



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

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WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER DIRECTRACY

The Power of Stereotypes by Jiri Polak

When promoting DD, we must be prepared to meet with some deeply rooted stereotypes, difficult - but certainly not impossible - to overcome. From my own experience, I can quote at least four examples, probably the most typical ones. Recently, I was invited to give a lecture on Direct Democracy for members of the *Sisyphos Club* - Czech intellectuals meeting every Friday evening at the Pen Club, Prague. The words "direct democracy" emerge relatively often in Czech media, but few people have any deeper knowledge of this subject. I focused on the project of a *Citizens' Constitution*, including both popular referenda and deliberative processes, and other requirements of the worldwide DD movement. Coming from representatives of an intellectual elite, the reaction was astounding.

1. *Lack of analytical skill.* An elderly professor simply rejected the idea of a *Citizens' Constitution* claiming that "this would result in chaos". In his eyes, the successful Swiss experience, the Porto Alegre's and Albacete's no less successful inclusion of the general public in budget processes, the Planning Cells and *Citizens' Juries*, and the dozens of excellent theoretical analyses including detailed, well underpinned models - all that was unrealistic rubbish. But the professor had probably never heard of such things. If so, let me refer to the famous philosopher *Wittgenstein* who said approximately, "If you don't understand something, you should remain silent."

2. *Self-indulgent arrogance.* Another participant of the meeting said, "This means soliciting opinion from stupid people." In (perhaps) less extreme form, this is probably the opinion of the majority, not only belonging to the upper classes, but representing the man-in-the-street as well. In some contexts, it cannot be denied that referendums might concern issues a qualified assessment of which requires knowledge the grassroots do not possess. However, firstly, there *are* important issues that do not require such knowledge and could be decided by referendum as responsibly, or more so, as by politicians who usually have a hidden agenda, not quite consonant with the interests of the citizens

Prague

21st March 2009: A Coalition of European DD Parties and Organisations formally established: DDEV - Direct Democratic EURO-VISION



Only 3 "Founding Fathers" were physically present. A fourth one, Mr. *Kevin Lone*, France, sent a supportive letter. One of the participants was Eng *Zdenek Trinkewitz*, formerly manager of one of the biggest Czech-Slovak companies, management theorist and a prominent promoter of DD in Czech Republic. In his blog, he regularly comments on current affairs. His writings attract hundreds of readers.

Eng.Trinkewitz is an informal member and active collaborator of the *Czech Democracy Movement* (Demokracie). His participation in our efforts is invaluable.

involved. And, secondly, in our draft of a Citizens' Constitution, we claim that referendums requiring special knowledge should be preceded by public deliberation according to well-proven models - *Planning Cells*, *Citizen Juries* or *Scientific Deliberative Polling*. A referendum organized after hearing the recommendation of such highly qualified bodies produces almost certainly better decisions than (inevitably) biased politicians. All this taken into account, the arrogant underestimation of ordinary citizens' intelligence and analytical ability is itself stupid or malevolent.

3. *Mixing up cause and effect*. During my lecture, I pointed out that in Switzerland, there are 27 cantons enjoying a relatively high degree of autonomy. Statistics show that the population of cantons where instruments of DD are strongest have approximately 15 % higher living standards than those where DD is weakest. The reason should be obvious: The more people are allowed to manage their own affairs, the more will they focus on making the system as favourable and efficient for themselves as possible, which means, among other things, to abolish unnecessary bureaucracy, to facilitate private enterprise, to assure good quality services and infrastructure, to keep taxes at a minimum, etc. To my surprise, one person in the audience drew a different conclusion: "Maybe it's the other way round - well-to-do people tend to require more DD." Well, even if this might be so, it's just one more argument in favour of DD. Well-to-do people must be smart people, otherwise they would not have become well-to-do. If smart people establish DD rather than representative systems, it must mean that DD is better than representation.

4. *Myopia*. Lack of analytical skill can sometimes result in a distortion of perspective: A grudging interlocutor can focus on a marginal and unimportant aspect of an idea and thus disqualify the whole doctrine, by-passing its core. During my lecture, I sent round Sen.Gravel's book *Citizen Power*. A person in the audience said, "This is no good. I reject it. Gravel wants to legalize the use of drugs." A judgement passed after casting a cursory look at a few marginal lines, while not even noticing what the book as a whole was really about! Unbelievable!

