



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

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WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER **DIRECTKRAZY**

The Myth of "Defense" - the Biggest Anomaly of Party Representation

by Jiri Polak

Why do we have wars? During a course of political science, I heard a professor saying: "We do not really know why wars exist. More research is needed." Research! This is nonsense. The causes of wars must be perfectly clear to any unbiased thinking person. Wars exist because political or religious party-based oligarchies manipulate ordinary citizens into believing that they have to go to war to fight for some "higher purpose" - their native country, their religion, their way of life, liberty, "democratic values", or things like that. These were the pretexts under which European and American countries, defining themselves as "democratic", have fought many aggressive wars far away from their territories, in Africa, Latin America and Asia. They still do. The citizens have no say in matters of "defense" policy. To be really democratic, the respective constitutions would have to clearly state that the elected representatives, through elections, are obtaining the mandate to declare and wage wars in the name of their citizens, or else that the decision to go to war would have to be sanctioned by the majority of citizens through a referendum. In reality, the constitutions of so-called "democratic" countries (except Switzerland), do not mention this principle at all. These constitutions have been compiled by party politicians and they only give the citizens the right to elect political parties, or individual candidates without any mention of the scope of their mandates. Once elected, until the next election - four or five years later - the representatives receive a *carte blanche* to do what they want in the sphere of international and "defense" policy.

This is a horrendous paradox: The police and the law enforcement systems can spend millions of dollars and millions of work time hours to find the murderer of one single individual. At the same

WHY?

North Atlantic Treaty Organization Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord (NATO / OTAN)



Flag of NATO



NATO countries shown
in black/green in pdf

Formation
Type
Headquarters
Membership
Official languages
Secretary General

4 April 1949
Military alliance
Brussels, Belgium
28 states[show]
English /French
Anders Fogh
Rasmussen
Knud Bartels

**Chairman of the
NATO Military
Committee**
Website

<http://www.nato.int>

NATO was founded in order to parry the threat coming from the Soviet Union and the Soviet Bloc. In 1990, both the Soviet Union and the Bloc collapsed and the (never really existing) threat vanished. So why was not NATO disbanded as well? Obviously because its real purpose was, and is, to maintain western, and especially American, hegemony in most of the world. How long will it take the Man in the Street to understand this?

time, "democratically" elected political leaders are free to unpunished assassinate in wars hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children round the world. In the eyes of their citizens, these far-away victims are more or less empty figures, to be taken notice of on the same level as reports on unemployment, traffic accidents, football matches or anything else. And yet, the death or mutilation of any one of these victims is exactly the same tragedy as that which might occur in the cosy surroundings of the millions of people who, by their naivety, passivity, or lack of interest are making these tragedies possible, thereby becoming accomplices of their criminal leaders. The man-in-the-street is brainwashed to consider wars as a sort of natural catastrophes or something only the respective enemy is responsible for.

Obviously, the belligerent oligarchies want to win their wars, but at the same time, they do not want to abolish wars as such because the war-fostering international surroundings gives them the pretext to maintain their positions of power, to feed the parasitic military industrial complexes from stolen tax money without real necessity, and to assist various vested

interests in exchange for their support and bribes.

War is crime. Only silly people let themselves be induced to kill other people whom they do not know and with whom they do not have any personal conflicts at all. Smart people do not wage wars. After reaching a certain level of sophistication, the respective society ceases to use violence on a large scale. In the most developed societies – Western and Central Europe and North America – wars are unthinkable. In the twenty-first century, there cannot be any war between Germany and France or between the USA, Canada, or Great Britain. Wars will continue to exist only where people remain sufficiently silly or deluded – in primitive societies like the Middle East, the Balkans, Africa, and certain areas of Asia. But even there, people are getting smarter and smarter, mostly thanks to the internet. When they become smart enough, they will cease to fight one another and instead of it, kick out their oligarchies in favour of deliberative semi-direct democratic systems. When that stage is reached, round the Globe, wars will cease to exist.

INTERNATIONAL CZECH REPUBLIC

According to well informed sources, Czech Republic has developed into a Mafia-dominated state. Five obscure families control the leading politicians of the big parties, as well as the big media. In January 2013, a direct presidential election is to be held. Owing to the media boycott of the independent candidates, only a few persons promoted by the big parties have a chance. Thus, the party-political dominance remains basically unchanged. By far the best candidate – Prof. Milan Zelený – had to withdraw from the competition because of this situation. Evidently, the whole system is deeply corrupt and has to be changed.

