



WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5 (No. 2) June 2003

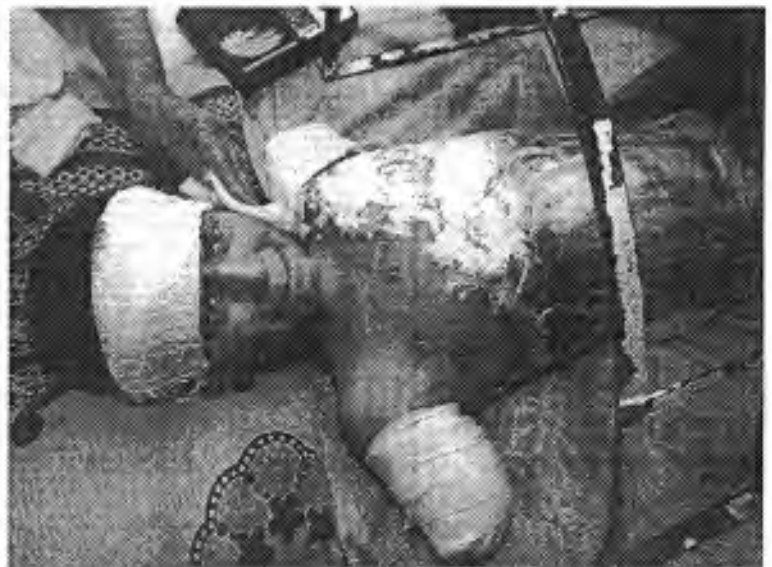
A General Theory of Political Systems (by Jiri Polak)

So far, every political system has consisted of two basic components: an Oligarchy (or Dictator) and a vast majority of subjects or citizens, more or less oppressed. At the beginning of history, the gap between the two was absolute. Oppression was motivated theocratically - the ruler was supposed to be a god. Later on, he was no longer considered as god, but at least his right to rule was believed to be of divine origin. The gap diminished successively owing to pressure from below. The establishment of the United States of America and the Great French Revolution of 1789 proclaimed the gap closed. All citizens began to be considered as equal. But that was theory. In practice, the gap has persisted and in some systems, at least for some time, it has even increased.

According to Marxism, the gap has been due to private ownership of means of production. This belief turned out to be incorrect. It is not private ownership in itself, but the power originating in it that creates the gap. The source of power is not the decisive factor. It is its magnitude that makes all the difference.

After the fall of feudalism - a system the organization structure of which was based on hereditary aristocracy - a new organization principle had to be found. Owing to the simple structure of post-feudal societies (peasants, workers, entrepreneurs, city-dwellers...), naturally, the principle of

The War on Iraq in Perspective (abbreviated) By John Bunzl, Founder, International Simultaneous Policy Organization



This is war: Twelve year old Ali Ismail Abbas lost his arms, a father, a mother and a brother when an American bomb hit the Bagdad house where they lived. What life is in store for this boy - and hundreds of thousands of other children mutilated and traumatized by war? Does the removal from power of a dictator justify this, and hundreds of thousands of similar heart-breaking tragedies? Who is to judge? Who is to decide?

"From the moment following 9/11 when George W. Bush declared to the world "you're either with us or against us", it was inevitable beyond any shadow of doubt that there would be war in Afghanistan. And even as the recent diplomatic machinations in the UN continued in the hope of avoiding it in Iraq, it was nonetheless equally inevitable that there too, there would be war.

For the Bush administration, backed as it is by the US military-industrial complex and the oil industry, this has

representation by political parties emerged as the only realistic possibility. Each citizen category was to be represented by its own party. At the beginning, the representatives were quite close to the respective, rather homogenous categories. The citizens felt able to identify themselves with those who represented them in legislative bodies. Party political agendas reflected more or less adequately citizen categories' group interests. The main issue was distribution of material wealth inside the respective societies. The importance of ecology was not noticed; by general tacit consent, in the field of foreign and defense policy, politicians were given *carte blanche*.

