



The New Class Struggle

Obviously, Marx was wrong in promoting a proletarian revolution, supposed to establish a sort of Heaven on Earth. Hardly anyone, except a few fanatics here and there, believe in such a doctrine today. Nevertheless, since the Marxist ideology had such a huge impact on the history of the World between 1917 and 1990, at least in some respect Marx must have had a point. Yes, in all developed societies, we can witness something that could be called a *class struggle*. Marx's mistake was the belief that it was only the power fostered by private ownership of the means of production which was to blame and that, consequently, private ownership had to be abolished. History has shown that the cause of social evil is always an *excessive concentration of power, no matter its source*. If the means of production are nationalized, power will not be transferred to the hands of the 'working class' (no class can wield power), but to the hands of an oligarchy pretending to be that class' representatives. Thus, the social order established in the communist countries gave birth to a new type of class struggle – that between the party bureaucrats and ordinary citizens.

It would be a mistake to believe that this type of class struggle is limited to communist or other dictatorships. In fact, it exists latently in all societies ruled by political parties, regardless of whether the power monopoly is in the hands of one party or more parties combined. Party political rule was necessary and justifiable in less developed societies. In the internet era, it has lost its credibility and quasi-democratic character. Instead of being defenders of the interests of certain categories of citizens or even of the bulk of a society, the party bosses have developed into a new aristocracy, a new class of political pros climbing, on the backs of the voters, towards lucrative positions and prestige, often without shrinking from corruption and other right-down criminal practices. Against this, now prevalent, degenerated form of government, a new type of class struggle is in progress, not using weapons and violence, only ideas, debates, demonstrations, perhaps even strikes. The establishment of I&R in existing systems is a step in the right direction, but eventually, it will prove insufficient. Improvements of the system are not enough, the very system must be

Are we going to experience something like this again?



Prise de la Bastille, 14. Juillet 1789

Czech Republic – a grumbling volcano



At the end of April, a demonstration organized by the Unions and citizen initiatives gathered about 100.000 people at the Venceslas Square, in the heart of Prague. Demonstrations were held in practically all big cities of the Republic. And they go on.

changed. Obviously, those who benefit from the party-political rule will not willingly give up their privileges. They will instigate artificial conflicts, both inside and outside their country, they will even be able to start wars in order to shift the masses' focus of attention.

We, champions of DDD, have no weapons, no sponsors, no property, no money to speak of, no extra income. We have only our ideas. Still, we firmly believe that, in the long run, it will be the ideas, not weapons and money, which are bound to prevail.



Mr. Babiš is the third richest person in Czech Republic and currently Nr. 913 in the world. He has set up a secretariate in Prague and branch offices in several towns, all paid from his own pocket.

Another project: The idea of an *Intelligent, Creative, and Meaningful Presidential Campaign* has been put forward by **Mgr. Miluš Kotešová**, aiming at the establishment of influential communication channels between any future presidential candidate and the citizens.

Recently, Ph.D. **Jan Keller**, professor at the University of Ostrava, held a lecture at a symposium on Czech Republic's socio-political situation. Excerpts:

'Czech Republic does not have any political line of its own. It only respects the dictatorship of *neo-liberalism*. What is the substance of the neo-liberal model? Briefly, it is a sort of 'mafiation of economics'. I won't speak about state orders and the degree of corruption in Czech Republic, but about the fact that the whole neo-liberal economic system (regardless of the degree of concrete corruption) operates on principles of classical Mafia. How do Mafias work? They supply paid protection in risky situations, while there is lack of trust in the efficiency of protection offered by the state and public sector. For to be receiving as many orders as possible, the Mafia carefully generates uncertainty and maintains it on exactly the level necessary for its business.

Contemporary neo-liberal politics behave in a very similar way. They maintain uncertainty in two ways. Firstly, in the area of the labor market – by means of deficient labor contracts, an erosion of employee rights; secondly, in the area of social security, by curtailing the Social State and reducing social rights of the citizens. These measures foster a convenient space for spreading uncertainty and blackmailing large groups of people. The procedure is very systematic. To begin with, they provoke fear of the future and at the same time, they conjure up a dream of security by means of a private fund. At the beginning, the risks are exaggerated and at the end, they are played down; in the meantime, by means of its private insurance system, the market pockets the premium. This method is very purposeful. By applying it in carefully calculated doses, the market Mafiosi make fabulous profits. They enable the paying clients to considerably reduce the degree of uncertainty in which they live. The clients need only to accept the rules.'