There is, however, another hopeful development: the feminist initiative **Czech Lady President**. This organization promotes the idea that the next president should be one of prominent women appearing on the Czech political scene. Several of them would be highly qualified and suitable for the office in question. It would be a step in the right direction – equality of the sexes in the sphere of politics. One of the co-ordinators of this campaign is **Mgr. Miluše Kotišová**, who was also one of the organizers of the International Conference on Participatory Democracy held in Prague in October 2011.

There is suspicion that parliamentary elections can be rigged. The ballot boxes are left unguarded during the night between the first and the second election day, leaving access only to representatives of the regime.

One of the steps taken by activists trying to change the system is the following indictment against certain MPs, (translated):

**The Police of Czech Republic
Department of Criminal Police and Investigation
(for the districts Prague 1, 6, and 7)
Pelleova St. 21
160 00 Prague 6**

Indictment

against 172 Members of Parliament of Czech Republic for dereliction of duty of public servant.

Reasons:

On 16. December 1992, without submission to referendum, i.e. without any authorization by the majority of citizens, **172 Members of the Czech National Assembly** adopted a Constitution of Czech Republic, for which act they had not obtained any mandate from the citizens. 172 MPs voted Yes, 16 were against and 10 abstained. The proposal was compiled by the Commission of Czech National Assembly, which, in addition, was incomplete. The proposal of the text of the Constitution of Czech Republic had not been submitted for public assessment.

Before the adoption of the Constitution of Czech Republic, the MPs of the Czech National Council deliberately had not established legal structures for the people so as to make possible a general voting about the preparation of the text of the Constitution of Czech Republic, or else to enable the people to vote by the intermediary of elected representatives. The MPs of the Czech National Council adopted all items of the Constitution for their own benefit, while declaring in Article 2, paragraph 1 that the people is the source of all power. In reality, however, the contents and the text of the Constitution was only based on the will of the members of the (numerically limited) Commission of Czech Republic and afterwards adopted by the MPs, who thereby illicitly, illegitimately and unconstitutionally **usurped power in the State and replaced the will of the people by their own will.** The citizens of Czech Republic were swindled.

In reality, the people were excluded from decision-making and the wording of the text of the Article 2, paragraph 1, is only formal.

The MPs should only have adopted a **provisional Constitution of Czech Republic**, guaranteeing subsequent independent legal steps serving to assure the adoption of a definitive Constitution by a referendum. The representatives (elected from among the candidates proposed by political parties) **did not receive any mandate** to represent the people, neither did they receive any mandate for the preparation of the contents of the Constitution of Czech Republic. No political party existing at that time had in its program any authorization by the people granting the respective party the right to represent the people. Under these circumstances, it can be concluded **that the voting on the Constitution of Czech Republic, about the people and without the people, was a dereliction of duty of public servant on the part of 172 members of Parliament.**

An example to be followed in other European countries?

Messages from INIREF:

23 August: "While the centre stage of political debate is occupied by national independence, a platform of groups and organisations, the Poverty Alliance, reminds us that there are other pressing problems to be solved."

Among the most effective ways to take part in public affairs are with the "tools" of citizen-led, direct democracy. These tools include the town meeting, open to all, the citizens' proposition, with which law or policy can be put forward for decision in a public ballot, also the veto-referendum, which voters can use to block unwanted government proposals. More detail about democracy reform may be found via <http://www.iniref.org/> and arguments for direct democracy in Scotland as follows ([blog](#)) and ([forum](#)).

28 August: "Direct democracy DD supporters can use by-elections to prepare and rehearse our campaign for future elections."

How?

Demand (or try politely asking) politician-candidates for election to our Parliament that they should support our proposals for reform of our antique democracy. See also our [election tactics for DD](#).

31 August: "Electronic voting in the Swiss federal referendum-ballot on November 25th, 2012"

Quote, translation:

Bern, 29.08.2012 – The government (Bundesrat) has approved the requests of twelve Cantons (regions) to use electronic voting in the federal (countrywide) referendum-ballot in November 2012. Around 164,000 citizens will be enabled to vote via Internet. All of these twelve Cantons have already successfully conducted trials of electronic voting."

14 September: "Referendum about independence but WHY ONLY THAT?"

Scotland, we have been told, will in October 2014 hold a ballot to decide whether or not to become an independent country. We will, probably, be allowed to decide about this important matter in a "referendum" because we voted into government a political party which had promised to hold a referendum on this issue. This sounds reasonable. Other nations and regions have held ballots in order to become independent. Countries as different as Norway and Eritrea gained independence with the aid of a ballot. The Canadian province of Quebec voted (so far) against this idea."

28 September: "Requests for comments"

In Slovenia the institution of citizens' referendum (at the state level) is under attack.

We would like to learn how other DD supporters see this.

