



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

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WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER **DIRECTCRACY**

The Betrayal of Mainstream Political "Science"

by Jiri Polak

The subject-matter *par excellence* studied by political science (or "science") are political systems. If you examine the various approaches appearing in political literature, you cannot fail to discover that they belong to two different categories:

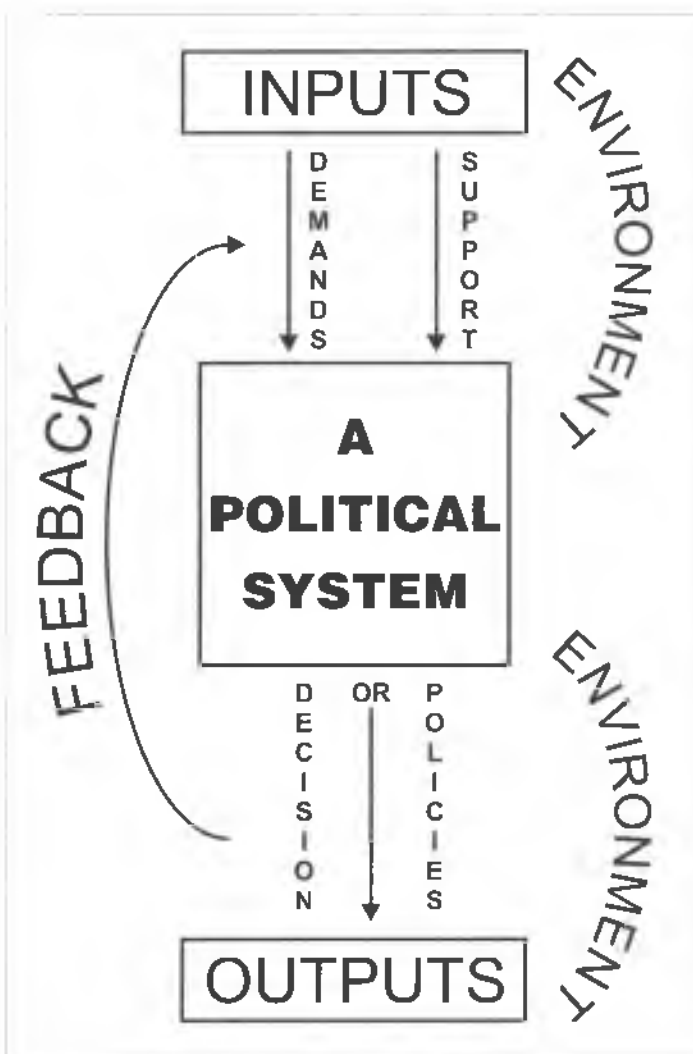
1. Truly scientific, behaviorist approach, describing and analysing contemporary, or former, systems without any bias, not avoiding the most sinister elements or processes. This approach *does* deserve to be called *political science*. A classical work belonging to this category is e.g. Prof. Ted Becker's *The Last Lost Empire*.

2. Mock-scientific, ideological approach, widely popular among mainstream political 'scientists'. This approach puts forward models like **Input-Output** (Easton), **Structural Functionalism**, or the **Cybernetic Model** (Deutsch). These approaches consider political systems as some sort of organisms or machines, obeying some mysterious, impersonal laws, forcing the innocent politicians to do what they are doing, including the most horrendous crimes and impostures. The proponents of this sort of approaches are politicians' collaborators, accomplices and henchmen. They sit in their cosy offices and invent all sorts of excuses for the politicians who decide about their salaries.

In this respect, there is a big difference between Europe and the USA. In the latter country, even if the mock-scientific approaches prevail, it is also possible to find highly scientific and valuable analyses, like the above mentioned work done by Prof. Ted Becker. In a European country like Sweden, by contrast, it is unthinkable that a book comparable to that of Prof. Becker would be published. Swedish political „scientists“ behave like civil servants, not daring to express in-depth criticism of the multi-party system. At best, they limit themselves to cautiously criticizing certain marginal phenomena, irrelevant to the system itself.

What is really a political system? Obviously, it is a pattern of behavior of people occupying various positions in society and a pattern of institutions and processes controlled by a handful of people wielding power. To pretend anything else is deception.

