



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

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WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER DIRECTRACY

The Trap of Fictitious Mandates

Imagine this situation: In a parliamentary election, citizen X votes for the Party Y because she expects that party to take measures against unemployment, to reinforce social security and healthcare, and to promote an efficient system of public education. These issues are decisive for her choice of party.

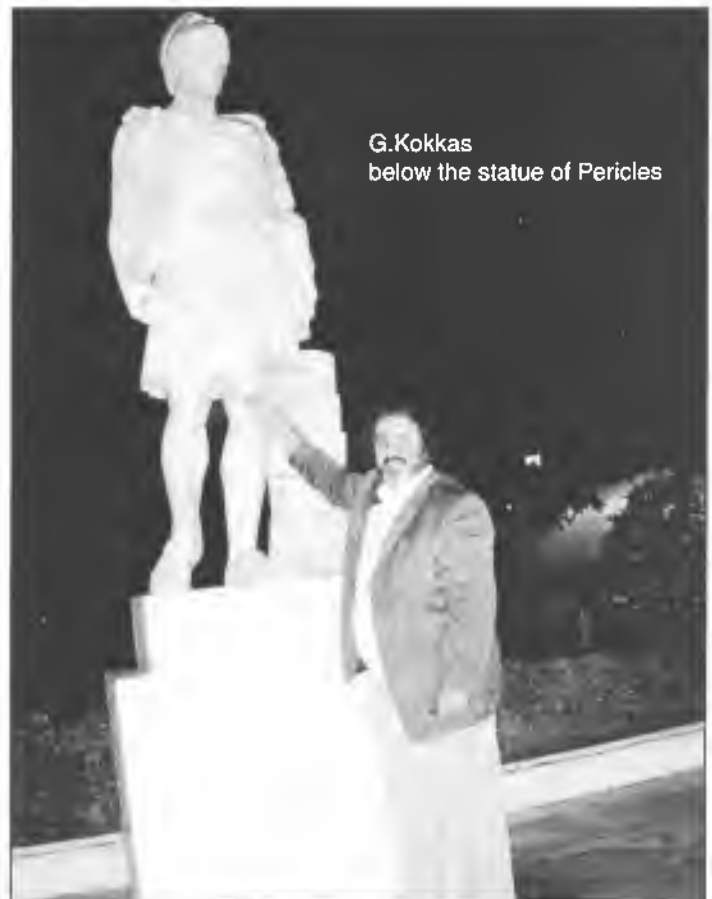
When in power, the party Y, alone or in coalition, decides to send troops to Afghanistan, among them the son of citizen X. He is killed there. Citizen X is devastated, but she is so brainwashed that it never occurs to her that by voting for the party Y, she had assumed a part of responsibility for the death of her own son. It never occurs to her that, as a matter of fact, she had never given the party Y any mandate to send troops to Afghanistan. On this issue, the party Y had acted and goes on acting without any mandate from the citizens. The party Y is usurping a fictitious mandate and use it to perpetrate multiple murders. Millions of similar situations emerge and are resolved by oligarchies every minute. This can go on only as long as the citizens are brainwashed enough to lack insight into the ideological foundations of the system foisted upon them as "democracy". This can go on only as long as the citizens do not understand that they could vote on issues and persons instead of on parties. Fortunately, more and more people round the world are beginning to understand that they are being cheated by the oligarchies, that the system they live in is anything but democracy.

But what exactly is democracy, particularly *direct* democracy? Some theorists, among them Dr.Ted Becker and Mr.Giorgios Kokkas, point out that, as a matter of fact, the word *direct* is superfluous since true democracy *must be* direct. At the same time, it is evident that, at the present stage of the socio-political development of western societies, some sort of representation is still indispensable. Therefore, what we strive for is in fact not *direct*, but *semi-direct* democracy. It is a system in which the general lines

Athens

2. - 9. October 2009

The Second DDEV Meeting;
Visit of the
Democracy Omnibus



G.Kokkas
below the statue of Pericles

Mr.Giorgios Kokkas, organizer of the event, leader of the Greek DD movement and

one of the most prominent DD personalities globally, standing below the statue of Pericles

Will he inaugurate a new era of true democracy in his classical country?

of policy, including international, defense, and environmental policy, are set directly by the citizens through deliberative procedures and voting in referenda, while decisions taken within this framework may be taken by representatives who have received a clearly defined mandate and may be recalled at any moment if the majority of voters in the respective election district demand it.

