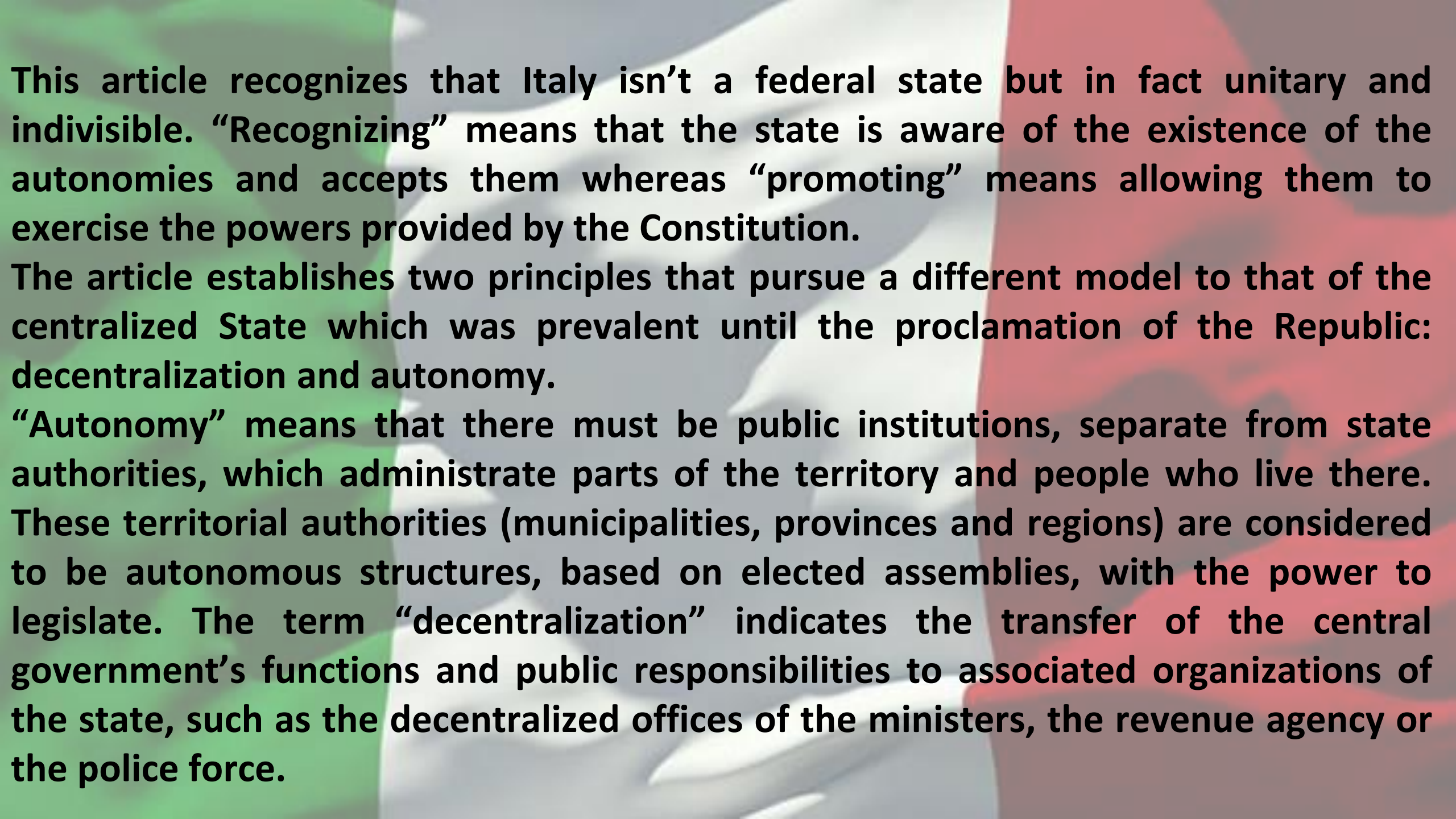


ARTICLE 5

The Republic, singular and indivisible, recognizes and promotes local authorities; implementing the fullest administrative decentralization of those services which depend on the State and adapting the principles and methods of its legislation to the requirements of autonomy and decentralization.

The background of the image is a blurred, semi-transparent version of the Italian national flag, showing the vertical stripes of green, white, and red. The text is overlaid on this background in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

This article recognizes that Italy isn't a federal state but in fact unitary and indivisible. "Recognizing" means that the state is aware of the existence of the autonomies and accepts them whereas "promoting" means allowing them to exercise the powers provided by the Constitution.

The article establishes two principles that pursue a different model to that of the centralized State which was prevalent until the proclamation of the Republic: decentralization and autonomy.

"Autonomy" means that there must be public institutions, separate from state authorities, which administrate parts of the territory and people who live there. These territorial authorities (municipalities, provinces and regions) are considered to be autonomous structures, based on elected assemblies, with the power to legislate. The term "decentralization" indicates the transfer of the central government's functions and public responsibilities to associated organizations of the state, such as the decentralized offices of the ministers, the revenue agency or the police force.