'From about the turn of the 70s and 80s, in many countries, we have seen efforts to privatize large parts of the public sector and the security systems of the social state. A paradoxical process: The very institutions which, for about 100 years, were compensating the employees for their disadvantaged positions are now to be transformed into a new source of profit for the proprietors of big financial corporations.....'

'Thus, the employees are forced to pay money to one group of entrepreneurs (those who do business with health, education loans, and old age security) in order to maintain their working power on a level assuring maximum profit to other groups of entrepreneurs (operating within classical industry and services). A matter of double exploitation!'

Evidently, these harmful practices will never be corrected by party politicians. That can only be done directly, by the citizens. (JP)

Requirements: Resignation of the Government, Extraordinary Early Elections, Introduction of General Referendum, Establishment of a Government of Experts, Abolition of the attempts at a censorship of the Internet, Change of the Constitution and others.

One of the sources of inspiration has been the recently witnessed Icelandic revolution.

Several new citizen initiatives have emerged: *The Holešov Appeal, Stepping Up, Initiative for Social Change, Utopia* and others.

A remarkable project is *Ano2011* (Ano = Yes) founded last year by a multi-billionaire, Mr. **Andrej Babiš**. The declared purpose is to fight corruption. Excerpt from their Declaration: 'In 1989, Czech Republic did not have any debts, on the contrary, other socialist countries owed us several million dollars and our state owned a huge property of its own. After more than 20 years, for 2012, the budget of Czech Republic faces a loss of 105 billion crowns, in addition to the current debt of 1.500 billion crowns. Our former property has shrunk considerably, and goes on being systematically stolen. In such a situation, every normal entrepreneur would have gone bankrupt. How many of these billions have disappeared in private pockets of corrupt scoundrels? We do not know how to protect our interests in today's complex world, we lack unity, drive on bad roads, we lack money for teachers, scientists, doctors, police, fire-brigades, and education for our children. Our Republic is often only a market for low-quality merchandise from abroad and a favourite playground for foreign speculators.'



Entrepreneur **Andrej Babiš**



Prof. Jan Keller

Video-recordings from the Prag 29.-30. October Conference on Participatory Democracy can be downloaded from <http://alternativazdola.cz/liferay/participace-obcanu-ucastenstvi->

Those who had planned to attend the Conference but, for various reasons, didn't, can listen to the speeches and discussions at least in retrospect. Some contributions are in English, some are in Czech.

I HAVE A DREAM TODAY!

This might happen: The demonstrations taking place in Prag are being transferred in front of the buildings of Parliament and Government. The demonstrators demand that the MPs come out and engage in face to face discussions. The MPs refuse and remain inside. The crowd break through the protective cordon and penetrate into the session hall. The enraged leaders of the Citizen Initiatives demand a referendum on the Draft of a Citizen's Constitution, by now widely known and discussed. They say: You have adopted a Constitution without asking for, or obtaining a mandate from the citizens. Therefore, the current Constitution and, consequently, the political system, is illegitimate. It is not *Democracy*, but *Partyocracy*. We demand a referendum on the draft compiled by our true representatives – ordinary people without party adherence.

During a few hours, tumult, quarrels, perhaps even fisticuffs fill the scene. Some rebels record everything on cell-phones and spread it among the public, even outside Czech Republic. The police are powerless. The use of force against unarmed civilians in full view of the world could unleash a revolution. The demonstrators say: If you agree to the referendum, nothing will prevent you from running for Parliament again, this time as individuals instead of representatives of a party.