Mr. Kokkas rightly points out that it would be better to replace the word "representatives" by the word "delegates", i.e.

representatives delegated to make decisions on certain issues (but not on others) during a limited period of time. The current systems, which force the citizens to give elected representatives unlimited fictitious mandates, in some cases contrary to the citizens' will, even if this will is clearly revealed by polls, these systems are a mockery of democracy. They are not only undemocratic; they are criminal. They are heading for genocides and ecological disasters. We must get rid of them, if there is no other way, by revolution.

The Second DDEV Meeting - proceedings

The reason for founding the DDEV is basically one: Dozens of Movements in Europe have been formed spontaneously by groups of citizens who are tired of this fake democracy. They want the political power to be given back to the legitimate owners, the citizens.

Unfortunately, so far, their actions have not brought any results. Certain results have only been reached in limited areas. This failure has several causes:

1. The first request for more democracy - more frequent referendums - has, in most cases, been rejected by the class of professional politicians.
2. Working independently of one another, the local and national organizations have not been able to generate sufficient pressure, the basic problem being the fact that the majority of the citizens could not be reached by our message and many of those we have been able to contact considered their local Movement as an initiative of a few solitary idealists without any bearing on reality.
3. Most of these Movements have not focused on the crucial point, namely the fact that the only way to establish Direct Democracy is to do away with these social parasites: professional politicians. The only real political power is that obtained through citizen votes, all the rest is mere illusion.

This is why some pioneers have decided to try to overcome these problems, by showing the way to be followed, and developing the ideology and practice of Direct Democracy. The first step should be to gather the independent local movements into one single group of organized citizens. In this way, National movements become a group of different movements adhering to the same idea of Direct Democracy, who organize themselves in a National Committee consisting of one delegate from each Movement. Such organization would increase their potential for political action.

The financing of National Movements can be organized according to the preferences of each National Committee. The Italian *Democrazia Federale* asks all associates to give 5 % of their taxed income to the Movement. This is possible in Italy as the Movement is recognized as a Non-Profit Organization. We believe that a similar arrangement could be achieved in other, or all, EU countries.

Proposals: Organisation of the Central Office: European DD Committee, Relations with National Movements, Rules of the European Committee

The Mode of Operation of the DDEV:

Financing (by contributions from National Committees, managed by the Treasurer - to be appointed at the present meeting):

Duties (The European Committee will coordinate the activities of National Committees, only one per country). The person

responsible for press releases to European media will be Mr. *Minas Papageorgiou*,

The European News Bulletin (*Direct Democratic Euro-Vision Newsletter*) is the official journal of the DDEV; it will be delivered to all National Committees, who will be invited to send contributions;

Each National Committee is free to keep its national rules, while conforming to the common rules;

The European Committee will take steps for participation in European Elections and strive for common rules to be respected by National Movements.

Basic Rules

Once the basic structure is in place, both on the European and national level, it suffices to read the Charter of DDEV to understand that the steps proposed for the management of the whole process of political steering of the nation are extremely simple.

The process is anchored in two basic concepts, Federalism, as a link among the different areas of a nation, and the political power of the individual citizen.

All movements accepting the above two points have the right to join DDEV and can profit from the fact that they will be present with full rights in the whole Union under the same name and logo. While all adhering movements will remain independent and keep their name, logo, and rules in their territory, they will have the right to delegate their representatives for being represented at the Regional, National, and European level.

While the above principles are of astounding simplicity, it is evident that the process should be coordinated by common rules. To issue these rules is the duty of the European Committee.

Appointments:

1. The editor of the DDEV Newsletter *Jiri Polak*

The speakers: In the English and German speaking areas *Giorgios Kokkas*

In the French speaking areas *Kevin Lone*

In Italy *Federico Tonini*

Treasurer: *Federico Tonini*

Immediate tasks:

To put in place a simple and basic financing method to pay for the expenses of the European Committee.