What if any is the role of the European Commission, or other EU bodies, in this and other attempts to roll back or restrict citizen-led direct democracy in EU countries?"

1 October: "GB lags way behind Slovenia in Democracy"

In addition to regulation of political parties and parliament Slovenia's Constitution of state contains several forms of direct democracy. These enable the electorate to make proposals and to decide on some public issues and laws in addition to electing MPs. Government law can also be vetoed by citizens' referendum.

For instance, there is a citizens' right to call a referendum on any issue which is the subject of regulation by law. For this 40,000 endorsements must be collected in support of a proposal. This is just under 2.5 percent of the electorate.

In Britain (UK) an equivalent number is around 1.2 million electors (voters)."

5 October: INIREF launched a campaign called **People Power** at INIREF.ORG, encouraging the citizens to use the following "tools":

citizens' proposal (initiative) which can lead to a ballot of the whole electorate

veto-referendum

constitutional referendum

recall of elected officials

11 October: "Referendum proposal: For a sustainable and resource-efficient economy (Green Economy)"

This news came from www.news.admin.ch

Bundeskanzlei (government office) informs:

The Federal-level Citizens' Initiative "For a sustainable and resource-efficient economy (Green Economy)" has succeeded. Bern 11th October 2012

17 October: "Campaign for direct democracy in Britain <http://www.iniref.org>

Comment in reply to newspaper article, cited below.

Vernon Bogdanor maintains that our constitution has since 1997 been reformed but can he claim that "We the People" have been appropriately informed, involved and empowered to do this? To what extent are people – even the highly educated – informed about all these reforms?

For half a century or more it has been recognised across the world that the people should be effectively involved in developing constitution and that the changes should be made – confirmed or rejected – by plebiscite, ballot of the whole electorate.

Ways to improve matters include setting up a constitutional assembly comprised at least mainly of "ordinary" citizens. They could be chosen by sortition (lot) or by sampling according to residence and background. This sort of process has seen success in Canada (British Columbia) and – as part of a response to financial crisis – Iceland. There are many other potential strategies to promote the involvement of a wide spectrum of the population in a public debate."

25 October: "Steve Richards Wednesday 24 October 2012"

Politicians of all hues want more local democracy. But do any of them know what it actually means?"

INIREF: (quote)

"We will give residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issue."

HM Government, Con/Libdem coalition UK 2010

A proposal to fulfil this promise was in the Localism Bill. After pressure from the building lobby, opposition of local politicians and their associations, a vicious attack on democracy by Liberal Democrats (!) in the House of Lords, and the agreement of the Communities minister Pickles, this essential tool of local democracy was dropped and **does not appear in the Localism Act**. 30. October: Sofia. The Bulgarian parliament has approved a referendum on the implementation of nuclear projects in the country. This will be the first referendum in Bulgaria in the past 40 years. However, the topic has been changed. First the Bulgarian Socialist Party collected 540,000 signatures in support of the referendum about the construction of Belene nuclear power plant using Russian technology. Bulgaria withdrew from the project in March. However, pro-western President Rosen Plevneliev suggested to the ruling party Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria to change the question, comments the Russian newspaper **Kommersant**.

.....

INIREF comments

There appears to be a deficit in Bulgaria's democracy regulations. An authority such as a government should not be able to change a validated citizens' proposition before a ballot of the whole electorate has been held to decide the issue.

Even so, democracy in Bulgaria is better designed than in the UK where no right of the electorate to "citizens' initiative and referendum" exists."

USA

Senator **Mike Gravel: The National Initiative for Democracy**

"The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government."

George Washington 1787

More than half of American citizens have been making laws by initiative at the state and local levels of government for the last hundred years. A close examination of the people's legislative record in the 24 states and numerous local communities shows they have legislated responsibly and many times more so than their elected legislators, particularly on fiscal matters; and this was done without the deliberative legislative procedures that exist in all legislative bodies. Civil service, old-age assistance (a precursor to Social Security), campaign finance reform, term limits and women's right to vote are a few examples of progressive legislation initiated by the people.

These state initiative laws were enacted in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries by populists and progressives, permitting voters to make laws at the state and local levels of government. Unfortunately, those reformers failed to enact deliberative

legislative procedures or create an administrative agency to keep the people's legislative activities independent from the officialdom of representative government. As a result, state and local officials, jealous of their power, are able to thwart the people's legislative process and deny them the full and unfettered use of initiative laws.