Eventually, some foresighted MPs begin to vacillate. They begin to realize that support for the referendum might open a new beginning for them personally. Some hands begin to rise and become more and more numerous. Finally, a majority is achieved. Within one month, after many discussions, some of which conducted in ad hoc deliberative councils, the referendum takes place and the draft is adopted. The new Constitution establishes a new political system. Its main features are the following:

- The Constitution and any of its changes have to be authorized by the majority of citizens voting in referendum
- Election of MPs in Single Mandate Constituences, i.e. election of persons, not parties
- Possibility of recall even between elections, if a majority of voters in the district demand it

- Continuous IT contacts between the representative and his/her voters
- Separation of the Legislative and the Executive (non-partisan) power
- Direct personal election of the Head of the Executive
- The right to I&R on all levels; for some purposes, referendum and structured deliberation is mandatory. I&R and deliberation organized by an independent authority

Perfect transparency concerning all official documents and transactions

Very soon, a beneficial impact of the new, truly democratic system on the life of the citizens begins to become apparent. Continuous improvement of the living standards in spite of decreasing taxes, disappearance of corruption, amelioration in the field of ecology, etc. The citizens experience the beginning of a Golden Era.

This is not the end of the story!

The new political system in Czech Republic arouses immense attention in many countries, especially in Europe. Everywhere groups of activists emerge, saying, *If the Czechs can, we can too!* In all countries, Citizen Constitutions are compiled and then adopted. The effect is everywhere the same: improvement of living standards, development of ecologically harmless energy sources, establishment of international rules for banking transactions, reduction of armed forces by 95 %, abolishment of military alliances, prohibition of nuclear arms anywhere, stop for participation in nonsensical foreign wars, the understanding that it is the military-industrial complexes together with various oligarchic groupings who artificially create conflicts and tensions in order to keep their populations in constant fear on which war mongers subsist as parasites, etc. etc. Terrorism disappears. No 'war' on it is necessary. The resources spared by the abolishment of redundant military capacity are invested in projects aiming at the eradication of poverty in developing countries. *At last, all over the world, people are coming to their senses!* (JP)

USA

Program of the National Initiative for Democracy

Citizens Amendment to the United States Constitution

Section 1. The sovereign authority and the legislative power of United States citizens to enact, repeal, and amend public policies, laws, charters, and constitutions by local, state and national legislation shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state or local government.

Section 2. The citizens of the United States hereby sanction the national election conducted by the nonprofit corporation Philadelphia II, permitting the enactment of this meta-legislative initiative: the ratification of the Citizens Amendment and the enactment of the accompanying Citizens Legislative Procedures Act.

Section 3. A Citizens Trust is hereby created to conduct the elections of legislative initiatives and administer the legislative procedures created by the Act. A Board of Trustees and a Director shall govern the Citizens Trust. Section 4 of the Act defines the composition of the Board of Trustees and their election, their duties and responsibilities; and the duties, responsibilities and the selection process of the Director.

Section 4. Under the authority of this Amendment a legislative initiative that amends the Constitution of the United States

or the constitution of any state or the charter of any local government becomes law when it is approved by more than half the registered voters of the relevant jurisdiction in each of two successive elections. If the amendment is ratified in the first election, a second ratification election shall occur no earlier than six months and no later than a year after the first election. A legislative initiative that enacts, modifies or repeals any government statute becomes the law of the relevant jurisdiction when it is approved by more than half the voters participating in the election.

Section 5. Only natural persons who are citizens of the United States may introduce legislation, contribute funds, services or property in support or in opposition to legislative initiatives under this Amendment.

Section 6. Citizens shall have the power to enforce the provisions of this Amendment through the accompanying Citizens Legislative Procedures Act and additional appropriate legislation. No court in the United States may enjoin an initiative election except on grounds of fraud.

The Citizens Legislative Procedures Act

Table of Contents

The Citizens Legislative Procedures Act	1
Section 1. Title	2
Section 2. Preamble	2
Section 3. Legislative Procedures	2
Section 4. United States Citizens Trust	6
Section 5. Appropriations	9
Section 6. Severability	9
Section 7. Enactment by Citizens	9
Section 8. Definitions	10

3 May, a letter from Mr. **Sandy Heierbacher** (excerpt):

National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation

"Hi, everyone! Here is some of the latest news from NCDD and the dialogue & deliberation community...