During the first years, the Committee will consist of the above persons; it shall organize contacts with other movements and look for new potential DDEV members.

The Committee will also organize a debate among the movements with the aim of trying to find a common method to put in place Direct Democracy from bottom up, starting at the lowest level of the single town.

Proposals put forward by Mr. *Kevin Lone*:

- Establishment of Citizen Assemblies at all levels (national, territorial and European) to counterbalance the hidden undemocratic power structures;

- Establishment of Referendum Bureaux at all levels;
- All political or civil functions should be triple and collegiate: (comment: this principle can be realized only in organisations above a certain minimum membership level);
- The duration of mandates should not exceed 4 years and without the possibility of immediate re-election;
- No accumulation of mandates: (This is important!)
- Possibility to revoke laws by popular referendum within

90 days.



An informal DDEV discussion in Plaka

Eng.Tonini has supplied us with additional principles and proposals based on the Italian experience. These principles, as well as all the above, will be subject of continuing negotiations..

On 7 October, a mini-conference was held at *Aghia Paraskevi*, a suburban district of Athens. Many people there, including the chairman of the District Council, are fervent adherents of the idea of direct democracy, proud of their glorious past, and desirous of establishing an improved version of the system that flourished during the era of Pericles.

A young student of social anthropology, Miss *Maria Gerolymatou*, who is also a freelance journalist cooperating with two periodicals, offered to publish a Greek version of this newsletter on her website. A very welcome initiative indeed!

In international discussion channels, voices are being raised that we should agree on a generally acceptable definition of **Democracy**. I would suggest the following:

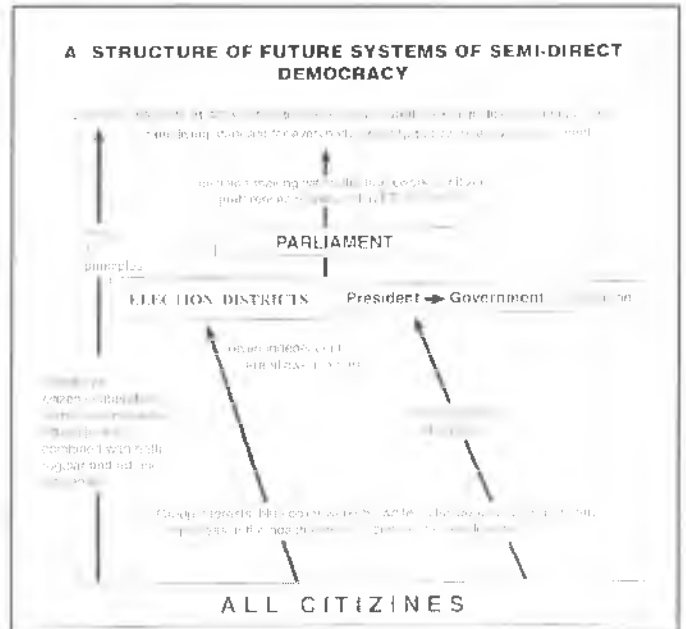
Any system qualified to be called Democracy must contain these 8 elements as a minimum:

1. The Constitution must be approved by the majority of citizens in a referendum.
2. The legislative and executive powers must be separated, while the executive power (non-partisan) must be subordinated to the legislative power.
3. The basis of representation must be election districts, not political parties.
4. It must be possible to recall any elected representative if the majority of voters in the respective election district demand it in a referendum.
5. The Head of State must be elected by all citizens in a direct personal election.
6. It must be possible for the citizens to initiate a referendum on any issue, including foreign and defense policy.
7. All representative bodies must operate on the basis of clearly defined mandates.

8. The citizens must have access to information concerning all political decisions made in representative bodies (transparence).