The representative system of government structurally maintains citizens in civic adolescence. Proof of this exists in the passive acceptance by the people of the ridiculous actions of their elected legislators and their administrative officials. These government leaders decide to go to war and then refuse to raise taxes to pay for the war. Worse still, they cut taxes, passing the financial burden on to our grandchildren. I could cite further proof with respect to education, Social Security, healthcare, taxation, the War on Drugs, trade, energy, and environmental policy. It's embarrassing to then see politicians promoting this behavior with a straight face.

(For the whole text please go to NI4D.US)

29 August: A letter from Mr. **Joshua Pritikin:**

"We have commenced a fundraiser for the purpose of completing the Democracy Foundation's Dear America documentary. If we can raise these funds then we'll finally finish the film so please donate. Some of you may be wondering why this documentary is taking so long to finish. Well, everybody involved is a volunteer, we've had to carry out work as our schedules would allow.

WELCOME TO NCDD

The National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD) promotes the use of dialogue, deliberation, and other innovative group processes to help people come together across differences to tackle our most challenging problems. We serve as a gathering place, a resource clearinghouse, a news source, and a facilitative leader for the dialogue and deliberation community and beyond. More about who we are and what we do.

We just celebrated 10 years working with the dialogue & deliberation community with an amazing event in Seattle! ([Learn more](#)) Also visit www.ncdd.org/early-10-years to learn more about the two \$10,000 Catalyst Awards we launched in conjunction with the conference.



COMMUNITY NEWS

For 10 years, NCDD has been sharing news about events and trainings, cutting-edge programs, funding and job opportunities, and more.

The latest:

- **New LAP2 Training Events in 2013**
Melissa Sparlin of NCDD organization member and NCDD 2012 Seattle partner, The League of Extraordinary Trainers, reached out to us this week about their programs' early 2013 training events.

RESOURCE CENTER

Access to over 2,700 resources... dialogue guides, D&D methods, videos, case studies, evaluation tools, articles, books, programs and more.

Most recently added:

- **Localizing Development: Does Participation Work?**
This important publication from the World Bank evaluates years of community development and decentralization projects...
- **Civic Health and Unemployment II: The Case Builds**
This 2012 NCoC study shows that

NCDD NETWORK

Our 1,700+ members are doing extraordinary work across the globe. Learn how to join them, connect with them, and learn from them.

Don't miss:

- See NCDD members' proposals for our two Catalyst Awards, weigh in, and get involved.
- NCDD hosts over a dozen listservs and announcement lists, including our popular NCDD Discussion listserv.
- Our groups, pages and feeds from various social media outlets.

This documentary could be the breakthrough we need to counter the political malaise and apathy rampant in America, so eloquently summarized by Bob Herbert in a recent interview.

If you take an interest in politics and are familiar with Rand and Ron Paul then I encourage you to read an extraordinary and scathing article by scholar Moti Nissani. Even practiced critics of the Pauls will learn something from Nissani's exhausting dissection.

On a lighter note, hip hop fans may appreciate Occupy (and Uprise) from Black Guero.

Last but not least, Daniela Bozhinova sent in a copy of Fullbright Newsletter #65 wherein she has published an article."

E2D-INTERNATIONAL

1 October, Mr. **Sven Mason** wrote, "Years ago I contacted iFOSSF.org (International Free and Open Source Solutions Foundation) to see if they had knowledge of a direct democracy project. Neil from the group just came back in contact with me: "Hi Sven, I ask as I think it is an ideal candidate project for iFOSSF. We are still a young organization too, so we don't have many resources, however the goal is to help sponsor and support new open source projects."

"iFOSSF has recently joined OASIS, the open standards group, which has a program called 'Transformational Government, that would provide a relevant academic context.

Also there are Cloud technologies to consider – This case study of Kansas City is exactly the e-legislation process: <http://tinyurl.com/Kansas-KLISS>"

3 October, Mr. **Jenny Huang** wrote, "Hello Sven and all, I wrote this SEED Framework concept paper a couple of months ago for the very reason of that in order to move open source to effectively address a problem space, some structures are required that is beyond simple project management." "After I wrote the concept paper I was introduced to the Transformational Government Framework (TGF) that Neil mentioned. I see it as a very complementary initiative if it can be realized. Consider SEDD Framework is a bottom up approach to organize grassroots activities. TGF is a top down transformational process of how public services ought to be in the future (And hopefully policy changes along the way). In this case, will the DD tools be able to help in this transformation process? This TGF primer is an excellent read about the vision <http://docs.oasis-open.org/tgf/TGF-Primer/v1.0/TGF-Primer-v1.0.pdf>.