Psychologically, however, these irrational attitudes make sense. The people gathered in the Pen Club to listen to my lecture had passed their adolescence and most of adult life under a regime which bombarded them daily with propaganda claiming that their one party dictatorship was vastly superior to the corrupt multi-party systems of the West. This allegation being blatant nonsense and no other alternative appearing to exist, the opposite, i.e. Western parliamentarism, "must be" the right thing to stick to. When, out of the blue, somebody comes and pretends that ordinary people should be given the opportunity to decide about their own affairs, this must seem preposterous.

People in the West are better placed, but they, too, are being incessantly brainwashed by the establishment and its media. "Since we live in a democracy..." "We must care for our democracy..." "This is incompatible with democracy..." "Democracies act more slowly than dictatorships but, eventually, they will prevail." Phrases of this type do not admit a shadow of doubt concerning the nature of party-based systems. Nevertheless, increasingly, the understanding creeps up to the surface: **Rule exerted by political parties without a continuous citizen control is not democracy, but corrupt, oligarchic partyocracy. It is a bloody dictatorship!** (1)



the photograph of Eng.Trinkewitz)



the book *Management* published by Eng.Trinkewitz)

The Polish Citizen organisation JOW, promoting *Single Member Constituencies*, sent an observer, Mr. *Witold Dyrka*.



W. Dyrka)

jedno – JOW mandatowe okregi wyborcze

Janusz Sanocki

**Demokracja
to wybór bezpośredni**

Jerzy Przystawa

**Typowe nieporozumienia
na temat JOW**

Jedno-mandatowe okregi wyborcze - Single Mandate Constituencies)

At the Prague meeting, the wording of the DDEV Charter, published in the previous Newsletter, was confirmed. The discussions were focused on the rules of participation and issues of Strategy. (2)

It was agreed that we should meet twice a year. The location of the next meeting, scheduled for September, was not decided upon. For March 2010, Mr. *Giorgios Kokkas* proposed Greece. Next year, it will be the 10th anniversary of the Second CICDD conference, organised by Mr. *Kokkas* in his country - the cradle of democracy. All those attending that conference surely remember the superb organisation in an inspiring environment of Athens and Delphi. To hold a third DDEV conference there is surely a good idea. It might be combined with a new CICDD conference, if there is sufficient interest.

After the Prague meeting, Mr. *Kokkas* issued a press release. It was agreed that, after 6 - 7 years, the original founders would step back and let new people take over.

Theses of the Italian *Democrazia Federale* (selected quotations, translated)

"Millions of Italians, vexed and disgusted by politics, do no longer vote; others still succumb to the illusion that something will change; year after year, all of them see the country sink into material impoverishment and moral degradation.

Our political system, that which guides the Nation through the fight of parties, is rotten.

Some people's egoism, many people's corruption, and the disenchantment of most citizens do not augur for any positive change; this system is unable to correct itself and since sixty years, it drags Italy toward a moral and economic abyss.

We - members of Federal Democracy - do not resign ourselves to watching our nation's decline.

We have set off on the task of revolutionizing the system of political rule of the country, of eliminating corruption fostered by the parties, of restoring the Italians' faith in their own resources and their future.

We do not use guns, we will make revolution using a much more powerful weapon: your vote."

".... to understand that ideological differences among various parties only serve as a justification of the existence of the parties themselves, to be bent on a change of our political system, is the first step toward a dignified life of free citizens."

"Everything is organized so that you find this situation natural and indisputable, and that it never occurs to you that the governance of a country might be possible without the intervention of parties.

The existence and role of parties are not inherent in our political system; the Constitution mentions them only once, in passing, by saying that the citizens are free to organize themselves in parties. Then what exactly are the parties?

They are simply associations of private persons through which some citizens grasp power and pretend to use it as people's representatives, as that power's sole and unique legitimate incumbents. They do that under the pretext that power was given them by the people.

During the sixty years of the Republic's existence, they have been spreading as a puddle of oil, invading everything possible, from state and semi-state institutions to services of the neighbourhood.