Any political system which lacks one or several of these elements may not be called "democracy". (JP)

A graphic model - proposal: (JP)



The Omnibus Event - Democracy in Motion
Organized together with the Göthe Institute of Athens



The Omnibus



The Audience



The Chair



Mr. Gerald Häfner, Member of the European Parliament and DD activist



On the occasion of the Omnibus Event, a series of lectures was held in Athens

8. October:

Dr. Wolfgang Schultheiss, German Ambassador in Greece: Begrüßung

Dimitris Th. Tsatsos: Introduction; **Xenophon Kontiadis**: Defizitäre Demokratie am Beispiel Griechenlands; **Andreas Auer**: Chancen und Grenzen der direkten Demokratie;

Bazon Brock: Problemgemeinschaften - nicht Kulturgemeinschaften;

Jens Reich: Die DDR 1989 bis 1990 - ihr glückliches letztes Jahr der anarchischen Demokratie

9. October

Johannes Stüttgen: Der erweiterte Kunstbegriff von Josef Beuys und die Neubestimmung der Demokratie aus der Kunst

Christine Morgenroth: Demokratie als ständiger Lernprozess
Oskar Negt: Demokratie als Lebensform

Christian Meier: Griechische Demokratie. Voraussetzungen und Eigenart

INTERNATIONAL - Europe

Germany

Zeitschrift für Direkte Demokratie 3/09

Introduction by Ms **Claudine Nierth** (One of the participants of the Omnibus Event in Athens)

Volksentscheid ins Grundgesetz - by Mr. **Roman Huber** (one of the participants of the Omnibus Event in Athens) and **Dr. Michael Efler**

Ihr seid das Volk! by Ms **Anne Danner**, Berlin and **Katrin Tober**, Bremen

"Das ist Kunst" - Interview mit dem Aktionskünstler **Tommy Nube** alias **Ralf Scherer**

Bundesländer

Bremen:

Politik ist das Bohren dicker Bretter

Entwicklung der Volksgesetzgebung in Bremen

Hamburg - Kompromiss in trockenen Tüchern

Landtagswahl: Chance für Direkte Demokratie?

Telegramm - neues aus den Bundesländern

Europa:

Das Ende der Salami-Taktik

Auf neuen wegen

Taktische Hast

International:

Direkte Demokratie in Kolumbien

Positionen:

Informationsfreiheit

Omnibus für Direkte Demokratie:

Nichtwähler fordern Volksabstimmung

MD Intern

Italy

12 August, a seminal letter sent by Mr. **Luca Zampetti** to the WDDM discussion channel:

"The proportional voting system in Switzerland works because of the special social conditions there ("Konkordanzdemokratie"), in many other places this system produces strong "rent seeking" effects (Italy).

There is no single instrument for controlling the "rent seeking" influence of special interest groups and of political parties in

"Parteienstaat" models of government; these phenomena can (and must) be controlled by many instruments.

The direct and/or indirect control of special interests and of parties can be performed partially with the return to the Athenian purely stochastic (s)election for a majority of seats (reserving let's say 51% of them for stochastic (s)election. Every voting system can be manipulated and has both advantages and disadvantages. The point is that no voting system is chosen or designed explicitly for controlling politics and politicians, but for empowering them.

Equally important is: increase the number of direct (s)elective positions in the judiciary and in the executive/administrative branches.

Equally important are additional instruments for voting away politicians and administrators: recall elections, popular veto elections.

The cost of democracy must be in a relation to its productivity. The overall goal must be to use direct democracy instruments to guarantee as much as possible the social productivity of political activities. When the cost is higher than productivity, like in the Parteienstaat, the political institutions break down by themselves anyway in the long run. The question is with what to replace them.

What is required is a general concept for re-engineering democracy so that it becomes compatible with a new-old requirement, i.e. its "controllability", which is related to accountability, but only partially. Our concept of democracy is incomplete: it was successful with delegation, but very miserable with control. It lacks practically all efficient instruments of political and fiscal control. The effects are devastating: we have states that have more powers than totalitarian regimes and we cannot control them efficiently any more.

There are some powers that definitely need to be withdrawn from legislative institutions, like the budgeting rights, which parliaments arrogated from the kings in many hundreds of years.

Financial referenda should become the standard budgeting procedure.