Immediately, however, political parties began to abuse their power. The original purpose receded successively into the background. Party leaderships concentrated both legislative and executive power in their own hands - a principle the justifi-

cation of which is anything but self-evident. A representation ideology stifled discussions about the real nature of party-based systems. Of course, compared to twentieth century totalitarianism, these systems showed favorably in the eyes of most people. During several decades, the public was reluctant to admit that former hereditary aristocracy had been replaced by a new type of aristocratic structures recruited from a privileged political class. The illusion lasted until the beginning of the 1990s. The collapse of communism inaugurated a new era - a period of transition to a genuine democracy, which must be based on a combination of DD and citizen-controlled, limited representation. Mainstream political theory is increasingly challenged by a new, revolutionary science.

(to be continued)

always been the inevitable and thus the entirely foregone conclusion, regardless of the will of very many American citizens who oppose it. For as discerning historians know, unassailable power is always abused to further the interests of its possessor - and always has been.

In his widely influential book, "The Breakdown of Nations", Leopold Kohr argued more than half a century ago that the larger and more powerful a social unit becomes - i.e. a principality, a region or nation - a critical mass is reached where its propensity to abusive aggression and war becomes inevitable. Having convincingly established the point, Kohr went on to ask: "But what is the critical magnitude leading to abuse?" and then rightly concluded that "It is the volume of power that ensures immunity from retaliation. This it does whenever it induces in its possessor the belief that he cannot be checked by any existing larger accumulation of power." As such, those non-Americans who are against the present war and who generally decry the overbearing, unilateralist and blatantly self-interested policies of the present US administration, should, perhaps, have some sympathy for Uncle Sam. After all, if it was not the USA but their country in that unassailable position of power, it would be their country doing the bombing; it would be their country ducking out of the Kyoto Protocol; it would be their country refusing to recognize the International Criminal Court; and it would be their country with designs on the world's oil wells. So don't let's be too quick to judge Uncle Sam - because he's only doing what ALL nations in a similar position of unassailable power have always done throughout human history."

Comment:

Mr. Bunzl is perfectly right. Only, I object to the conventional point of view treating nations, states, and other such units as monolithic entities. Natural propensity to war is the motive force in primitive societies only. Such wars are limited in scope. The big wars where troops are sent to unknown territories to fight people they know nothing or very little about - such wars are waged by cold-blooded, ruthless oligarchies (not by nations!) supported by vested interests who live like parasites on war activities. It has always been so, but it cannot continue for much longer. When ordinary citizens gain control over their countries' foreign and "defense" policies, wars will cease to be waged. Ordinary people are peace-loving and rather decent. They would not allow scenes like that on the picture to happen. Prevention of such atrocities must be the ultimate rationale of our movement. (JP)

INTERNATIONAL USA

Information from Mr. *M.Dane Waters* (19 March and 8 April):

An Amazing New Book on the Initiative Process is now Available for Order!

Order Today and Save \$ 15.00!!!!

You can now order from Carolina Academic Press the Initiative & Referendum Institute's new book, **The Initiative and Referendum Almanac: A Comprehensive Guide to the Initiative and Referendum Process in the U.S.** The Almanac will be delivered in early May. However, if you act now, you can save \$15!! That's correct; if you mail your order form with your payment by June 31, 2003 you will save \$ 15 off the purchase price!

The Almanac, which is almost a 1,000 pages in length, is the most complete and comprehensive history of the I&R process in the United States. The Almanac provides information on: the definitions of initiative and referendum; the roots of the initiative and referendum movement in the U.S.; the history of how the process has been utilized - including a state by state overview of the I&R movement from the mid 1800s to today (thanks to David Schmidt); the regulations associated with using the initiative process in each state; the legislative attempts to regulate the process; the role the judiciary has in relation to the initiative process; and a series of comprehensive essays from leading scholars and activists on the reforms that have been brought about through the initiative process - abortion, women's suffrage, environmental reform, animal rights, education reforms, tax reform, gay rights, term limits, campaign finance reform, drug policy reform - and the list goes on.

The book also provides the reader with a complete listing of all relevant laws associated with utilizing the initiative and referendum process in each state as well as a checklist of the major steps that must be undertaken in order to use the initiative process. In addition, the appendix is a gold mine of information. It contains a complete listing of every statewide initiative that has appeared on the ballot since 1904 as well as various other charts and graphs tracking the usage of the initiative and referendum process since its adoption in 1898.