A hungry pack of partisan flunkies, parasites, failed advocates, loafers and petty criminals have created for themselves a marvellous device which permits them to lead a comfortable life, protected from any economic crisis and requirements of efficiency. "

After the devastating criticism of this kind, the booklet analyses more in depth the functioning of the Italian party system: The financing of the parties; the main purpose of the institutions - to assure the fidelity of the electoral basis as the precondition of the luxurious life of the political class; the damage done to the most successful enterprises of the nation; the income of the incumbents of the hypertrophic political institutions - the President, the Senate, the Parliament, the administration - as compared to other sections of the population;

What to do to overcome this intolerable situation?

First of all, the citizens should take interest in politics. To only complain is useless. The individual should become aware of the fact that he/she is not alone. Federal Democracy offers to the people instruments of improvement of their lives. Abolish unjustified privileges! Establish transparency! Important reforms, like the adoption of a European Constitution, must be authorized directly by the people!

It is necessary to abolish political dynasties. It should be practically possible to elect any citizen whom people trust.

"Our system is not a party. Measures should be taken only after people had clearly expressed their consent, i.e. by using procedures of Direct Democracy.

The centralized State must be transformed into a federal State. Decision-making must proceed from bottom up, from the communal level, via the regional level until the State level.

The above principles are what we call **Federalism**.

Federal Democracy is not a party. It is a method by which the people takes their Nation's destiny in its own hands. We want to start a nation-wide movement based on transparency and honesty. Let's begin!"

See www.democrazia-federale.it

GREECE

On 21 May Mr. **Giorgios Kokkas** wrote, "We are extremely active participating officially with our own party 'GREEK MOVEMENT for DIRECT DEMOCRACY' in the elections for the next European Parliament and we need your and everybody's support!"

The Greek Party are preparing a Blog under the address www.futuredemocracy.blogspot.com

On 23 May, the Greek movement held a conference in Athens labelled *Future Democracy - Establishing Citizens in Decision-making*. Eng. F. Tonini was scheduled to attend but was prevented by some urgent problems at home. Nevertheless he sent a speech which was delivered in his name by a participant. In the speech, Eng. Tonini informed the audience about the recently established DDEV coalition and about its purpose and perspectives.

On 31 May, Mr. Kokkas wrote, "I wish to announce to you that we begun to run our new Greek DD site: www.dimopolis.gr with links to the WDDM site and our DDEV blog. Please, have a look at it. The symbol with "double E and the olive tree on the right" is our new Greek DD coalition named: "Greek Direct Democracy Movement" made by us, "European Sympolitia" and the party "EAR", participating next Sunday independently as the ONLY pure DD party in Europe in the European Parliamentary elections."

On 5 June Mr. Kokkas wrote, "Look at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOv5WRT21Kw>

Also my site www.dimopolis.gr. They have to do with our campaign of Greek Direct Democracy Movement in the elections for members of the European Parliament next Sunday June 7th 2009. I am leading the Direct Democratic list participating in this Medieval game of representative Democracy, but expressing our ideas to big public!"

CZECH REPUBLIC

Internal Offset - an anti-corruption project - Economic and Social Equilibrium - promoted by the Czech *Democracy Movement (Demokracie DK)*

Definition: The Internal Offset is an alternative use of budgeted spending, aimed at a reduction of differences between economically strong and weak regions, without making additional demands on the budget. The Internal Offset can be applied in all branches of economy financed by public means.

The Leading Principle: By means of preventive self-regulating elements to wipe out corruption and to put in place a strategy for solving the problem of unemployment. The Internal Offset suggests a radical change of the state's investment policy in favour of the preservation of natural wealth, landscape, architecture and urbanism, with a view to behaving responsibly vis-a-vis future generations and to reducing the state debt.

What is Offset? Basically, it is a retroactive economic compensation.

Method: Orders placed for projects financed by public means have to be regulated by the following criteria:

1. The price proposed
2. Unemployment
3. Productivity
4. References
5. Contribution to solving the problem of unemployment

The criteria of *unemployment* and *productivity* are interdependent and their application has a synergetic and preventive effect - prevention of corruption and dumped prices and of the

increase of unemployment in economically weak regions: they are uniform, (self)regulating and motivational criteria.

How to achieve these results?

By the introduction of fair criteria of competition for public orders, honest use of the taxes collected from the citizens and eradication of corruption. The use of uniform criteria, which can be objectively and mathematically evaluated, will significantly reduce the possibility of manipulating the results of competition.

