated one state-level official of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and three government officials from the Republika Srpska (RS), one of two entities comprising BiH, pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 14033. These leaders are directly responsible for encouraging the passage of a Republika Srpska National Assembly (RSNA) law that purports to declare the decisions of the BiH Constitutional Court (BiH CC) inapplicable in the RS, thus obstructing and threatening the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA). [...] Serb member of the BiH Presidency Zeljka Cvijanovic (Cvijanovic) also met with Dodik, and affirmed her complete unity with him concerning future decisions prior to the passage of the law. Cvijanovic publicly defended the action after the Law on the Non-Application of the Decisions of the BiH CC was passed. Cvijanovic was previously designated by the United Kingdom on April 11, 2022, for undermining the legitimacy and functionality of BiH.” [U.S. Department of the Treasury, [7/31/23](#)]

Bannon Pledged To Work With Right-Wing Leaders In Hungary And Italy

2018: Bannon Announced Plans To Work With Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban On The Movement.

According to Reuters, “U.S. President Donald Trump's former political strategist, Steve Bannon, plans to work with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in the run-up to European Parliament elections next year, Bannon told private broadcaster RTL in an interview. Bannon, a former chairman of the right-wing Breitbart.com website and an architect of Trump's 2016 election win, has set up a movement to elect right-wing nationalist and populist members in European Parliament elections in May. Bannon, who had held a public lecture in Budapest last May, said he has already visited Budapest a couple of times and met Orban and his aides - meetings, which have not been made public. A government spokesman could not comment immediately. Orban has welcomed the idea of Bannon's group, called The Movement, saying it was time that someone from the United States came to Europe to spread conservative thinking instead of liberal values.” [Reuters, [11/17/18](#)]

- **Orban’s Tenure As Prime Minister Has Seen The Erosion Of Democratic Rights And Civil Society Protections.** According to CNN, “Over his 14 years in power, Orbán has transformed Hungary into a laboratory for conservative policies and eroded democratic rights and civil society protections, according to his critics and European Union officials. Orbán has centralized power by dismissing judges, changing election rules to favor his party, cracking down on NGO’s and appointing loyalists to key institutions. His government built a fence along the country’s southern border amid a migrant crisis in 2015 and passed stricter immigration policies. It tightened its grip on state media, reducing space for dissent. The prime minister has also promoted a Christian nationalist view of Hungarian society, passing laws restricting transgender rights and adoption by same-sex couples, redefining marriage in the constitution to only cover unions between a man and a woman, and banning materials related to LGBTQ issues in schools.” [CNN, [5/1/24](#)]

2018: Then-Italian Interior Minister And Leader Of The Anti-Immigrant Party The League Joined Bannon’s Group.

According to the New York Times, “The most powerful figure in Italy’s new populist government signed up on Friday with Steve Bannon, President Trump’s former chief strategist, to help bring about a continentwide populist takeover during European Parliamentary elections next spring. Matteo Salvini, the Italian interior minister and the leader of the anti-immigrant party the League, has joined The Movement, a group founded by Mr. Bannon, the minister’s spokeswoman confirmed. Mr. Salvini, whose popularity has grown with his power, amounts to Mr. Bannon’s first big get, lending legitimacy to his project and making it more likely that other Euroskeptic and populist politicians will join as well. In an interview in Rome on Friday, Mr. Bannon said he and Mr. Salvini spoke for more than an hour in Mr. Salvini’s frescoed government offices about how his new Brussels-based organization would offer a ‘loose association’ and physical space for right-wing populist leaders to meet and get to know one another and form alliances.” [New York Times, [9/7/18](#)]

BANNON DEVELOPED A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FAR-RIGHT PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL

2019: Bannon Was A Special Guest Of Far-Right Leader And Then-Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. According to McClatchy, “Steve Bannon, the former Trump White House adviser and conservative hardliner, will be a special guest of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro for dinner on Monday, the eve of the far-right leader’s meeting with President Trump at the White House. Bannon, who Bolsonaro’s team has sought out for political guidance, will be among a group of conservative guests joining Bolsonaro at his table for the exclusive event at the Brazilian ambassador’s residence, two sources familiar with the meeting said. ‘Some of the Bolsonaro team on the right see themselves as disciples of the Bannon movement and representatives of Bannon for Brazil and Latin America,’ said Fernando Cutz, a former acting senior director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the National Security Council in the Trump administration.” [McClatchy, [3/15/19](#)]