"This uniquely comprehensive volume provides a wealth of invaluable information about the initiative and referendum process in the United States. The volume combines detailed information about the constitutional and statutory bases of initiative and referendum usage in all fifty states; descriptions of the major court decisions and legislative attempts to regulate the process; comparisons of I&R provisions across the states; and scholarly analyses of some of the main theoretical debates concerning its use. This is certain to be a critical resource for academics, policy analysts, advocates, lawmakers, citizens, the media - indeed, anyone interested in this increasingly important method of citizen lawmaking." **Elisabeth R.Gerber, Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan.**

Equally appreciative assessments have been published by **Wayne Pacelle, Senior Vice President, The Humane Society of the United States,** and **Richard Parker, Williams Professor of Law, Harvard Law School**

If you order today, you can get \$15.00 off the purchase price. Just type

<http://www.iandrinstitute.org/order.htm> into your browser and then click on the box that says ordering information. Just complete the PDF form and then mail it with your payment to the address on the form to receive discount.

5 April: Mr. **Evan D.Ravitz** wrote, "My friend Dr. Vince Campbell has decided to publish on the web, free, his 1986 novel "Terrorism and Democracy" (www.vote.org/terror). It's a great read, racing with action and dialogue. Dr. Campbell directed the 1974 Televote trials for the National Science Foundation (see www.vote.org/televote.htm), which he hoped would lead to more "direct" democracy. Although the trials were a success, no government has ever let citizens vote by phone, fearing real democracy."

7 April: Mr. **Evan D.Ravitz** informed the P2DD Intra channel that Daniel Elsberg and Noam Chomsky had joined the National Initiative's list of endorsers. See <http://NationalInitiative.org>

4 April: World-Action put forward a conspiracy theory on 9-11:

<http://www.serendipity.li/wot/aa11.htm>

CANADA

7 March, information from Mr. *Bruce Eggum*: "DAD has been developed by our Canadian friends and it is a huge step toward improving government. (D.A.D.) Direct Access Democracy appears to be a very good tool and is well worth considering as we move toward more of a "peoples government". I encourage all to follow through this site and consider how DAD can be utilized to improve our governance.

<http://www.directaccessdemocracy.org/Principles%20of%20direct%20access%20democracy.htm>

"Democracy has merit but it also has problems which are historically proven. The USA is not a democracy, it is a Republican form of government."

10 March, information from Mr. *John Oprea*: "Direct Access Democracy Party of Canada (DAD Canada) believe in the right of the Canadians to participate in government at all levels everyday. We believe all eligible and interested citizens must be given the opportunity to make political decisions on all issues that impact on our lives. We believe in equal opportunity of individuals to participate in government of the law, and to ensure a fair, honest and humane government.

Our website is www.directaccessdemocracy.org

We welcome your comments, participation or help to build together a better world. Please advise if you would like to insert reciprocal links to our websites."

25 January, information from Mr. *Miroslav Kolar*: "It may be of interest to you that there has been a rather major experiment in Internet voting in Canada in the preceding days and today. The New Democratic Party was electing its new leader by combined mail, Internet and direct voting by all members. About 50% of party members submitted their votes by mail and Internet before the start of today's convention which was transmitted all the day by nationwide CBC television. The rest of the voters waited with their decision after hearing the speeches of the candidates at the convention and by TV.

It was of course still within the party politics/representative democracy, but anyway a step in the right direction in my view. Such combination of all the available technical means for discussion and deci-

on-making would be able to involve large numbers of citizens in the future DD.