The budgeting institutions should not be parliaments any more, but courts of accounts with popularly elected judges and jurors.

Another power that should be withdrawn is the constitution making and revision power, it is definitely a separate power from the legislative, executive and judiciary, and it should be institutionalized in separated PERMANENT constitutional assemblies of directly (s)selected representatives (small bodies at regional, national, and supranational level). Constitution making and revision should be out of the hands of professional politicians.

Constitutional initiative, total and partial, should be reserved to the people with proper referendary procedures "organized" under the permanent constitutional assemblies. (emphasis added, JP)

UK

IR+R NEWS, September:

Reform of Local Direct Democracy in England and Wales

Reform of Parish Poll and other Direct Democracy Regulations

International comparison of participative, citizen-led democracy shows the UK and its countries near the foot of the league table - see our new on-line diagram. The only level of governance in which the electorate may intervene in general matters of public policy is "The Parish". Paradoxically the "regulations" (Local Government Act 1972) make it far TOO EASY to initiate a "Parish Poll" so that the action may attract very little attention and ballot turnout is often low. Also, the "decision" taken by the

electorate in ballot is NOT binding on the council, so that many people see the whole procedure as a waste of time and effort. Some suggestions about how to reform the regulation of citizen-initiated referendum and parish poll may be found at the INIREF web page Reform of Parish Poll and other Direct Democracy Regulations and your COMMENTS are invited.

Direct Democracy News from USA States

Thanks to: BallotPedia Review Volume 1, Issue 5:9/1/2009

- * The Washington Secretary of State announced late on August 31 that Referendum 71 had qualified for the November 3, 2009 ballot. A Post-certification signature challenge has already been filed challenging the certification.
- * On August 25, voters in California were friendly to a variety of local tax measures, but they weren't friendly to a school board member in the Alisal Union School District.
- * Will 2009 go down as the year of the veto referendum? An Oregon tax hike referendum is likely to qualify, supporters say, but that'll be a January 2010 ballot.
- * The statewide November 3, 2009 ballot in Maine is a ballot hound's dream. It has marriage, taxes, school consolidation and marijuana.
- * Innovative proposal afloat in Florida for a new petition form.
- * Casino foes in Ohio are preparing their anti-casino arguments, but some say that the fifth time will be the charm.
- * Washington's Top-Two Initiative (2004) is still in lawsuit limbo.

Events in Greece 2009 (Has already taken place - see above)
IR+R NEWS, October

1) **MP3 Audio: David Cameron promises citizen-led Democracy National and Local**

The Conservative Party and its leader have substantially answered the question posed recently by The Independent newspaper "how is Cameron going to give power to the people?". In section 3.3. of the Tory green paper "Control Shift" we find QUOTE "The right of popular initiative is a feature of many political systems in the developed world. In Switzerland, people have mechanisms for direct democracy on almost everything, from planning applications, to the precise use of tax resources, to medical ethics. Perhaps the most famous expression of American civic independence is in Oregon, where the system known as "citizen initiative" was introduced as long ago as 1902. Under the Local Government Act 2003, local councils can choose to hold referendum on any local issue. But there is no mechanism for residents to petition for a local referendum per se. We will give power to residents to hold local referendums on any local issue by legislating to ensure that a referendum is held in a local authority area if 5 % of local citizens sign a petition in favour within a six months period."

UNQUOTE

The above applies to the local government level. In a recent BBC radio broadcast David Cameron, Leader of the Conservative Party, may be heard saying that the citizens' right to initiate a referendum would be brought in at country/state level. (Source: BBC radio 4. Beyond Westminster: The case for replacing or revising our system of representative democracy. September 2009).

2) **Citizen-led democracy is essential for sustainable Constitutional Reform**

EXTRACT

In almost all modern states there is a clear distinction between constitutional and other law. Commonly, it is more difficult to change constitution. For instance, a "super-majority" of elected representatives may be required and an indication

of regional consensus needed. For decades, across the world, it has been accepted and practised that only an electorate - The People - may enact a state constitution. In many countries, a number of them in Europe, NO change can be made to state constitution unless (a) the electorate has been informed and consulted (b) a broad and extended public debate has been enabled (c) a referendum (plebiscite) has been held for the final decision.