Sponsorship Opportunities for NCDD Seattle

Plans are underway for NCDD's 5th National Conference on Dialogue & Deliberation, to be held October 12-14, 2012 in downtown Seattle. NCDD conferences bring together hundreds of the most active, thoughtful, and influential people involved in public engagement and group process work across the U.S. and Canada (and even some from outside North America). I hope you're planning to join us!

Sponsorship Info: www.ncdd.org/events/sponsor

Event Info: www.ncdd.org/events

10 April, a letter sent by Mr. **David Frank** to the WDDM discussion channel:

"Our Founding Fathers believed that the very 1st Right in the "Bill of Rights" to help the American People protect themselves from the over-reach of the Federal Government should be "Freedom of Speech or VOICE". This is the tool that we need in each community to allow "the People" to decide what role they want and don't want their Federal Government to play in their lives. Please share this information ... Ron Paul or any other President cannot do this alone... He needs this tool and the help from the American PEOPLE ...

Please check out this plan to GIVE ALL AMERICANS A "VOICE" ON THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT THEIR LIVES, not just the politicians.

A real 21st Century Plan for America...

Hear it here and see it at http://onevoicenow.info/?page_id=95

"Please check out this talk show... For a plan to change America by Giving All Americans a "VOICE". "<http://recordings.talkshoe.com/TC-118018/TS-596641.mp3>"

Recently, Prof. **Milan Zelený**, Fordham University, GBA, NY, USA

The Tomas Bata University in Zlin, Czech Republic published an article headlined **Crisis and transformation: On the corso and ricorso of human systems** (Human Systems Management 31 /2012/ 49-63 IOS Press)

In the article's final section, the author writes about the necessity to introduce elements of Direct Democracy in representative systems. Worth reading! (JP)



Prof. **Milan Zelený**

UK

26 february: **I&Rgb** wrote,

1. The referendum as proposed (February 2012) by the SNP led scottish government will be about the principle of independence or some weaker variant, putting a simple, "opener" question (or maybe two). It cannot adress the substance of an independent treaty.

2. In order that the people of Scotland can decide democratically and legitimately, the FINAL NEGOTIATED TREATY or SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL must be put before the electorate and people in a legally binding referendum ballot, after the government and others have organised comprehensive public briefing, detailing and explaining what is on offer."

9 march: **I&Rgb** wrote, (excerpt)"Scottish independence: 'Only double referendum can decide UK's future' Alex Saimond accused of changing position on referendum day by day. By SCOTT MACNAR Published on Thursday 8 March 2012 00:31 <http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-independence-only-double-referendum-can-decide-uk-s-future-1-2159142>

INIREF REPLY (comment 111):

The idea that a ballot of the Scottish people should be held to decide on whether to accept a final negotiated treaty is not new. We put this forward a few weeks ago, recommending

"A first ballot to see if there is a majority for independence. If Yes, then Referendum II to decide on the content of a treaty with the UK. Failing to carry out the second ballot would be like buying a pig in a poke. There are many potential tricks and traps. We the People should be made aware of the treaty's content before we must commit ourselves. The decision is very serious, will affect the lives of many generations and so should be based on full knowledge."

See the discussion from scot.politics and other Usenet groups via http://groups.google.com/group/scot.politics/browse_thread/thread/cc95a27100bbac2b?hl=en#

16 april: I&Rg wrote, "Voters sack MP? It is possible that the "recall" (sacking an elected official) by citizens will be introduced in the foreseeable future.

Firstly, the United Kingdom.

The scandal caused by MPs fiddling expenses (revealed 2009) caused a leap in public support for the recall. Opinion survey provided evidence for this. About eight out of ten British adults were in favour. So maybe political parties and candidates might consider offering to introduce recall in order to attract some votes.

The ruling Con/Libdem coalition has tried to take control of the situation by proposing to introduce a procedure which would leave the politicians firmly in control. The coalition agreement reads, "We will bring forward early legislation to introduce a power of recall, allowing voters to force a by-election where an MP is found to have engaged in serious wrongdoing and having had a petition calling for a by-election signed by 10% of his or her constituents." This would place the power to start a recall procedure in the hands of a committee of politicians, "grandees", who would decree if "wrongdoing" had occurred. The people of an MP's constituency, even if they were badly represented by the MP, would have no way to start the recall procedure. This government proposal is "whitewash" and should be thrown out. An alternative recall bill, which looks rather better, has been presented in the House of Commons by Zac Goldsmith MP.