SPAIN

30 March, information from Mr. *M.Kolar*: "New submission:

The European Constituent Process. The Spanish Perspective - You can find at

http://www.demopunk.net/sp/intern/europe/pcon_index_en.html#S2

info1@demopunk.net

LUXEMBURG

29 April: Information from Mr. *M.Kolar*: New submission to <http://democracy.mkolar.org/newURL.html>,

link: <http://www.mtk.lu/ideeinstitut> -

Institut für integrale Praxis, Mehr Demokratie und soziale Dreigliederung (Information - Publikation - Vernetzung - Forschung) alfredgroff@internet.lu

Link: <http://www.mtk.lu/idee> - Initiative für direkte Demokratie, eine freie kulturell-kreative individuelle Entfaltung und eine solidarisch-ökologische wirtschaftliche Entwicklung

Lippert John, lipperti@pt.lu

UK

8 April, information from Mr. *Stan Price*: "The UK intends to utilize e-voting in this year's local government elections as a pilot testing of a system for voting they hope to have in place by the general election sometime after 2006. More information can be obtained by contacting 10 Downing street newsroom: <http://www.pmi.gov.uk/output/page3429.asp>

March 2003: Mr. *Stephen Rayner*, *The Campaign for Genuine Democracy*, sent to several relevant addresses *A discussion paper exploring the hypothesis that society is outgrowing the constraints of our over prescriptive style of governance and how change might be implemented.* **OLIGARCHY OR GRASS ROOTS**

Quotations: "It seems to many observers that there is a growing groundswell of discontent with the way our affairs are managed by central government, with no apparent reference to the wishes of the people.

This is hardly a new phenomenon since we have, throughout history, been either ruled or governed rather than consulted. So why at the beginning of this, the twenty-first century should people start to resent their dependence on the tiny group of people that forms the ruling oligarchy? There are doubtless many contributory factors helping to create this resentment, but almost certainly one factor relates to the manner in which we are educated. Over the decades we have become both better educated and encouraged to think for ourselves and as a result we have become increasingly frustrated when governments insist on treating us as imbeciles.

Would in reality the country be any better run if people were given the opportunity to set the agenda and then instruct their representatives to implement that agenda? Almost certainly the answer is no, or at least not initially. But this paper is not about minor improvements to the party political system, nor is it about governments going through the motions of consulting the people.

This paper is about laying foundations of a totally new form of society, one that has never existed before in the history of mankind. The really important issue has nothing to do with politics in their present form, instead it is concerned with the future of mankind itself. As things stand at present, the only outlet for most people's drive and ingenuity is to develop more and better ways to earn money so that they can then discover more and better ways to spend it.

Is this to be the future of mankind, to become nothing more than increasingly sophisticated consumers? If so one can only hope that some natural disaster will eradicate mankind from the surface of the planet as soon as possible. However, in my view we are only at the very beginning of mankind's development, until now we have probably needed to be ruled and governed, much as a small child needs parental guidance. The aim of this paper is to stimulate ideas as to how we can start the human race on the next stage of its development by liberating it from the fetters of governance."

...."What then should be the principal objective of government? In the most simple terms - to maintain and improve the well-being of the majority of the population. But who is to determine what represents well-being? Should it be a small handful of people who happen to possess the skills that have

enabled them to fight their way to the top in the field of party politics? Or should it be the majority of the electorate, perhaps articulating their views through the medium of direct democracy and the referendum?"

Mr. Rayner sums up the foundations of the present oligarchic systems in a concise and accurate way. His analyses and outlook for future developments have universal validity. The paper is highly relevant for all DD theorists and activists. Mr. Rayner welcomes feedback from members of our network. He can be contacted at stephen@p-o-w-e-r.co.uk

GERMANY

12 March, information from Mr. **Roman Huber**: A new wave of activities is being prepared by *Mehr Demokratie*: signature collecting; a new big democracy bus travelling through Germany and Europe; an appeal of constitutional law professors; Europe-wide presswork; lobbying parliamentarians; building up of an alliance of supporters in Germany.

A very important chance to collect signatures will be the EUROPE SOCIAL FORUM planned for November.

For more detailed information see <http://www.european-referendum.org>

ISRAEL

6 April, information from Ms **Yvonne Schmidt** through Mr. **Franz Isemann**:

America is not a role model by **Gideon Levy**

"Those who trample human rights in Israel are having a field day: Look at the behavior of the Americans in Iraq, they say. Every time troops open fire at a checkpoint, every killing of a civilian, every picture of siege and plight, leads to merriment here. The United States, the cradle of democracy, the leader of the free world, is behaving like us.