RUBBISH !



„System theory in political science is a highly abstract, partly holistic view of politics, influenced by cybernetics. The adaptation of system theory to political science was first conceived by David Easton in 1953.“

„Easton aspired to make politics a science, that is, working with highly abstract models that described the regularities of patterns and processes in political life in general. In his view, the highest level of abstraction could make scientific generalizations about politics possible. In sum, politics should be seen as a whole, not as a collection of different problems to be solved.“

INTERNATIONAL

Russia

Citizen's initiatives introduced in Russia – information sent round on 21 April by Eng. **M.Kolar**

„The site Russian Citizen's Initiatives <http://www.roi.ru/> was launched on April 2, 2013 by a Russian NGO called 'Fond for Information Democracy'. It was working in a test regime till April 15, but the citizens have been able to submit their proposals (initiatives) from the very beginning. Today (April 20), there are already 484 initiatives open for voting.

The site does not get any funding from the government. It's initial development was funded personally by the NGO's founder and president Ilya Massukh, and fund its continuing operation; they now accept donations from Russian companies and individuals (but no foreign funds).

Nevertheless, this project has been incorporated into the Russian legislative system by a presidential decree of March 3, 2013. This decree requires that the initiatives which satisfy the 2004 law 'On referendum in the Russian Federation' have to be acted upon by a legislative body of the respective administrative entity if within one year from their submission they get at least:

For federal initiatives: 100.000 votes;

For regional initiatives: 100.000 votes or votes from 5% of the entity's population, whichever is less;

For municipal initiatives: votes from 5% of the municipal population.

If an initiative did not achieve this minimal level of support, it cannot be submitted again during the next year. One can vote also against an initiative, but the number of negative votes has no effect on its fate. E.g. On the federal level, even if it gets 2 million votes against, it must be considered as long as it also gets at least 100.000 votes for. (There is already an initiative, that got 89 votes so far, asking this to be changed: that only initiatives with the number of negative votes not exceeding ½ the number of positive votes be passed to the respective legislature).

The system is very good in that it makes sure that every Russian citizen of voting age (18+ years) has exactly one vote, and no foreigners can cast votes. To submit or vote on an initiative, one has to be registered with the portal of Russian governmental services (e-government) where one's identity is verified by a unique pension number (social security number). The only way to cheat would be to be able to get more than one pension number which is considered to be impossible. There is already almost 4 millions of Russian citizens registered with this portal doing their interaction (taxes, permits, document renewal, ...) electronically. (The total population of Russian federation is about 143.5 million.)

Not all submitted initiatives are open to voting. They are at first examined by the legal team of the 'Fond for Information Democracy' to verify that they satisfy the requirements of the above mentioned Referendum law. E.g. Initiatives asking for the change of the length of office term of the President or the Duma (parliament) are not allowed. Such inadmissible initiatives, and also all the initiatives and duplicate previously submitted initiatives, are stored in an archive at

http://www.roi.ru/poll/?p_f_1_81-1

Among the archived inadmissible initiatives one can find e.g. The initiative to impeach president Putin, to shorten his term of office, to dissolve parliament and hold new elections, an initiative called 'If we collect 50.000 signatures, Russian president will have to perform the Harlem Shake dance',

but also a call to reintroduce death penalty (as it is deemed to be against generally accepted principles and international norms). However, most of the initiatives listed in this archive are duplicates/variants of the accepted ones.

On the other hand, e.g. the initiative to abolish a 2001 law granting the Russian president a life-long immunity (including for the activity after leaving presidential office), or the initiative to also allow voting on all the above mentioned inadmissible initiatives are open to voting.

I have learned about this project about 2 weeks ago from an interview with its initiator Ilya Massukh on the opposition's radio station Echo Moskvy (Moscow). The show host voiced the opinion that it is a positive development, and that the opposition will definitely use the initiative site. Ilya Massukh said that before issuing the March 3 decree, president Putin checked with him whether he and his Fund is really willing to set up the site and run it. And they managed to do it ahead of the promised date.