A rational use of the money which now end in the pockets of middlemen dealing with public orders will increase employment and promote the development of economically weak regions.

Internal Offset does not require any investments. It could be applied in all countries of the EU and in any country of the world. It might become one of the elements of democratization processes.

The Internal Offset has been conceived by Mr. **Petr Czasch**, chairman of the **Democracy Movement (Demokracie DK)**.

The basic idea could be expressed by a simple statement: **Stick to honest means and procedures in all fields of activity!**

Honesty is indeed the basic principle of the Czech DD Movement - and surely of all members of the DDEV. It is this principle by which we hope to defeat the now existing profoundly corrupt oligarchic structures. The distressing situation pictured by *Democrazia Federale* in Italy is similar to that of the Czech Republic, and surely all other parliamentary systems, which are fostering corruption as their integral element.

According to calculations, if the Internal Offset were put in place in Czech Republic, each citizen's net monthly income could increase by about **180 euro** because this is approximately what each citizen pays unnecessarily in the form of corruption-swallowed taxes.

This might be our strongest argument!

FRANCE

25 April, a letter sent to Eng. **Federico Tonini** by Mr. **Kevin Lone** (translated from French):

"Dear Mr. Tonini,

sorry for late answer, I waited to see if I would be able to come to Prague. Unfortunately, I was prevented by my professional duties.

Nevertheless, the RDD participates as founding member of the European Movement for Direct Democracy, provided that all other founding organisations, as well as those who will join in future, would not be attached in any way, as dependants or sympathisers, to any movement or political party.

Indeed, our only aim is to promote Direct Democracy in Europe and globally, and nothing else.

As we already discussed, we must remain totally neutral as to various ideologies that have brought us into the disastrous political, economic and social situation in which we are at present.

Those various ideologies are anything but democratic.

Enclosed please find a document concerning the RDD's consent to be a founding member of the European movement.

Please keep me informed about the continued development and keep sending me the official documents concerning this movement.

I want to thank you and all your friends for the excellent work concerning the European movement you have already accomplished.

Please present our excuses to all friends attending the Prague meeting and assure them that we are with you.

With friendly greetings, hoping to meet you soon,

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Lone



RASSEMBLEMENT

pour la

LA DEMOCRATIE DIRECTE





RDD - France

Paris, le 06 mars 2009

Je soussigné Monsieur Kevin LONE Président du Rassemblement pour la Démocratie Directe - RDD - France, certifie au nom de tous ses membres donner son plein accord pour intégrer les membres fondateurs du mouvement DD EUROPE à la condition que toutes les associations fondatrices ainsi que toutes celles qui seront intégrées à l'avenir ne soient en aucune manière attachées, plus ou moins dépendantes ou sympathisantes d'un quelconque mouvement ou parti politique

Le Président du RDD
Kevin LONE

DDEV - Draft of a Website

DD		DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION DDEV		
Italy  DEMOCRAZIA FEDERALE D'AMERICA FEDERALE	INTRODUCTION	CHARTER	MEMBER	Czech Republic  DEMOKRACIE DK
	LOCAL MEMBERSHIP		ACTUAL ACTIVITIES	
	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Since the 1980s, in most European countries, direct action groups, organizations and even political parties promoting Direct Democracy have been emerging. Although many of them maintain informal mutual contacts, basically, they pursue separate lines of action. At the same time, all or most of their members adhere to the same general principles. We believe that all would be strengthened if these common principles were made explicit and endorsed by a formal association, if possible. For this reason, we have established a coalition under the above name, founded by representatives coming from 4 countries - Italy, Greece, Czech Republic and France. Long time DD activists will join us. There are no conditions attached to membership in the Coalition - DDEV - (no other explicit endorsement of our common Charter (see below). The coalition members will be allowed (and encouraged) to use our common signs and participate in European elections as members of the DDEV. They will also have at their disposal a quarterly <i>Direct Democratic Euro-Know-Action</i>, published both in print and on-line. This will be a decision place for bringing relevant information and open to proposals, ideas and discussions. The purpose of DDEV is to start or reinforce the process of democratization of the Europe and increasingly authoritarian party-based parliamentary systems by introducing in their centers of direct democracy. In the age of the Internet, political parties are redundant. Eventually, they have to disappear or be reduced to mere interest organizations. DDEV members are supposed to engage in electronic campaigns, media hearings and the like, with the view of stimulating the current political party system.</p>			
Greece  ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΣΥΜΠΟΛΙΤΕΙΑ				
France  RASSEMBLEMENT POUR LA DÉMOCRATIE DIRECTE				Cyprus
www.ddev.eu				

