

ilprimatonazionale.it

The site of Il Primato Nazionale, a monthly newsmagazine connected to the neo-fascist movement Casapound that frequently publishes false and misleading content.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 5/100

Ownership and Financing

Il Primato Nazionale is owned and published by Sca 2080, a privately held company based in Rome. Francesco Polacchi, a Casapound activist and self-described fascist, is the chairman of the company and owns 20 percent of its shares, according to the Italian Chamber of Commerce. The remaining 80 percent is owned by Minerva Holding, a company in which Polacchi owns a 25 percent stake. Polacchi is also Casapound's Lombardy regional coordinator. According to domain registration records, Il Primato Nazionale's website is registered to Casapound Secretary Simone Di Stefano.

Sca 2080 controls Altaforte Edizioni, a neo-fascist publisher that has produced books sympathetic to fascism and Nazism.

Il Primato Nazionale derives revenue from advertising, donations, and subscriptions to its print edition.

Content

Il Primato Nazionale covers Italian and international politics from an anti-immigration, anti-Europe viewpoint, which it does not disclose. The site describes itself as "the only Italian nationalist newspaper not aligned with mainstream thought" ("l'unico quotidiano sovranista italiano non conforme al pensiero unico").

Content is published in sections including Current Events (Cronaca), Politics (Politica), Economy (Economia), Foreign Affairs (Esteri), Sport, and Science and Technology (Scienza e Tecnologia). The site's subsections include Opinion (Editoriale), Gender, and Left (Sinistra).

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)**
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)**
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)**
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)**
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)**
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)**
- ✗ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)**
- ✓ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)**
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)**

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Typical articles have run under headlines including “Bulgarian caregiver beat an elderly woman and attacks policemen: arrested” (“Badante bulgara pesta l’anziana assistita e aggredisce poliziotti: arrestata”); “Skywalker against Zuckerberg. Actor Hamill: ‘Facebook is lying to us’” (“Skywalker contro Zuckerberg. L’attore Hamill: ‘Facebook ci mente’”); and “Vienna, the first gay couple arrives at the Debutante Ball. Now we can sleep peacefully” (“Vienna, arriva la prima coppia gay al Ballo delle debuttanti. Ora possiamo dormire tranquilli”).

The site’s content supports Casapound’s neo-fascist ideas with articles that celebrate fascism in Italy. For example, a March 2019 story, “Fascism, a hundred years later: not to die of mediocrity” (“Fascismo, cento anni dopo: per non morire di mediocrità”), argued that fascism is a “faith that must be embodied” (“fede che va incarnata”). A May 2019 article stated that the Italian fascist regime wanted to establish “an organic democracy” (“una democrazia organica”).

Il Primato Nazionale publishes blogs, such as La ragione populista (Populist Reason), which is written by nationalist philosopher Diego Fusaro, and Inferno Spa (Hell Spa), by far-right author Francesca Totolo.

Credibility

Although the site often cites credible sources such as government documents and reputable media outlets, it also has frequently published false information and promoted unfounded conspiracy theories on multiple occasions, including about the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak.

For example, in February 2020, the site published an article headlined “‘Coronavirus laboratory near Wuhan market.’ Two Chinese biologists contradict Beijing”. (“Coronavirus uscito da laboratorio vicino al mercato di Wuhan’. Due biologi cinesi smentiscono Pechino”). The article, citing a study published by two scientists from South China University of Technology, stated that “the coronavirus probably originated from one of the two laboratories which are located near the Wuhan fish

market" ("il coronavirus avrebbe preso vita in uno dei due laboratori che si trovano nei pressi del mercato del pesce di Wuhan").

However, neither the *Il Primato Nazionale* article nor the study it referenced offered any evidence for the theory that the virus escaped from a laboratory, other than the proximity of one of the labs to a market thought to be the source of the outbreak. Moreover, the site did not note that the study in question was never peer-reviewed and that it has been removed from the site that published it.

A February 2020 report by the World Health Organization stated that "increasing evidence demonstrates the link between the 2019-nCoV [Wuhan coronavirus] and other similar known coronaviruses (CoV) circulating in bats." A study published the same month in *Nature* found that the virus is "96% identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus." Rutgers University chemical biology professor Richard Ebright told *The Washington Post* that "based on the virus genome and properties there is no indication whatsoever that it was an engineered virus."