According to one report, 'IDF officers find it difficult to stop smiling' when they hear the reports of the war in Iraq. From now on, no one will be able to criticize their conduct in the territories. The New York Times reported that Israel even hastened to suggest that the United States learn from its experience in the use of tanks, helicopters and bulldozers in the center of cities and refugee camps.

Similar delight has also gripped those wishing to curb the media in Israel: Look at how America is censoring the images of the war in its media ...”

See www.haaretz.com

SWITZERLAND

21 January, information from Mr. *Vladimir Rott*: (Resent from swissinfo, Andrea Tognina, translated by Joanne Shields)

E-voting brings new potential to Swiss elections. Switzerland's first vote via the Internet passed successfully, with considerable enthusiasm shown on Sunday in the town of Anieres in canton Geneva.

But the vote raised several questions about the future of democratic elections in Switzerland. In particular, there are fears about the potential security risks of using the Internet to register a confidential vote. According to the authorities, a computer hacker working by trial and error has a one in five billion chance of getting into the system used by Anieres.

The system consisted of a mixture of pass codes and personal questions designed to build a sufficient defence against anyone trying to access a voter's details illegally. Each registered citizen received a 16-digit pass code in the post, which they needed to access the system. They then had to input another pass code and answer a number of personal questions before they were able to vote.

To ensure that hackers could not access the system, the authorities in Geneva asked Hacknet, a company that uses hackers to test online security systems, to try to enter it. They failed to do so, despite having six weeks to try, instead of the two they would have in reality. The security system is also closely guarded: Geneva's authorities control the system and it will not be used elsewhere. (For the whole text see:

<http://swissinfo.ch/sen/swissinfo.html?siteSect=105&sid=1578202>)

CZECH REPUBLIC

As in most, if not all, western countries, before the American invasion of Iraq, in Czech Republic too, there were street protests and several petitions. According to the polls, at least 66% of Czech citi-

zens were opposed to the support lent by their government to the Bush administration's war operations. The petitions asked the citizens to endorse the words **NOT IN MY NAME!** One of these actions was organized by the *Czech Movement for Direct Democracy*. Its spokesperson, Dr. *Milan Valach*, PhD, was even interviewed in the media.



The weakness of Czech citizen movements - and there are quite a few - is their reluctance to establish regular cooperation. Every organization is anxious to promote its own image, its own message, and its own leaders. Almost everybody is critical of the post-communist political establishment, but very few people are willing to do anything concrete about it. And most of those who do, are unwilling to cooperate. According to the experience made by MDD activists, two age categories are receptive for the DD idea: those under 20 and those over 60. The middle-aged are mostly indifferent or even negative. It will take a long time to neutralize the totalitarian psychological heritage. Our hopes lie with the youngest generation.

AUSTRALIA

10 April, information from Mr. *Ian Green* through PhD. *Milan Valach*:

Direct Democracy Forum update - www.DirectDemocracyForum.com

(Excerpts) "The Independent Gangsta Party Inc. www.theigp.org

Here is an interesting democracy web site and organisation. It is promoting voter participation directly in issues, which is supportive of my slogan 'Every person a member of the legislature!', and appears supportive of ideas such as direct democracy. The website is appealing to a younger demographic and includes snippets of good music (not dorky music) and speech and links to a lot of your direct democracy related websites as well as bite-sized links into issues designed to get people thinking."

"E-Democracy Meetup <http://e-democracy.meetup.com>

"International E-democracy Meetup Day in 7 Days" This is a site that promotes e-democracy advocates to meet-up in person at small venues in localities around the world at a specific time and date (in the local time zone). Thursday, Apr 17 at 6:00PM (3rd Thursday of every month) in your local time zone. (Which I guess means it is a bit less than seven days for a meeting held in Australia or New Zealand.)

Don't forget if we have not heard from your direct democracy organisation in some time, please let me know of any noteworthy developments and we will see if it can be included in the next update!

Regards, Ian Green Subscribe: ddf-subscribe@yahoo-groups.com

Direct Democracy Forum <http://ao.com.au/ddf>

List archive <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ddf>

Post for consideration by moderator: ddf@ao.com.au

EUROPE

4 March, Mr. *Vladimir Rott* wrote, "From a Swiss point of view, such an absolutistic relic, this is outrageous. It should be so from each citizen's view as well.