Founders - signatories:

Federico Tonini
for the *Democrazia Federale*, Italy

Giorgios Kokkas
for the *European Sympoliteia*, Greece

Jiri Polak
for the *Democracy Movement*
(Demokracie DK) Czech Republic

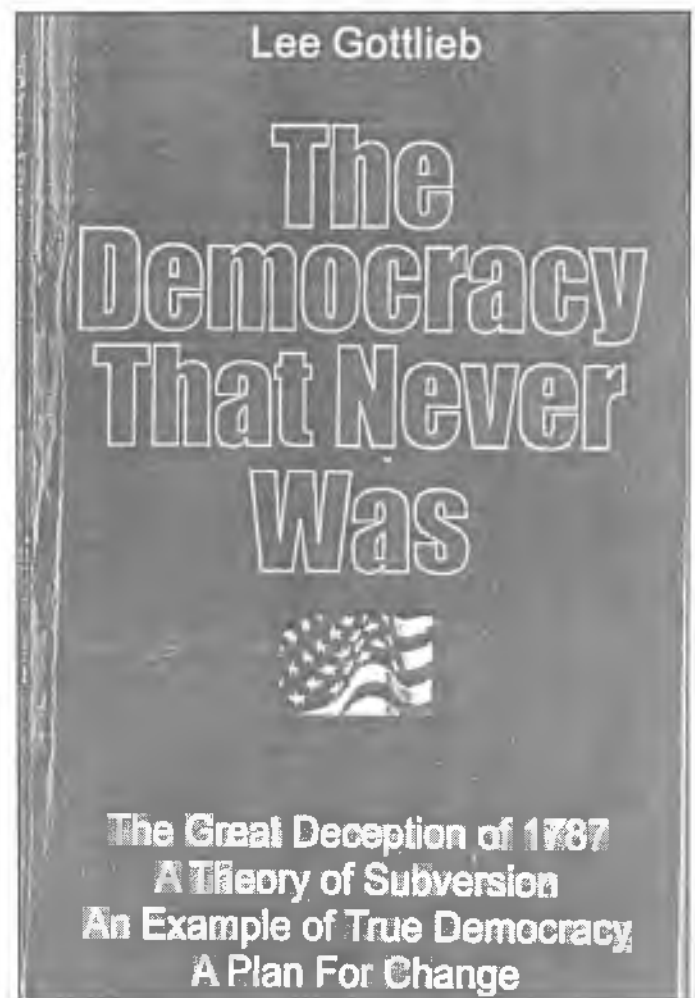
Kevin Lone
for the *Rassemblement pour la Démocratie Directe*, France



INTERNATIONAL USA

April 2009

Mr. **Lee Gottlieb**, one of the most prominent contemporary political thinkers and activists, published two books which should be read by every person concerned with the political and social future of mankind, and especially the USA. One of the books, **The Democracy that Never Was**, deals with the establishment and history of the North American Republic since 1787 until now. The other, **The Malfunctioning Animal**, with a subtitle *A Theory of Human Metamorphosis*, puts forward a general theory of political systems. The perspective resembles the vision of young Marx, but has nothing to do with Marxism's erroneous analyses and conclusions. After the prepublication in April, the final version was scheduled for publication in May, after a publicity and marketing campaign.



The Democracy that Never Was

In the Introduction, the author mentions the background of some of the wars started by the USA in the name of "democracy" and "freedom". He explains why he began to study American history and politics - a life-long project which has resulted in the books the reader now holds in his/her hands.

The American Revolution was started and won by wealthy white farmers who didn't want to go on paying taxes to London. It didn't establish democracy, but a representative system giving power to a minority of rich people to the detriment of the poor. The latter are called "commoners" by Mr. Gottlieb and he consid-

ers himself to be one of them. Undoubtedly, among the "Founding Fathers" there were well-meaning people and the Constitution was a step forward in the social and political development of American - and global - society. However, from our point of view, it was deficient and began soon to be misused, in spite of the successive amendments.