An October 2019 article claimed that there is a "connection between solar activity and global warming" ("connessione tra attività solare e riscaldamento globale") and that "global warming is not caused by mankind" ("il riscaldamento globale non è causato dall'uomo"). The article pointed to a NASA study to support this claim.

However, as the NASA website explains, "The Sun can influence the Earth's climate, but it isn't responsible for the warming trend we've seen over the past few decades." Moreover, there is a broad scientific consensus that the burning of fossil fuels and other human activities are among the causes of global warming.

A March 2019 article, "*Il Primato Nazionale* flies to South Africa: this is how whites live today" ("*Il Primato Nazionale* vola in Sud Africa: ecco come vivono oggi i bianchi"), claimed that a genocide of South Africa's white minority population is underway and that white

farmers are the main target. “Whites are marginalized and persecuted” (“i bianchi sono emarginati e perseguitati”), the story stated.

In reporting the story, Il Primato Nazionale said it sent a member of its staff to South Africa to “denounce what the mainstream media doesn’t say: the genocide of whites is in progress” (“denunciare quello che i media mainstream non dicono: il genocidio dei bianchi in corso”). The site has run multiple stories supporting the idea that there is a white genocide occurring in South Africa.

However, the white genocide claim has been discredited by numerous media outlets, including The New York Times, Vox, and The Guardian. According to AgriSA, a federation of South African agricultural organizations, murders of farmers is at a 20-year low — there were 47 in 2017, as opposed to 153 in 1998, the group said. The 2018 Land Audit Report, an annual document compiled by the South African government, notes that 72 percent of agricultural land was owned by white farmers.

Additionally, according to a May 2018 article in the New Statesman, a left-leaning British magazine, murder rates in South Africa’s predominantly rich, white suburbs are lower than murder rates in poor, predominantly black areas.

An April 2019 article, headlined “‘I fight against the great replacement’. Storm on the Austrian Vice-Chancellor” (“‘Combatto contro la Grande sostituzione’. Bufera sul vicescancelliere austriaco”), advanced the “great replacement” conspiracy theory, popularized by right-wing French philosopher Renaud Camus, arguing that it “is real” (“è reale”) and not a plot created “by xenophobic paranoids” (“da paranoici xenofobi”). Another article, published in May 2019, claimed that “the Great Replacement is already in place but it is always time to reverse the course” (“la grande sostituzione è già in atto ma si fa sempre in tempo ad invertire la rotta”).

The Great Replacement theory claims that there is a plot to substitute the white population of Europe and U.S. with non-whites from Africa, amid a declining white birth rate. However, the data does not back this up. A March 2019 Washington Post article stated that “though immigration levels have dropped significantly in Europe since 2015 — and though Muslims are a small minority in virtually every European country — this belief (the great replacement) remains a virulent mobilizer of the European far right and has spread in various forms both across the Atlantic and to the Antipodes.”

Moreover, after the March 2019 massacre of 50 people in New Zealand mosques, Camus himself distanced himself from the theory, calling it the “nephew” of Nazism. “They share the same genealogy of horror. We cannot be associated with that,” he said. Before the massacre, the New Zealand attacker posted a 74-page manifesto titled “The Great Replacement.”

Besides The Washington Post, the replacement theory has been debunked by the BBC, The Guardian, and The New York Times, among others.

The site is misleading on other topics. In a July 2019 article, the headline for an article by Il Primato Nazionale Editor-in-Chief Adriano Scianca misquoted an article written by the left-wing writer Christian Raimo and published on the center-left magazine L'Espresso. The headline quoted Raimo as writing, “Africans understand Dante better than nationalists” (Gli africani capiscono Dante meglio dei sovranisti”). Raimo did not write such a line and did not suggest Africans better understand Dante than nationalists.

A June 2019 article, “No one touches European colonialism. The evils of Africa have many other responsibilities” (“Nessuno tocchi il colonialismo europeo. I mali dell’Africa hanno ben altri responsabili”), stated that AIDS “afflicts about 40 percent of the continent's population” (“affliggerebbe circa il 40% della popolazione del continente”). However, 2017 United Nations’ data shows that, with an estimated population of 1.2 billion people, there are about 25.7

million persons infected with HIV in Africa, or 2.14 percent, and not the 40 percent claimed by Il Primato Nazionale.