Fwd: <http://www.euobserver.com/index.phtml?aid=9058>

SUPPRESS CIVIL SERVANTS' IMMUNITY

Franck Biancheri - "Democracy is not only about elections and choosing leaders. It is also very much

about the ability of those leaders to command the bureaucrats and the administrations."

EUOBSERVER/SALT&PEPPER - "At a time when major transfers of power are being prepared, from national to European administrations, it is more than necessary to check whether all conditions are met to ensure that these administrations are not beyond citizens reach and accountability.

(It is necessary) ... to impose the people's choices; as well as the guarantee for the citizens that administrations are not safe-havens preserving bureaucrats from justice.

This part of the democratic process tends often to be forgotten although it is as vital as free elections. Indeed, totalitarian states or dictatorships can only survive because of a strong complicity between leaders and bureaucrats, against the people.

EU civil servants are not submitted to the law as normal citizens are.....

EU leaders are afraid of raising this question with EU civil servants"

5 March, information from Mr. *Vladimir Rott*:

CALL FOR AN "OPEN EUROPE" launched by the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) and Statewatch. > Read more, sign online at: <http://www.statewatch.org/secret/call.htm>

"A new code on the citizens' right of access to documents in the European Union is currently being discussed by the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. In the "corridors of power" in Brussels the positions of these institutions indicate that they seem more concerned with establishing rights for themselves (through so-called interinstitutional "deals") than for the citizen.

These essays have therefore been written to encourage a much wider debate throughout the whole of civil society so that its voice can be heard in a way that cannot be ignored. Access to documents in the EU is not a "gift" from on high to be packaged, sanitised and manipulated, it is a "right which is fundamental in a democracy". Tony Bunyan, Deirdre Curtin and Aidan White, Introduction to "Essays for an Open Europe".

Read more, sign online at:

<http://www.statewatch.org/secret/call.htm>

31 March: IRI EUROPE WATCH Vol 2, No 2 - Spring 2003

Contents

1. Editorial: In War and Peace

Read the article at www.iri-europe.org/europewatch/europewatch2003-2.html#1

2. EU Convention: Working Group Agrees on I&R Proposals

Read at www.iri-europe.org/europewatch/europewatch2003-2.html#2

3. Essay: Checkpoint Citizen - the Case for Direct Democracy

Read at www.iri-europe.org/europewatch/europewatch2003-2.html#3

4. Referendum Year 2003: A First Critical Survey

Read at www.iri-europe.org/europewatch/europewatch2003-2.html#4

5. Germany: Initiatives Yes, Referendums No!

Read at www.iri-europe.org/europewatch/europewatch2003-2.html#5

6. Andi's Comment: The Limits of Direct Democracy

Read at www.iri-europe.org/europewatch/europewatch2003-2.html#6

7. IRI Europe Spring Briefing:

Read at www.iri-europe.org/europewatch/europewatch2003-2.html#7

2 May, information from Mr. *Thomas Rupp*:

ERC NEWSLETTER #04 - MAY 02, 2003

<http://www.european-referendum.org>

Here are the news:

75 Convention members support EU Referendum

You will find the current list of signatories (six signatories are missing) at

<http://www.european-referendum.org/convention.html>

Growing ERC-activities in 8 countries

Read the short reports concerning the countries' activities...

<http://www.european-referendum.org/up/up24.html>

Strong support for EU Referendum in Germany

Read more at....