Quote - page 23:

"It means the American Republic has never been a union of individuals seeking liberty and security, but of colonial Establishments seeking to suppress the basic human rights of their common citizens.

It means the unending poverty, mass ignorance, government bullying of commoners, and artificially contrived wars since 1787 - all of which have benefitted wealthy Americans - have been possible because common Americans are excluded from the *American System's* decision-making process.

It means the paradox of the "democratic" republic called the "United States of America" is it is the democracy *that never was*"

In the **Addendum** at the end of the book, in contrast to the crude reality of the existing system, Mr.Gottlieb has included the following documents:

- 1 **Declaration of the Rights of Man** (France 1789)
- 2 **People's Party Platform** (July 1892 and July 24 1896)
- 3 **Progressive Party Platform** (1912)
- 4 **Democratic Party Platform** (1932)
- 5 **Fictional America's Pledge of Allegiance** (suggested by *Lee Gottlieb*, January 2003)
- 6 **True Democracy Party Platform** (suggested by *Lee Gottlieb*, 2003)
- 7 **Constitution of America** (suggested by *Lee Gottlieb*, April 2006)

The book has 303 pages. The second book - **The Malfunctioning Animal** - containing a vision of 2 graphic models of truly democratic systems of the future - will be presented in the September issue of this newsletter. Mr.Gottlieb's website: www.americaninstituteofdd.com

23 April, National Initiative for Democracy Update:
(download from <http://ni4d.us/en/node/326> Mike

Gravel explains NI4D (4)

9 May, The National Initiative for Democracy Newsletter (excerpts)

* We have a new 23 minute video narrating two hypothetical examples of the initiative procedure specified by the Democracy Act. This video consists of some audio from the 2002 Democratic Symposium and a video track put together by John Wynne Jr. with help from Shree Mulay and others. Educate yourself about NI4D; visit <http://ni4d.us/en/node/326> to watch it.



* The video production team is taking shape. Read our biographies here. Tentatively, Nicolas Holthaus volunteered to lead the effort as executive producer. Evan Strobel volunteered to direct. We also have volunteers for script writing, music, and aspects of video assembly (refer to the biography page above). Please join the [ni4d-video group](#) if you are interested in getting involved. We can use all the help we can get.

* Senator Mike Gravel continues his efforts to advocate for a national ballot initiative in Korea. Read his most recent letter detailing the progress to date.

* If you missed it, I invite you to read a recent article in the New Yorker about the National Popular Vote plan which is now being ratified across the country. "Nevada Assembly became the twenty-seventh state legislative chamber to pass the National Popular Vote bill, which so far has become law in Maryland, New Jersey, Illinois, and Hawaii." Here is evidence that big changes can happen to our federal government in our own time. NI4D could be next.

13 May, a circular letter sent round by Sen. *Mike Gravel* (abbreviated):

"How can we achieve public policy that more closely reflects the public interest? Bring the people - American voters - into a decision-making role in government as citizen-lawmakers in partnership with their elected representatives. The National Initiative for Democracy (NI4D), a legislative proposal that amends the Constitution and provided legislative procedures in a Federal Statute, does just that: empowers citizens (you and I) to be able to vote on the public policies that affect our lives - empowers citizens (us) as lawmakers.

I ran for president to bring attention to the National Initiative. As a result:

There is a growing list of volunteers; We are sending out monthly news letters; Other people than myself are now speaking out about this in public; People are planning film projects about NI4D; More and more people are now blogging about the National Initiative; A very real grass-roots effort has begun which will be difficult to ignore; NI4D is far more well known today than before I ran for president.

However, the problem now is that the Obama presidency has generated a renewed optimism that representative government

may work this time. Donations have greatly decreased. It will take some time before Americans realize that electing a new cadre of politicians will not bring change. The rhetoric of White House policy is considerably improved and sounds cooperative but with one thousand military bases around the world, our nation's policy remains imperialistic, even though we are broke and going the way of all empires.

At a conference on direct democracy, last October in Switzerland, a professor from South Korea heard me speak about the National Initiative and asked if it could be applicable in Korea. My research before and since my subsequent trip to South Korea has convinced me that South Korea is one of the likeliest venues in the world to enact a National Initiative.