An April 2016 article made the false claim that African immigrants brought meningitis to Italy, stating, "There is a direct correlation between the meningitis epidemic that is affecting part of Tuscany and immigration of African origin." ("Esiste una correlazione diretta tra epidemia di meningite che sta colpendo parte della Toscana e immigrazione di provenienza africana.")

This claim has been refuted by medical authorities, including the Italian National Institute of Health and San Raffaele Hospital, a prominent medical research center. "There is no connection between the migratory waves and the cases of meningitis recorded in Italy," Adriano Lazzarin, the head of San Raffaele Hospital's infectious disease center, said in a January 2017 interview with La Repubblica. ("Tra le ondate migratorie e i casi di meningite registrati in Italia non c'è nessun collegamento.")

Because Il Primato Nazionale has frequently published false or misleading news, NewsGuard has determined that it does not meet NewsGuard's standard for not repeatedly publishing false news and deceptive headlines and for gathering and presenting information responsibly.

Although some opinion articles are published in a dedicated section, Il Primato Nazionale often inserts opinion into straight news articles.

For example, a June 2019 story, "'Six month salary for the Roma.' Yet another gift from Raggi" ("Reddito di sei mesi per i rom. L'ennesimo regalo della Raggi"), stated that Rome Mayor Virginia Raggi's proposal to give Roma people 600 euros a month for six months to help them find homes is "a washout" ("un fallimento") and a "desperate measure" ("misura disperata").

An April 2019 article, "Netflix science fiction does not appeal to guardians of gender ideology" ("La fantascienza di Netflix non piace ai guardiani dell'ideologia gender"), criticized television critics who

have said that the science fiction web series “Love, Death & Robots” is sexist, calling them “the Taliban of progressivism” (“il talebani del progressismo”).

Because Il Primato Nazionale includes opinionated content in news articles, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Il Primato Nazionale does not have a stated corrections policy and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

In response to NewsGuard’s earlier inquiries about many of the articles mentioned above, the site’s lack of corrections, and its mixing of news and opinion, Il Primato Nazionale Editor-in-Chief Adriano Scianca said in an email: “Having already passed an exam on my journalistic skills with the Italian professional association, I believe that taking another exam where an American private company is the examiner is professionally useless and morally insulting.” (“Avendo già superato tempo fa un esame sulle mie competenze giornalistiche con l'Ordine professionale italiano, ritengo che sostenerne un altro a un ente privato americano sia professionalmente inutile e moralmente insultante”).

In January 2020 NewsGuard sent another email to Scianca seeking comment, but did not receive a response.

Transparency

Most articles published on Il Primato Nazionale name the author and link to an archive of the writer’s work. However, most authors’ biographical or contact information are not provided.

The site lists its editorial leadership on a Newsroom (Redazione) page. The site provides a general email address at the bottom of each page, as well as its physical address.

Il Primato Nazionale’s ownership by Sca 2080 is only noted on a Privacy page — which does not meet NewsGuard standard for disclosing ownership in a user-friendly manner.

Display advertisements are generally distinguished from editorial content. However, Il Primato Nazionale appears to publish unlabeled sponsored content. For example, a January 2020 article titled "Positioning a site on Google: the news of 2020" ("Posizionare un sito su Google: le novità del 2020") promoted a web marketing company. An April 2019 article titled "Stileo.it, presents a wide selection of Hogan [an Italian shoe brand] products in its catalog" ("Stileo.it, presente nel catalogo una vasta scelta di prodotti Hogan"), promoted the online clothing store Stileo.it. This content was not labeled "sponsored" or "paid."

In 2019, Scianca declined to comment on the site's lack of information about content creators and ownership and about its policies for labeling sponsored content. He did not respond to a follow-up email from NewsGuard seeking comment in January 2020.

History

Il Primato Nazionale was founded in 2013 as an "independent online publication," according to the site's Newsroom page.

In 2017, Francesco Polacchi, the chairman of Sca 2080, was sentenced to one year and four months in prison for his role in a fight at a political rally. The sentence is being appealed.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on March 2, 2020.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

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