**Online Appendices**

Online Appendix 1: Expulsions from the Five Star Movement over Time.

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| 2012 | Sensation about the first expulsions |
| 2013 | Relatively ‘calm’, two online expulsions |
| 2014-2015 | Crescendo of expulsions, outcry of lack of internal democracy |

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| March 2012 | Expelled Valentino Tavolazzi (local level) |
| December 2012 | Expelled (actually forbid to use the symbol of the party) Giovanni Favia and Federica Salsi (local level) |
| April 2013 | Expelled online Senator Mastrangeli (for participating to TV debates) |
| June 2013 | Expelled online Senator Gambaro |
| 26.02.2014 | Expelled online Senators Orellana, Campanella, Bocchino, Battista |
| 27.02.2014 | Several Senators and Deputies leave the party, and consequently get expelled |
| 27.11.2014 | Expelled Deputies Artini and Pinna |
| January 2015 | Expelled Senators Vacciano and Simeoni, and Deputy Iannuzzi |
| 27.01.2015 | Nine deputies and one Senator resign |
| 28.12.2015 | Expelled Senator Fucksia |

Online Appendix 2: Timeline of the Five Star Movement Evolution.

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| 2006-2009 | Grassroots movement phase |
| 2010-2012 | First local elections, transition from movement to party, politicization |
| 2012-2013 | Final transformation into a party, participation in national elections |
| 2013-2015 | Participating in European elections, issues of internal democracy, expulsions, creation of the direttorio |

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| July 2005 | Grillo, via blog, proposes to use the Meetup network to create bottom-up and participative democracy |
| December 2005 | First national meeting "friends of Beppe Grillo" |
| March 2006 | Second national meeting "friends of Beppe Grillo" |
| June 2006 | Third national meeting "friends of Beppe Grillo" |
| September 2007 | National meeting of the Meetup groups |
| October 2007 | Grillo explains how to form civic lists for participative democracy |
| January 2008 | Grillo announces that the movement would participate in local elections in form of civic lists |
| March 2009 | First national meeting of the civic lists. Grillo presents the common program in 12 points (Carta di Firenze) |
| 9.9. 2009 | The movement becomes a party |
| October 2012 | Grillo gives the rules to participate at the national elections as candidates for the 5SM |
| 3-6 December 2012 | First online selection of the candidates for national elections (*parlamentarie*) |
| 31.12.2012 | Online consultation for the selection of a name for the election of President of the Republic (*quirinarie*) |
| 28.10.2013 | It becomes active the "operative system", a website that allows the activists to discuss the laws for parliamentary initiative |
| December 2013 | Third V-Day (and first national meeting of the party) |
| October 2014 | Online consultation about civil unions |
| October 2014 | National meeting in Rome |
| 28.11.2014 | Created the "operating committee" or "direttorio”: an intermediate body between Grillo and the base |
| January 2015 | Online selection of the candidate for President of the Republic (*quirinarie*) |
| October 2015 | National meeting in Imola |
| November 2015 | Online vote removes the name of Grillo from the symbol of the party |

**Online Appendix 3 – Broader Political Context: Timeline.**

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| 2007 | Focus on corruption, representatives, political and electoral system |
| 2008 | Focus on the media system, and first participation in local elections |
| 2008-2009 | Cooperation with the IdV (Italia dei Valori – Italy of Values) |
| 2010 | Regional elections |
| 2011 | Focus on public water |
| 2012-2013 | Focus on national elections, focus on immigration and *ius soli* |
| 2014 | European elections, and focus on Europe |

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| June 2007 | First V-Day. Collecting signatures for popular initiatives about: electoral law and "clean parliament" |
| April 2008 | First participation of the movement to local elections |
| April 2008 | Second V-day. Collecting signatures to abolish: public funding to newspapers, the order of journalists, the ‘Gasparri-law’ |
| December 2008 | Revealed the logo for the local elections 2009 |
| 2008-2009 | Period of intense collaboration with IdV (Italia dei Valori – Italy of Values) |
| March 2009 | Grillo endorses two candidates for the European elections (members of IdV), and candidates of the movement enter local administrations |
| March 2010 | Regional elections |
| 2011 | Support to the referenda about the public nature of water |
| May 2011 | Local elections |
| January 2012 | Grillo takes position against the *ius solis* |
| 2012 | Local and regional elections |
| 18 January 2013 | Grillo says that the labor unions are obsolete |
| Until 22 February 2013 | Electoral campaign for the first 5SM's national election |
| 24-25 February 2013 | First national elections |
| February-May 2013 | Local and regional elections |
| October 2013 | Two Senators propose to abolish the crime of illegal immigration. Grillo and Casaleggio order them to retire the proposal. |
| 2014 | Local and regional elections |
| 25 May 2014 | European elections |
| 28 May 2014 | Grillo and Farage announce they form a group in the European Parliament: "Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy" |
| November 2014 | The movement starts a collection of signatures to have a referendum about the presence or not of Italy in the Eurozone |