3 October, Mr. **Sven Mason** wrote, "The SEED framework you describe interests me a great deal, it could be applied to many areas of social governance such as health care, scientific funding etc. In the realm of DD political parties I can see a couple of applications, in addition to the development the voting software it could be used to collate effectiveness of marketing techniques and campaigns the different DD parties/supporters use to a) raise awareness of DD and support for the party, b) encourage volunteer work, c) gain funding, all in a transparent community focused way that through the knowledge base other parties can learn from."

12 October, Mr. **Eduardo Robles Elvira** wrote, "I must suggest the update of the Agora (PDI) and Agora projects in that list. Both are the same project, which is called "Agora Ciudadana". Currently the web page for the project is <https://agoravoting.com> and there you can play, participate and create your own agoras. The code is in <https://github.com/agoraciudadana/agora-ciudadana> we have a Trello board where you can follow the development in <https://trello.com/board/agora-ciudadana/5054e9e060d5bc9a08196b96>

The license is AGPLv3

Authentication methods currently supported is user/password and twitter

We have delegation support

Saludos, Eduardo

12 October, Mr. **Paul Nollen** wrote, "Hi all, at E2D-international we started with a classification

http://e2d-international.org/wiki/index.php?title=E-Voting_Taskforce

Regards, Paul"

GERMANY

mdmagazin, Ausgabe 3/2012

Editorial by Anne Danner

TITEL

Geschichte schreiben! by Charlie Rutz and Roman Huber

Einfach weiter so mit der Euro(pa)krise? by Roman Huber

Europa nur mit Volksentscheid! by Erwin Mayer

Die internationale Sommerakademie in Bulgarien by Cora Pfafferoth

BUNDESWEITE VOLKSENTSCHEIDE

Ein Neuer Zeitgeist? Ein Interview mit Prof.Dr.Dr.h.c. Hans Meyer

WAHLRECHT

Bürgerklage vor Gericht erfolgreich by Wilke Zicht

Schluss mit den Reförmchen! By Neelke Wagner

EUROPA

Gesetzesvorschlag für direkte Demokratie in Südtirol by Ralf-Uwe Beck

BUNDESLÄNDER

OMNIBUS FÜR DIREKTE DEMOKRATIE

BUCHBESPRECHUNG

Thomas Wagner: "Demokratie als Mögelpackung"

MD INTERN

The trend is unmistakable: Increasingly, people in European countries begin to realize that the Constitution is not a matter to be left in the hands of a bunch of conceited party politicians. The constitution concerns every single citizen alike and therefore, all citizens must have the right and an opportunity to discuss it, adopt or amend it by referendum, and continuously control its implementation. Beside activist groups in Germany and Czech Republic, mentioned in this newsletter, the same insight emerges in Ireland and Iceland.

IRELAND

In February 2012, the government proposed that the planned Constitutional Convention would have 100 members as follows:

- A chairperson "of exceptional ability with a high degree of public acceptability"
- 66 ordinary citizens selected at random from the electoral register (on the model of a citizens assembly)
- one member nominated by each political party in Northern Ireland.
- the balance from members of the Oireachtas proportion to party strength.

A step in the right direction – involvement of grassroots citizens without party affiliation. The next step should be exclusion of political parties altogether. JP

Detailed information can be found in Google.

ICELAND

November 26, 2010. Iceland Holding a Modern Constitutional Convention to Re-Write Nation's Laws – article written by **Rob Port**

Excerpt

"The constitutional assembly will be made up of 25 to 31 delegates, the final number to be determined by a gender and equality ratio. It will be made up of regular citizens elected by direct personal voting. Anyone is eligible to stand for election, with the exception of the president, lawmakers and the committee appointed to organize the assembly. The assembly will draft a proposed new constitution next year. They will use material from another extraordinary project earlier this year in which 1,000 randomly chosen Icelanders – aged 18-89 – offered their views on what should be in the constitution."

Daily News, 22.10.2012: Iceland Constitutional Referendum: Reaction to Results

Excerpt

"It is a clear message that the nation is sending us politicians to complete this process," Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardóttir told RUV.

Evidently, the process got stuck midway, to a great extent owing to opposition on the part of various institutions of the establishment, among them the Constitutional Court. No message should be sent to politicians, except: Stand away from this project! Even so, it is a beginning. JP

SIMPOL

12 September: Simpol International – News Update
Simultaneous Policy: using our votes to take back the world

Headlines

Ken Wilber dialogues with Simpol's John Bunzl

Simpol launches in Austria!

John interviewed by Peace & Collaborative Development Network

"Men, Power and Politics" - a new article

Book Review of Richard Barrett's "Love, Fear, and the Destiny of Nations"

We're growing!

For details please go to:

<http://www.simpol.org> and Blog: <http://simpolinternational.blogspot.com/>



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