Turning to Scotland, we presume (please correct if wrong) that the recall could be introduced by the Scottish parliament. The regulations could then be used to sanction (recall) MSPs and other elected officials such as local councillors. The recall is a form of "citizens' initiative" and similar to citizen-instigated referendum. The party in government has in the past expressed support for this type of democracy: they should be held to their promise."

12 april: I&Rg Newsletter

USA: Occupy movement has helped to mobilise direct democracy against food giant.

"...public opinion around the biotech industry's contamination of our food supply and destruction of our environment has reached the tipping point. We're fighting back. This November, in a food fight that will largely determine the future of what we eat and what we grow, Monsanto will face its greatest challenge to date: a statewide citizens' ballot initiative that will give Californians the opportunity to vote for their right to know whether the food they buy is contaminated with GMOs (genetically manipulated organisms).

USA: Interplay of direct and indirect democracy to help tax the rich?

Millionaire's Tax on the Way in California? Backers Make Deal with Governor Brown. As progressive groups and unions make a deal to push for a tax increase on the rich coupled with a small sales tax hike, some wonder if they've compromised too much.

SWITZERLAND: Citizen democrats decide vital planning matter (Contrasts with weak and confusing "Localism Act" in England) After months of anguished debate, the villagers voted in a referendum last week to stop a Canadian mining company prospecting for the estimated \$1.2 billion worth of gold ore believed to be lie in seams beneath the surrounding snow-capped mountains."

GERMANY

mdmagazin – Zeitschrift für direkte Demokratie 1/2012

Editorial – **Anne Dänner**

Europa – Europa braucht mehr Demokratie; Europa in der Diskussion

Titel – Soziale Exklusion – Was tun?; Ein Klientelverein?

Kurznotiert – EU-weite Bürgerinitiativen; Euro-Rettungsschirm, Europa-Beitritt

Titel – Spiele fürs Volk; Boden für direkte Demokratie

Bundesländer – Ländertelegramm; Stationen einer Demokratiereform; Neue Energie für Berlin; Und sonst?

Bundesweite Volksentscheide – Da muss man aufpassen! Ein Interview mit Hans-Peter Bartels

Ein neuer Weg?; Das dumme Volk?; Ein Kämpfer für direkte Demokratie

International – Für ein Weltparlament

Omnibus für direkte Demokratie – Die Omnibus-Tour 2012

MD Intern total: 43 pages

4 may: Information sent round by Mr. **Vladimir Rott**.

Von: Pressesprecherin Mehr Demokratie e.V. (Anne Dänner) <presse@mehr-demokratie.de>

Betreff: PM (Pressemitteilung) Piraten beraten auf Bundesparteitag über direkte Demokratie

"CDU und CSU könnten bald die einzigen Parteien ohne Volksentscheide im Parteiprogramm sein."

Piraten-Antrag zur direkten Demokratie:

[http://wiki.piratenpartei.de/Bundesparteitag_2012.1/Antragsportal/Programmantrag - 003](http://wiki.piratenpartei.de/Bundesparteitag_2012.1/Antragsportal/Programmantrag_-_003)

SWEDEN

Ph.D. **Anne-Marie Pålsson**, former MP for the Moderate Party (right-wing), has published a book under the title Knappttryckarkompaniet (The Company of Button-Pressers). She shows that inside her party (the others are no different), only the leadership make all important decisions. Grass-root members, let alone ordinary citizens, have no say, except every fourth year during elections. In protest, Dr.Pålsson has left her Party. This is one of many indications of the, perhaps somewhat surprising, fact: Sweden is even less democratic than comparable countries.

FINLAND

6 april: A letter sent to e2d-international by Mr. **Paul Nollen**:

Open Ministry – <http://www.facebook.com/Avoinministerio/posts/356327041086274>

"In the past month since its launch, Open Ministry has collected around 140 ideas for possible laws, ranging from legalising euthanasia to dropping daylight savings.