3) Local Government Establishment Opposed to More Democracy

In recent decades government and opposition have competed in offering suggestions to improve involvement of voters, citizens, in running public affairs. Most people (shown by research) regard voting in an election once every few years to be a very poor way of taking part. In surveys over 70 % of adults approve that an agreed large number of voters should be able to trigger a referendum on any public issue. Local government officials and politicians have voiced strong opposition to the introduction of citizens' initiatives which could lead to plebiscite, that is a referendum which can overrule the council. In democratic governance, if a vote is needed, there will usually be winners (majority) and losers (minority). These change profile from issue to issue. (Consensus is by no means excluded.) By claiming that minority rights will be abused if the electorate gains more say, NLGN (New Local Government Network) unjustifiably raises fear. Which scenario of abuse do you predict?

(For more information see <http://www.iniref.org>)

Czech Republic

Parliamentary farce, but also politicians of a new type!

In that country, so far, there have been 2 parties able to form government: The *Citizen Democrats* (right-wing) and the *Social Democrats* (left-wing). In the 2006 election, the Citizen Democrats defeated the Social Democrats by one MP and formed Government. The Social Democrats made several attempts to overthrow the government by a vote of non-confidence. Thanks to the vote of a maverick, they succeeded in September 2009, while the Czech Prime Minister Topolánek was chairing the EU. A provisional non-partisan government was established and the Social Democrats took steps to organize, within a few weeks, an extra-ordinary election, hoping to regain power. Not so! The maverick contested this project by lodging a complaint to the Constitutional Court, claiming that an extra-ordinary election would be unconstitutional. Surprisingly, the Constitutional Court consented. Foaming with rage, the Soc.Dem. Chairman Paroubek elaborated an improved application for the extraordinary election, this time supposedly unassailable. He also threatened to limit the powers of the Constitutional Court. However, fears of a new protest from the maverick persisted, and there were rumors that one more maverick might join forces with the original one. The improved application was to be presented the following day. Shockingly, the following day Paroubek withdrew the application without presenting it. Rumors had it that he was persuaded to do that by the sitting MPs who feared that, in a premature election, some of them might lose their seats (and fat benefits). By tolerating the non-partisan government until the time for the ordinary election (June 2010), they remained safe at least until then.

No harm done. According to the polls, the majority of Czechs trust much more the non-partisan government than any right- or left-wing one. The polls also say less than 2 % of the citizens trust the big parties' election promises. Also according to the polls, a majority of citizens believe politicians are scoundrels.

What a remarkable "democracy"!

But:

A growing number of disgusted and honest citizens put forward ideas and projects aiming at a democratic reform of the corrupt and discredited system. Examples:

The recently established Public Affairs Party - a Direct Democracy Party contains in its program elements of DD. According to a recent poll, it has the support of about 5 % of the citizens, which should enable it to make it to Parliament.



Mr. Radek John, chairman of the Public Affairs Party



As a representative of a generation of young, honest politicians, we can mention **Eng. Martin Kadrman** who - within the Social Democratic Party - leads a group of local "dissidents".

Eng. Martin Kadrman

On 18. - 19.10.2005, "Days of the EU and the USA" were held in Prague. Within this framework, a Forum for Students of Social Sciences was organized, with the participation of several American and European top politicians - *John Ashcroft, gen. Tommy Franks, Rudolf Giuliani*, Europeans *John Major, José M. Aznar* and a few more. Student *M. Kadrman* asked them a few provocative questions:

Kadrman: How many nuclear weapons has Israel? Answer by the Czech delegate: Classified information.

Kadrman: On 11/9, the WT Center was reduced to rubble. How is it possible that an undamaged passport belonging to Muhammad Atta was found there?

John Ashcroft: It was thanks to sophisticated methods and careful search.

Kadrman: On the photographs showing the aircraft attack against the Pentagon, no aeroplane can be seen? How come?

General Tommy Franks: It was because the whole body of the aeroplane penetrated into the building.