It seems to be a very much better thought of project that e.g. the Obama administration's 'We the people' initiative site, that does not check whether the voters are US citizens (I could vote there), whether they vote only once, the threshold is only 5000 signatures (votes), and the reaction to achieving this threshold is an e-mail from a low-level official saying something to the effect that the initiative is nice but inconsistent with the administration's line, and thus cannot be considered.

And nothing even remotely resembling the Russian initiative can be expected in Canada in the nearest future.

It remains to be seen what the reaction of the Russian Duma will be when the first of the federal initiatives pass the 100.000 threshold (it is mandated to act on it, but it is not yet defined how exactly).

Ilya Massukh claimed in the interview that especially the municipal officials are happy with his project, and eager to get some input from citizens on what they need. So far however of the total of 484 open-for-voting initiatives there are only 14 municipal ones which attracted only a handful of votes (at most 131), and 38 regional ones (with at most 239 votes). So people concentrate their attention to the federation-wide problems..."

Czech Republic

Recently published: Jiri Polak: *Sunset of the Gods of the New World* (novel, in Czech)

Summary: Early 21st century: Before leaving college, Paul Danell loses the girl he loves to a brilliant school mate, George Harriman, who already aspires at a political career. Depressed, Paul decides to study political science.

About thirty years later: Paul is professor of political science in San Antonio, George Harriman runs for presidency of the USA. During a lecture, Paul criticises American policy and, like Professor Ted Becker, predicts an imminent collapse of the American Empire. He is sacked from his university. Thanks to his student, Kazuyo Ogimura, daughter of a Japanese industrial magnate, he obtains a post of researcher at the research institute founded in Toyota City, Tokyo. However, he finds out that the purpose of his work – gathering background information about leading politicians of the USA, including George Harriman – is to contribute to preparations for an attack upon the economy and the very system of the USA, with the purpose of reducing America to a second rate country, a dependency of the new Sino-Japanese superpower. Paul is horrified. He manages to escape together with a detailed secret information. After a dramatic flight, including a parachute jump into the ocean and a shark attack, he reaches his country. In the meantime, George

JIŘÍ POLÁK



**SOUMRAK BOHŮ
NOVÉHO SVĚTA**

RAGATIELA

Harriman had been elected president. Paul sends his materials to several newspapers and they are made public. This provokes an uprising, incomparably stronger than the Occupy Movement of the 2011-2012. People realize that corrupt party politicians cannot be trusted and that Harriman was elected thanks to huge amounts of money coming from China. He is forced to abdicate.

The insight dawns upon the citizens: To overcome the crisis and save their country, they must take decision-making in their own hands. The *National Initiative for Democracy, NI4D*, founded already in the nineteen-nineties by former Senator Mike Gravel, shows the way. A new Constitutional Convention gathers in Philadelphia and adopts an amendment according to the NI4D principles. This is the beginning of a new era of American – and world – history, the era of genuine democracy. One part of the plot is a complicated love story with a happy ending.

Germany

mdmagazin 1/2013

Editorial: **Alexander Trennheuser**

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7 March, information from **I&RgB: Abzocker Initiative: Potential international effects**

„The ‘Citizens’ Initiative’ to limit pay of top managers and board members was launched in 2006. The required number, many thousands, of endorsements was collected and so a binding citizens’ ballot on the proposal was programmed. Years went by as politicians, parliament (both chambers) and representatives of large commercial concerns argued, fought and bargained. Alternative government proposals, which could be put to the people along with the original ‘Abzocker’ initiative were painstakingly worked out. Finally this March the ‘Abzocker’ proposal was put before the Swiss people in a federal, countrywide ballot. It was approved in all cantons (regions). Overall, almost 70 percent of citizens voted in favour.“

.....
„It may be that recent (2013) proposals of the European Commission to restrict finance worker bonuses came about with the fiery and clearly justified Abzocker initiative in mind. In many countries citizens are asking why their government has so far failed to bring in effective regulation of banking practice and absurdly high executive pay. While the Abzocker law cannot do all that needs to be done in this commercial minefield, it does provide a powerful, working example, of empowered citizens taking steps to govern the world of economics by direct democracy.“

A website: <http://www.involve.org.uk>

Spain

26 November 2012, information from E2D International:

„PDI (‘Internet Party’ in English) is a new political party born in 2009 in Spain that tries to develop an electronic direct democracy system within the current legal system. The Internet Party has no ideology. They support an open list system where the elected members act representing the decisions taken by citizens in the internet platform.