Finland's parliament has said it is open to any proposal with a minimum of 50.000 signatures, and Pekkanen expects the first bill from his venture to be voted on in early 2013.

He plans to replicate this system in other countries which have systems for citizens to propose laws, and said he had his sights on countries in eastern Europe as well as Spain.

What I meant with replicating the service in other countries is related to the fact that the Open Ministry / Avoin ministeriö platform is open source under MIT license, so it would be great if groups in other countries find it useful and launch similar sites in their own countries."

UKRAINE



Ms *Maria Ivanova*

an important DD activist,
founder of the Ukrainian
Academy of Direct
Democracy

EUROPE

6 march, information sent round by Mr. **Ronald Pabst** -More
Democracy in Europe

"Next week the European Parliament will decide about a better
voting rule. At the moment, this is the only one of the many
official EU proposals which aims to expand citizens' rights in
Europe. We have started a campaign to inform the public. If you
haven't signed already, please help us and do it now. Thanks!
www.more-democracy-in-europe.org "

Interviews

We have asked politicians and activists about their view on
Europe and our campaign:

Gerald Häfner, MEP, Greens/European Free Alliance &
Democracy International

Terry Reintke, Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG)

Virgilio Dastoli, Permanent Forum of European Civil Society

György Schöpflin, MEP, European People's Party

Andreas Bummel, Campaign for the Establishment of a United
Nations Parliamentary Assembly

Bruno Kaufmann, Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe

Please find the interviews here: <http://www.more-democracy-in-europe.org/interviews>

Stay in touch:

www.facebook.com/di.democracyinternational

<https://twitter.com/#!/DIdemocracynews>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/DemocracyNetwork>

SIMPOL

30 march: Mr. **John Bunzl** wrote, "We will be launching a
number of national Simpol websites in the coming months to
give citizens in those countries the opportunity of using their
votes to pressure their politicians into supporting Simpol. Also,
we added an additional news page to our global site which
you might want to check out <http://www.simpol.org/index.php?id=43>

Simpol International - News Update

Simultaneous Policy: using our votes for global co-operation

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Simpol campaign,

I want you to know about a free broadcast interview I will be
conducting entitled "A New Global Activism" with Beyond
Awakening series host, Terry Patten at 10 am Pacific (6 pm UK
time) on Sunday, May 13th. Terry and I will be exploring my work
with Simpol in what is sure to be a rich discussion on a new model for
citizen empowerment and political engagement.

If you sign up for

it here <http://www.beyondawakeningseries.com/featured/john-bunzl.php> you can listen to the interview live (you can unsubscribe
at any time). You'll receive an email with a link that will enable you to
access my dialogue. You can also access over 50 other fascinating
interviews, in which Terry Patten - along with thought leaders
ranging from John Hagelin to Ken Wilber to Lynne Twist to Daniel
Siegel to Ram Dass to Rick Hanson- earnestly explores the question
"how can higher consciousness help human beings rise to meet our
current evolutionary challenges?" It's an amazingly rich resource.

Enjoy!

John Bunzl - Founder & Trustee

International Simultaneous Policy Organisation (ISPO)

<http://www.simpol.org>

Blog: <http://simpolinternational.blogspot.com/>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/simpolnews>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/simpolnews>

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION 20,- euro

ACCOUNT NR.: JIRI POLAK, 002022-0168677293/0800

IBAN CZ74 0800 0020 2201 6867 7293, BIC - SWIFT: GIBACZPX

BANK ADDRESS: CESKA SPORITELNA, JUGOSLAVSKA 19, PRAHA 2, CZECH REPUBLIC



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 14 (No.2)

June 2012

WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY
NEWSLETTER

Published by MDD - Movement for Direct Democracy

Responsible editor: Jiri Polak, Design: Bohuslav Binka, Picture: Katka Svehlova

MDD - MOVEMENT FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY

JIRI POLAK, ASSARHUSAVÄGEN 64, S-24736, S. SANDBY, SWEDEN

PHONE: 046/58891, E-MAIL: JIRI.POLAK@SWIPNET.SE