<http://www.european-referendum.org/up/up26.html>

<http://www.european-referendum.org/up/up25.html>

Enjoy the spring! Best wishes - Ronald Pabst / Heiko Dittmer / Thomas Rupp / Michael Efler

E - GOVERNMENT

30 January, a letter from Mr. *Bernard Clayson*:

Breaking News and Commentary from Citizens for Legitimate Government, January 30, 2003

<http://www.legitgov.org> Links to these and other stories are found on our website at: http://legitgov.org/index.html#breaking_news

"GOP Senator Chuck Hagel Now Admits Ownership in Voting Machine Company - Senate Ethics Committee Director Resigns "One underlying

issue is whether Hagel properly disclosed his financial ties to Election Systems & Software (ES&S), a company that makes nearly half the voting machines used in the United States, including all those used in his native Nebraska... The voting machine company makes sophisticated optical scan and touch-screen vote-counting devices that many states have begun buying in recent years". Could this be the reason three GOP candidates in Texas each got 18,181 votes in the 2002 "election", a veritable statistical impossibility? Well, "this" story should receive a predictable five pico-seconds of media coverage on CensoringNewsNetwork and MoreSh*tNoBrainsCable. Click here for more on the stolen "elections" of 2002."

12 March, Information from Mr. *John Suhr*: "This may be of interest. Note among other significant things that the Yale University Law School is now promoting digital democracy (EDD): The Dialogue Community:

http://www.thataway.org/dialogue/com/com_intro.htm

Or click on the DD site directly:

<http://islandia.law.yale.edu/isp/strongdem/overview.html>

Support of the EDD idea by such a prestigious institution surely signals a significant advance - another positive evolutionary step."

29 March, Information from Mr. *John Suhr*: "Here's an interesting site from Steve Magruder. It could help locate others interested in DD/EDD in members own localities and help promote local action.

"One of my favorite new web sites, meetup.com, has recently started a topic for "e-democracy" (<http://e-democracy.meetup.com/>).

What's cool about this service is that you can identify people in your area who are interested in a particular topic, then meet with them once a month at a local restaurant, pub or other meeting place. It's totally free of charge to the participants, although the owners of the meeting places have to pay some sort of fee.

This could be a very good way of attracting new people to our movement, and what's esp. cool is that we can do this at a local level. Real grassroots stuff!"

19 April: Information from Mr. **Stephen Clift**:

Democracies Online Newswire - <http://e-democracy.org/do>

Join over 2650 subscribers, from 75 countries on DO-WIRE

From page 20:

When asked to name the most important potential benefit of e-government, 28% of Americans cite a government that is more accountable to its citizens, 19% say a government that is more efficient and cost-effective, 18% think greater access to public information, and 13% say more convenient government services. If the development of e-government realizes these benefits, the changes could significantly alter the way that Americans think about their relationship with government. Americans unmistakably see e-government as a way to play a greater role in democracy and in the process of governance, and those types of personal investments can only make government assessments more positive. As a predictor, individuals who are very interested in e-government services rate the federal government's ability to solve problems and help people as higher than do those who are not interested in the services (42% very/fairly satisfied compared with 28%).

TERRORISM OR CONSPIRACY?

27 February, a letter sent to the CICDD discussion channel:

"Greetings,

My name is Buddy Grizzard and I am an independent writer, researcher and activist from Atlanta, Georgia, USA. I run a private, invitation-only list for activists and researchers seeking to bring the verifiable facts about 9/11 into the public consciousness. Among subscribers to my list are Ruppert, "The War on Freedom" author and British political scientist Nafeez Mossadeq Ahmed, "The War on Freedom" publisher John P. Leonard, UnansweredQuestions.org co-founder Kyle F. Hence, Guerrilla News Network (guerillanews.com) editor Anthony Lappe and the-memoryhole.org publisher Russ Kick, among others.

Michael C. Ruppert is a former Los Angeles Police Department narcotics detective who currently runs an online newsletter, FromtheWilderness.com, which has 4000 subscribers in 32 countries, inclu-

ding 20 members of the U.S. Congress. While serving with the LAPD, Ruppert was recruited by the CIA to take part in drug smuggling operations. When he sought to bring this to the attention of his superiors, he was forced out of the LAPD.

He has since worked tirelessly to expose the U.S. government's connections with international drug trafficking. After Gary Webb's "Dark Alliance" series in the San Jose Mercury News, CIA Director John Deutch was dispatched to Locke High School in South Central Los Angeles to reassure L.A.'s citizens that the CIA was not complicit in the crack epidemic. You can view a video of Ruppert's confrontation with Deutch, which was carried on live national television, here: <http://guerillanews.com/crack>

You can read Ruppert's opening remarks to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence here:

<http://www.bighula.com/ftw/free/ciadrugs/ssci.html> You can see a general bio here:

<http://www.bighula.com/ftw/about.html>

Since 9/11, Ruppert has delivered a series of lectures in three countries detailing the transparent flaws in the U.S. government's handling and characterization of the events of 9/11. He is perhaps the single most important researcher in that area, and as such has been subjected to attacks in the media, especially by former State Department employee and Nation Magazine Washington editor David Corn, who has delivered a series of straw-man attacks on Ruppert's arguments." ...