They are officially registered and were able to participate in the Spanish General Elections 2011; however, due to recent changes of the Electoral Law, by current parliamentary parties, which forced political parties to obtain supporting signatures from 0,1% of the census population just to be allowed to run in the elections, PDI was only able to present 8 candidates in the electoral district of Cádiz and received 603 votes (0,09%).

This is a historic achievement not only for PDI, Cádiz and Spain but also for the entire E2D community internationally. Several hundred citizens in Spain have officially said they believe in real democracy, liquid democracy and electronic direct democracy! There will be many more to come and we congratulate Partido de Internet and all of its members and candidates for bringing us all one step closer to real democracy!“

Catalonia: Citizen Initiative concerning the Basic Rent (Renta Básica):

<http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/initiatives/ongoing/details/2013/000001/en>

<https://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/REQ-ECI-2012-000028/public/index.do>

<http://www.nodo50.org/redrentabasica/index.php>

Greece

11 May, information from Mr. **Paul Nolen: DIGITAL DIRECT DEMOCRACY**

<http://www.dd-democracy.gr/article.asp?id=34>

Canada

17 April, information from Mr. **George Sagi**, one of the most prominent pioneers of the global DD movement: „I have been editing (the second time) my new book: **ATOMIC PHILOSOPHY, Critique of Pure Physics**. See its introduction on www.atomicphilosophy.ca.“

Latin America

A website: <http://dd-la.ch/>

Europe/Italy

29 April, information from Mr. **Carlo Marinis**

„Dear Mr. Jiri Polak, I send you enclosed a PDF copy of my expanded ‘Draft of a Constitution for the European Union’. This draft can be published on web by anyone who wants to do it.

From 20 January 2013, the mail addressed to my previous email ‘democrazia@tin.it’ is no longer readable. ... My new email address is the present.“ (<sovrانيتadeipopoli@live.it>).

For the whole text of the draft please contact Mr. Marinis. JP

Carlo Marinis

DRAFT OF A CONSTITUTION FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION

**based on the Citizens'
direct Democracy**

**Democracy and Europe need to grow
Problems cannot be solved by the same level of
thinking that created them (*Albert Einstein*)**

The World

23 April, a letter from Mr. **JF Frenette**: „.....“ I have two announcements to make with this email:

1) **E2D Domain Name**: The domain name for <http://e2d-international.org/> will expire in June 2013. I personally don't mind paying the \$16.99 to renew for an extra year but I would like to know if anyone is willing to take over the website and its management after this period?

There is also the matter of hosting, but there is the possibility of integrating into an existing hosting plan without incurring extra costs. Any interest?

2) **Cocoriko Collaboration**: We have recently been collaborating with various Canadian web-service developers to help enhance the availability and quality of participatory democracy e-services. One of these initiatives is Cocoriko.org <http://www.cocoriko.org/register/?lang=e>

They have developed and recently launched a new web-voting interface – still limited in functionality but very sleek in design.....

Please let me know your thoughts regarding these two points.

.....
All over the world non-partisan electronic direct democracy (E2D) parties have been started independently at local, regional and national levels, inspired by the collaborative potential of the internet to bring true democracy to the political arena; we are fighting to give decision-making power back to the People.”

Simpol international – News Update

March 5 – Headlines:

How do you want the world to be? New online policy development tool.

New book by John Bunzl: *Global Domestic Politics – A Citizen's Guide to Running a Diverse Planet*

Ken Wilber – Founder of Integral Theory

Erwin Laszlo, Author and Futurist, Founder of the Club of Budapest

One for the boys:

Men-Maenner International Symposium, 23-26th May near Frankfurt, Germany

(For the texts please see the website <http://www.simpol.org> JP)

April 15 - Headlines

First Luxembourg MP signs the Simpol Pledge!

New Book by John Bunzl: *Global Domestic Politics – a citizen's guide to running a diverse planet*

Simpol on Huffington Post and in Enlighten Next Germany's Impulse magazine

New Video to launch annual Simpol animation competition

(For the texts please see the website <http://www.simpol.org> JP)

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