

*Challenges before Democracies: require Statesmen as Leaders:*

**France: Legislative Election: June 30: Effect on EU**

July 3, 2024

July 3, 2024: Paris, France: President Emmanuel Macron is facing headwinds due to inflation, caused by Ukraine and Gaza wars. His efforts to strengthen the idea of being French among the 'new French' (immigrants from the former French Colonies) have not succeeded in the face of the rising tide of Islamism, caused by the Gaza war, since October 7, 2023. Whether the **Together** coalition be able to win a majority at the National Assembly elections of July 7, 2024 or whether 'co-habitation' be forced by the voters will determine the strength of Macron's Presidency in the period up to 13 May 2027.



**Emmanuel Macron**, the 8<sup>th</sup> President of the 5<sup>th</sup> Republic

Party: **Renaissance** (RE; Founded: 17 September 2022) – name changed from:  
*La République En Marche* (means "Republic Forward"; Founded: 6 April 2016)

June 30, 2024: Paris, France: On Sunday, **En Marche** (Renaissance), the Party of the French President **Emmanuel Macron** and the **Together** coalition, which the **En Marche** leads, launched, a fresh week of intense campaigning, hours after their coalition was humiliated, by the hard-right **National Rally** (RN).

The ruling Coalition and the President have lost popularity. **Macron** (b. 21 December 1977) is expected to lose some Legislative seats to **Marine Le Pen** 's far-right **National Rally** (RN). right **National Rally** (RN).

A WEAKENED PRESIDENCY?: RESULTS of the FIRST ROUND: The first round of France's Legislative Election was held on June 30. The results show the far-right **National Rally** (Rassemblement national, RN) and its allies with 33.15%, with 230-280 seats in the National Assembly.

The left/progressive coalition New Popular Front (Nouveau Front Populaire, NFP) won 27.99% vote. No of seats: 125-165.

The Presidential Centrist Alliance was in the third place, with a vote of 20.04%. No of seats: 70-100. The President's **Together** Group won 245 seats, 44 short of a majority.

The Turnout was 66.71%, the highest since 1978.

The Final Results would be available on July 7, 2024. The results may strengthen the Rightist Group in the EU Parliament. But, Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen (b. October 8, 1958), the 13<sup>th</sup> President of the European Commission is likely to continue.

According to ABC News Report of July 1, 2024, RN blames **immigration** for many of France's problems. **Marine Le Pen** has built a nationwide support network, notably in small towns and farming communities that see **Macron and the Paris political class as out of touch**.

When a President is not able to get a majority for his Group, the **Presidency is weakened** even though the President would remain Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and even though he would be responsible for international relations. The President is forced to have "**co-habitation**" with a party, whose agenda is different from that of the President.

---- A BACKGROUNDER on APPROVAL RATINGS of DEMOCRATIC LEADERS ----

**June 14, 2024: Rome, Italy: Giorgia Meloni, the Prime Minister of Italy, introduced Narendra Modi as the most popular democratic Leader of the world. Modi had gone to the meeting, after taking oath as the Prime Minister of India for a 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive term, on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024, after the General Elections, in which 642 Mn citizens, out of 969 Mn registered voters had exercised their franchise for electing 543 members of the Lok Sabha (the Lower House of India's Parliament).**



*June 14, 2024: Borgo Egnazia (Fasano) in Apulia, Italy:  
G7 Leaders & Invitees*

**Narendra Modi's** approval rating was as high as 77%. (Reference: <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/approval-ratings-of-world-leaders-in-2024/>)

The only other leaders, who had **approval rating of more than 50%** were:

- **Andrés Manuel López Obrador** (b. 13 November 1953) assumed Presidency of **Mexico** on 1 December 2018: Approval Rating of 64%;
- **Viola Patricia Amherd** (b. 7 June 1962) of Switzerland, won approval from 57%. Her term is from 1 January 2024 to December 31, 2024.
- **Andrzej Sebastian Duda** (b. 16 May 1972) has served as **President of Poland** since 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015. His approval stands at 50%. Poland's **Donald Tusk**, also came in strong with 50% approval.

All other leaders of democracies have approval rating of less than 50%.

The data is updated on a quarterly basis.

Eight countries had heads of state or government with disapproval ratings above 50%, including **U.S. President Joe Biden** and **Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau**.

**Germany's Olaf Scholz** also finds himself on the low end of the list. **Scholz**—who succeeded Angela Merkel in 2021—hit a record low in polling at the end of 2023 with 20% approval, tied only with **South Korea's Yook Seok-youl**.

And according to Morning Consult, they weren't the world leaders with the lowest approval ratings. The full dataset of 21 countries shows that **Fumio Kishida**, the Prime Minister of Japan has an Approval Rating of 23.8%.

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---- A BACKGROUNDER on FRANCE before the PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS-2017 ----  
Presidential elections were held in France on 23 April and 7 May 2017. As no candidate won a majority in the first round, a runoff was held between the top two candidates, **Emmanuel Macron** of **En Marche!** (EM) and **Marine Le Pen** of the **National Front** (FN), which **Macron** won with 66.10% to 33.90%.

**François Hollande** (b. August 12, 1954) was the President of France from May 15, 2012 to May 14, 2017. His party was the **Socialist Party**. Due to low ratings of Opinion Polls, **Hollande** had decided not to contest the Presidential Election.



**Emmanuel Macron** of *En Marche Party* **Marine Le Pen** of *National Front*

ELECTIONS -2017 to the FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: The presidential election was followed by a legislative election to elect members of the **National Assembly** on 11 and 18 June 2017.

BACKGROUND: **François Fillon** of **The Republicans** (LR) became entangled in "Penelopegate", a scam for employing family members in fictitious jobs.

**Jean-Luc Mélenchon** of the far-left party **La France Insoumise** (FI) was a good debater and his party could have won a good number of seats in the **National Assembly**. However, FI has a close relationship with the Palestinians and attacks by radical elements among the Islamists lead to a loss of trust in FI.

1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the coordinated attacks by nine suicide members of ISIS on Sunday, November 13, 2015, that killed 130 and injured nearly 400 is being organized at the **Bataclan Concert Hall**. (The **Concert Hall** would re-start after remaining closed for one year, on November 13, 2016.) This affected adversely the chances of FI winning a good number of seats in the **National Assembly** as well as in the **European Union** (EU) **Parliament**.

RESULTS: President Macron's party, La République En Marche!, won 308 seats in a house of 577. Macron's Coalition won 350 seats.

The center-right Republicans and their allies were relegated to a distant second place, with an estimated 135 members for its bloc in Parliament, while the Socialists and their allies, who had a majority in the last election, saw their bloc reduced to an estimated 45 seats.

Elections-2022: 10 and 24 April 2022: **Macron** was re-elected with 58.55% of the vote to 41.45% for **Le Pen** in the second round of the election.

Legislative elections were held in France on 12 and 19 June 2022 to elect the 577 members of the 16th National Assembly of the Fifth Republic. Macron's government, which enjoyed a 115-seat majority before the election, now fell at least 38 short of an overall majority. However, working arrangements among Groups, to facilitate Legislative work have been made.

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