Most significantly, the South Korean Constitution is superior to our own.

The host of my initial trip (Korea Democracy Foundation) was not able to extend financial support for my return trip to Korea due to delays in government funding. Nevertheless, some members of the Foundation and others have facilitated setting up lectures at universities and civic organizations. The title of my lecture says it all: "This Generation of Koreans has a Rendezvous with Destiny."

I firmly believe we can succeed in enacting the National Initiative in Korea. The global attention generated by this success will become the catalyst to enact the National Initiative in the U.S. The KNI will then become the 21st century national model for direct democracy copied by most G-20 countries.

The Democracy Foundation (the sponsor of the National Initiative) needs funding to prosecute its programs in the U.S. and to finance my travel expenses until we can do a Korean fund raising campaign. I desperately need your help. Therefore, I am appealing to you - the 8,000 supporters on my Facebook political account, and the 20,000 in the National Initiative database - to make a donation to keep the National Initiative vision alive.

.....
Follow our progress at www.mikegravel.us and at www.NI4D.US. "

22 May, Mr. **Evan Ravitz**: sent round the 2nd edition of the National Ballot Initiative News. The NI4D has been endorsed by several new adherents: Pete Seeger, Coleen Rowley, Ralph Nader "Vote at Vote.org to take the "mock" out of democracy!" (6)

7 April, information sent to the WDDM discussion channel - new DD organization:
<http://uswgo.hyipo.net/> "We the People Run the Government Organization" (7)

25 February, "**Reality**" Television Social Engineering
<http://newworldliberty.wordpress.com/2009/02/23/majority-of-us-states-join-sovereignty-movement> (Excerpt)

"A majority of states have bills passed or have proposed bill which affirm 10th Amendment rights. Some affirm additional rights and/or give specific reasons. New Hampshire has written the most aggressive legislation.

With the economy collapsing, it is a very real and immediate danger that the federal government can turn into a completely criminal and fascist government. They'll put foreign troops on their streets. They'll grab people to put in forced labor or concentration camps if they are unemployed or protesting. They'll conduct experiments on these prisoners.

This is especially true since a private corporation owned by a small group of people, who own over half the world's wealth, control our currency and monetary policy through the Federal Reserve. They also have such power over the world as a whole through the World Bank, IMF, most other national central banks,

numerous well-funded non-government organizations, and numerous corrupted government officials.

The Federal Reserve owners want the economy to collapse so they can grab real assets and power. Their whole monetary system is a giant ponzi scheme designed to fail because money is based on the issuance of debt, and the interest owed is not put into the system except through more debt with more interest.

The stock market has dropped 50% in value since this started last year. This is a great depression. The unemployment will rise. The spending of the two bailouts plus the trillions the Federal Reserve has printed will cause inflation to rise sharply. This same situation happened to the Soviet Union. This is not just an economic depression.

This current economic problem is largely due to the fact that we've been existing on borrowed time, running huge trade deficits and growing debt exponentially. The debt ponzi scheme our currency is based has busted and has started the process of collapse.

The only way we can stop the U.S. government and these banks is through the states. If the states are united, the people are united. If the people are united, the U.S. government ceases to function, and the states are able to reform a functioning and lawful U.S. government instead of the completely corrupt, rogue, destructive, and lawless government we have now." (8)

25 February, the WDDM-list received the following message (excerpt):

"Dear Worldwide Direct Democracy Movement Group Members,

"Constitutionalization - i.e., Constitutional Judicialization - of DEMOCRATIC Political-ECONOMIC Governance:

The Equitist Advocacy Group has proposed a 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution as a "Revolutionary Reform"

".....
<http://www.equitism.org/Equitism/AmendmentXXVIII/AmendmentXXVIII.htm> "

Comment: *The perspective here seems to be orthodox Marxist, i.e. highly questionable. (JP) (9)*

29 March, a letter from **Theodore Eastman**: "You may be interested in my new novel called *Forever Pleasure: A Utopian Novel*. The story is an adventure through human and posthuman futures where technologies have required radical solutions to governing and the use of direct and participatory democracy. The citizens of the solar system are motivated to become science and technology literate because they directly do all legislative duties without representation. This book is the product of 25 years of lunch time discussions with experts on robotics and machine intelligence at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. These discussions helped create the book's governments and societies like no other speculative fiction.