??? The hole was too small for that !!! No comment.

Kadrman: How is it possible that, after the Taliban had been defeated in Afghanistan, the production of opium doubled?

Answer: The democratic system is not perfect. We cannot do anything about it.

Some democracy!

Since then, Mr.Kadrman was never again admitted to participate in fora of this type.

Later on, M.Kadrman graduated from the School of Finance and Administration in Prague and acquired the grade of Engineer.

Asked what he wants to achieve in politics, Eng.Kadrman says: "I want to make people interested in public affairs to which politics obviously belongs. People believe they know how politics works. They don't. If they did, they would revolt and throw their political representatives out from a window. People have no idea about the degree of politics' moral and human decay. They are unable to understand the meaning of mainstream news and so they just believe what is foisted upon them. I try to use current events, especially foreign, to disclose the background of world politics. I am glad to notice that people in Czech Republic do begin to understand the truth. I believe it's better to live in truth, even if often painful, than to live in lies and errors."

With politicians like Eng.Martin Kadrman, there is hope for Czech democracy!

30 October, Mr. **Tomas Franke**, our IT expert, published information about an *electronic voting system* which could be used even for parliamentary and other elections. Detailed information can be obtained on request.

30 October, Mrs.**Miluš Kotišová** sent round information about "the first online election in Czech Republic" to be held 17.11. - 1.12. "The voter choses 3 issues he/she considers particularly important. This means: It is not about election of parties or politicians; the voters put forward their own election programs. After the end of the election period, the system compares and evaluates the result and compiles a hierarchy of voter priorities. (Comment: The idea is similar to that of the *Vivarto* system put forward, a few years ago, by Mr.*Michael Nordfors*. JP)

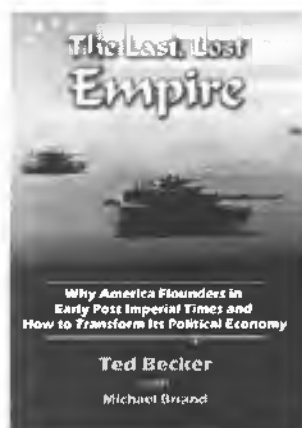
Eng.Zdenek Valečko, Karlsbad, says he is not really interested in politics. However, what is happening in Czech Republic makes him so furious that he, and his group, want "to launch a *Blitzkrieg* against the Establishment". So far, the strategy is kept confidential.

INTERNATIONAL - America

USA

Recently published: *The Last Lost Empire* by **Dr.Ted Becker**

(The printed edition has 496 pages)



www.last-lost-empire.com

A review:

Prof.Ted Becker's *The Last Lost Empire* is a book based on an immense mass of knowledge and insight accumulated during a brilliant lifelong academic career. It is a book on political economy written by a political scientist which makes it much more interesting than if it were written by an economist. The style is vivid, unorthodox, with flashes of irony and sarcasm, never dull. Also, it is an online, digital book filled with YouTubes, animations, slide shows, illustrations, computer games... all designed to engage the reader. It is quite effective, but if you need a printed edition, the publisher sends it to you free once you buy the CD of the book.

The volume shows how, in the USA, a promising period of aspiration after true democracy was gained before and during the American Revolution was followed by a power struggle with American oligarchs. Through their invention, the U.S. Constitution, what has emerged through a long struggle is the hegemony of national, and then transnational, mammoth corporations which at least up to now dominate America's and world's political economy.

Not the least of these comprise the U.S.A.'s military-industrial complex, which pursues constant, unlimited expansion at all costs, even by starting and waging unmotivated imperialistic wars. However, such a self-delusional expansionism cannot continue indefinitely. It might end by a collapse of the American economy and, since this economy is by far the largest in the world, the whole planet would be injured in a way we can hardly imagine.

In Becker's and my view, there is only one way to stop this ominous development. There is only one social force able to save the world and make it safe for future generations: the citizens of each country, each region, and even of the world - themselves. We surely are not going to be saved by the world's leaders, pursuing their personal ambitions to the bitter end. As has truly been the case surely in recent years, it has been the citizens themselves, assuming control of all the big decisions by introducing elements of direct democracy into the respective systems or changing these systems from the ground up. Illustrations abound.