4 February: A letter sent to the Simpold discussion channel:

WORLD-ACTION: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

<http://www.world-action.co.uk/important.html>

"Presently, a great number of hideous facts are making themselves known to an ever-growing, vast number of people worldwide - such as the great deception and cover-up of the fact that forces internal to the USA and within and behind the USA government instigated the attacks of 11 September 2001, and that the present 'War on Terror' is a hoax to move these powers - some refer to them as 'The New World Order' - towards further, or complete world domination. Millions of people are getting one heck of a huge education right at this very moment.

However, we must go further than '9-11' and the 'War On Terror'; and embrace and extend past the who and why President Kennedy was killed, and look at why there has been a FIFTY YEAR cover-up and mass-disinformation on such subjects as 'Free Energy'; why cancer has ballistically increased during this time (at about the same rate electromagnetic pollution has increased) and though vast effort is put into its cure no real progress is made; and why we have been taught to deride and dismiss these fantastic craft which have been video filmed from the space shuttle and which are regularly seen by millions of people worldwide every year over the past FIFTY YEARS. ...

World-Action's 'IMPORTANT INFORMATION' collection of certain data and events from the past 50 years, provides the picture that there has been and is a vast conspiracy by rich and powerful people to keep worldwide control, and to keep us in a dank, futile, dark and suffering half-existence. Their weapons are covert control of governments, control of all main media and news, and technology of many, varied types. 'Important Information' concentrates on TECHNOLOGY. Many people will probably find it hard to believe how greatly technology, in all its many varied forms, has been and is used against us."

30 January: Information from **Citizens for Legitimate Government** www.legitgov.org
(Excerpt; sent by Mr. *Bernard Clayson* to the CICDD discussion channel)

"(un)Clear and (un)Present Danger? (A Commentary on Bush's State of the Union Speech 1/28/03) - by Michael Rectenwald "And so we have it, the mythological warfare. The imagery of such myth dwarfs all others. The economy is quotidian, ordinary, and mundane by comparison. The secular, mundane world becomes not only trifling, but those concerned with it, somewhat tainted. They are tainted by material concerns, even selfish desires. The economy is small scale compared to the celestial battles fought in the theatre of God's wars. There lies a greater economy, where the losses and gains are tabulated in sums of 'Providence', 'freedom' and 'democracy'. Of course, there are those of us who see in this rhetoric a magical metaphor of exchange, where values are secretly swapped, inverted in fact."

In commemoration of Thomas Paine's Birthday (January 29)

Letter from Friends of Thomas Paine member thanking the CLG for doing Paine's work.

State of the Union Address: A Case Study in Projection - by Stephen Gowans "Psychoanalysts call it projection: attributing one's own attitudes and motives to others. **George W. Bush's State of the Union address last night was a case study in projection.** Billed, in part, as a 'statement of purpose' on Iraq, the speech, which had all the trappings of an emperor's address from the throne, painted a picture of Iraq which seemed more fitting as a portrait of the United States under George II's reign."

Yearly subscription for this Newsletter: \$ 10.-

Account Nr.: Jiri Polak, 002022-0168677293 at CS, Jugoslavska 19, Praha 2, Czech Republic



WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5 (No. 2) June 2003

Published by MDD - Movement for Direct Democracy, Czech Republic.
Responsible editor: **Jiri Polak**, Design: Bohuslav Binka, Picture: Katka Svehlova,

MDD - MOVEMENT FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY

JIRI POLAK
ASSARHUSAVAGEN 64
S-24736
S.SANBY, SWEDEN
PHONE: 046/58891
E-MAIL:
JIRI.POLAK@SWIPNET.SE