I've been an admirer of direct and participatory democracy. I would be honored if you helped me inform others of our call for better economic and social solutions for our future."

The book is available on *Amazon* and on *Barnes and Noble*. For more information please contact tedjanetm31@roadrunner.com

About the Author

Theodore R Eastman has worked in navigation and deep space tracking since 1984. He is contracted to NASA as an automation engineer for the Deep Space Network and has had two innovations proposals through NASA/JPL, "Electron Circulating Spin Memory", a type of quantum memory (1994) and "Condensational Ion Propulsion", a quantum ion propulsion system (1996). The recipient of numerous group and personal awards from NASA and other major aerospace corporations. Eastman

has also designed and coded four artificial intelligence systems for JPL and NASA. *Forever Pleasure: A Utopian Novel* is his first book. (10)

26 February, Mr. **Triaka Smith** sent round information about the update of his CONSTITUTION OF UNITED DIVERSITY. Contact address: triaka@webtv.net (11)

16 May, Mr. **Jim Powell** drew DD activists' attention to a few useful websites:

<http://ssrn.com/author=26239> <http://e-democracy.org/contact>
<http://groups.dowire.org/groups/consult> <http://stevenclyff.com/?p=101>
<http://forums.e-democracy.org> <http://e-democracy.org/se>

UK

9 April, information sent round by Dr. **Michael J. Macpherson**: "Here is I&R - GB's first comment on the latest discussion paper of the Ministry of Justice, Green Paper 2009 - Rights and responsibilities: developing our constitutional network (see contents below) <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/rights-responsibilities.pdf> "

COMMENT

"I want to ask the green paper's authors why they have omitted to consider improvements of our democratic rights, a major area of responsible citizen-action in which an urgent overhaul is needed. I refer here to improving democracy in the UK, countries and locally, by adding to our "political rights" for instance "the right to participate in the exercise of political power" (Marshall, cited in the green paper). A respected observer and establishment insider not long ago referred to the UK as an elective dictatorship and in league tables of political participation Britain scores poorly. So called political apathy and low election turnout result in part from these deficits.

You write "The challenge is how best to remind people of the importance of individual responsibility and to give this greater prominence."

It would be hard to imagine a better way to express personal civic responsibility than by taking part in running our own public affairs. Such expression however is hindered by a fundamental flaw in our indirect, "representative" democracy which is that a single vote cast once every four or five years gives us, the electorate, very little say in public policy.

By introducing elements of direct, citizen-led democracy, we could enable the electorate to decide on selected issues and (by calling a referendum) veto unwanted law passed by local council or central government." (12)

23 May - Election Briefing sent round by I&R - **Citizens' Initiative and Referendum Campaign for direct democracy in Britain**

Ideas for the imminent council ELECTIONS (May 2008) run-up period (excerpts)

1. Ask representatives of political parties, incumbents and candidates about their attitudes to citizens' direct democracy.
2. Write to head offices and approach local party constituency branches.
3. Suggest that they should indicate support for I and R in their election manifestos, if they have not already done so.
4. Show them our short proposal - <http://www.iniref.org/steps.html> - and ask them to introduce a similar proposal in the local or county council (we'll supply further detail on request).

GERMANY

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Europäische Demokratie in Guter Verfassung?

Rechtswissenschaftliche Tagung zum demokratischen Verfahrensrecht für die Europäische Union - **17. und 18. Juni 2009, Universität Köln**

Information: *Demokratie-Stiftung an der Universität zu Köln*. Dr. Kolja Naumann, Gottfried-Keller-Strasse 2, 50931 Köln; Telefon 0221-470-3827; naumannk@uni-koeln.de (14)

Medien - Macht - Demokratie

Jahrestagung 26.-28. Juni 2009 in Fulda bei Kassel

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Tel 030-420 823 70, z.Hd. Oliver Wiedmann. info@mehr-demokratie.de (15)

CZECH REPUBLIC

Announcement

In April died one of the founders of the Czech *Democracy Movement*, theorist, dedicated activist and friend, **Eng. Josef Hro mádko**. Josef, we'll not forget you! You will always be with us in spirit. (JP) (16)



DIRECTRACY

A site that supports both Classless Society and Direct Democracy



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