The last chapter sums up various efforts, in the USA and elsewhere, to introduce such elements into existing economic and political systems, or to replace these systems by new, truly democratic, ones. Direct democracy, especially deliberative democracy, is Prof.Becker's (and his colleague Dr.Michael Briand's) special field of interest and, in this field, they are undoubtedly among the leading experts globally. Many examples are provided in many formats, although they disclaim any intention to even come close to listing all the new forms and possibilities.

Facing the current and obvious deteriorating economic and ecological situation, I cannot imagine a book more relevant for the time we live in. Its format is that of a textbook, with questions at the end of each chapter, inviting opinions and feedback from the readers. It will soon appear in this form on his book's website, which you are reading right now.

The Last, Lost Empire should be a standard textbook at the departments of various branches of social science all over the World. It emphasizes that all governments on this planet are either completely or mostly oligarchies. For that alone, it is unique, salient and correct contribution. It's about time someone said it.

Dr.*Jiri Polak*

(This review has also been published on the book's website:
<http://www.last-lost-empire.com/reviews.php>)

As pointed out earlier, one of the major contributions to the theory of DD and its practical application is Mr. **Lee Gottlieb's** *The Malfunctioning Animal - A Theory of Human Metamorphosis*. Here is the author's vision of the future system:



The National Initiative for Democracy Newsletter 3 September, "... At the Democracy Foundation, we receive many emails at our contact address. Some are easy to answer, some are more challenging. Of the more challenging variety, a number of recent emails asserted that America is a republic and not a democracy, equated democracy with mob rule, and asked us to withdraw the NI4D proposal. There is even a dramatic [YouTube video](#) which tried to derive this conclusion from first principles. Let us take a closer look at this argument.

First of all, there is an ounce of truth: direct democracy without deliberation is mob rule. That is part of why initiatives, a form of direct democracy, have occasionally worked havoc in California and why Oregon has recently added a citizen jury to provide a balance evaluation of initiatives in the voter pamphlet. Current initiative procedures are flawed, giving an impression that direct democracy cannot be made to work. However, we think the solution is not to get rid of direct democracy, but to reform it. The NI4D would make initiatives much more deliberative than even Oregon, permitting the deliberative committee to modify

proposed laws to incorporate refinement and constructive criticism (see [Democracy Act 3-1](#)).

Second, whether America is a republic or democracy is a matter of pedantry. Granted, many people don't know what "republic" means, but drilling on vocabulary is not going to change the fact that 24 states offer initiative. Even if "republic" means "not a democracy", we suppose to annul the laws made by initiative during the last 100 years? Instead of worrying about definitions of words, we need a specific proposal designed to fix our governance problems. How about NI4D?

Finally, <http://www.williammeyer.org/republic.html> offers a longer and well researched rebuttal to this nonsense."

Canada

Global Outlook, Fall 2009, 296 pages (!)

An extremely interesting periodical bringing a lot of information bearing out the analyses presented by *Dr. Ted Becker* in *The Last Lost Empire*. It contains the following sections:

- * Identifying the Invisible Government and Exposing Their New World Order
- * Recognizing Historic Patterns of Deception
- * Was 9/11 a False Flag Operation?
- * Why So Many Can't see Through the Official Lies?
- * Exposing the Next 9/11
- * The Invisible Government's Other Strategies
- * A Guide to Surviving the Global Crisis

p 158 "There's a natural tendency of people to want to be safe and secure and to believe their government is protecting them. Most people accept what they are propagandized to believe, even against abundant evidence in history." (This finding is confirmed by the [Theory of Cognitive Dissonance](#) known to social psychology. *JP*)..... p. 159 "We Americans, viewing our country as the 'exceptional nation', like to believe that our wars have not originated in such deceit."

The concluding article is headlined: *Direct Democracy - An Idea whose Time Has Come*

www.GlobalOutlook.ca

Merry Christmas and Uncurbed Spirit in 2010!

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION 20,- euro

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