



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

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WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER DIRECTKRAZY

Rule by Gangsters contra Rule by the People

Everybody knows the famous names – Lucky Luciano, Bugsy Siegel, Meyer Lansky, Al Capone, Frank Costello, Joseph Kennedy, Pablo Escobar, Dutch Schultz, Vito Genovese.....

Organizations led by people like these – the Mafia, the Camorra, the Medellin Cartel, the Yakuza, and others – are still active and thrive in various countries. All have in common certain structures and behavior patterns. They are steered by strict hierarchies; top positions are acquired either by family or social connections or by murders. The ultimate objective is power and money; The chief or only method is violence and intimidation.

What the general public still do not understand is the fact that the same structures and behavior patterns can be seen in seemingly more or less legitimate ruling elites, from time immemorial until today. All those kings, queens, emperors, presidents, Prime Ministers, generals, First Secretaries, and other types of heads of states – what have they been and are, basically, but gangsters, only on an immensely larger scale than Lucky Luciano or Al Capone? These two and their colleagues only killed a few persons. The rulers of states, hiding behind myths of supernatural mandates or the will of their citizens, have always pretended, and still do, that they were given the right to kill thousands and millions of innocent people, in wars or otherwise, to protect some higher principle. The USA's official doctrine says, "We have to wage wars in order to protect our democratic values and way of life". It seems that most common Americans still believe this nonsense. The way rulers of other states justify their murderous crimes is not much different.

We live in a deadly illusion. In Western countries, party politicians are elected to preserve or strengthen short term material living standards of their voters. Once in office, they behave as if the election gives them the right to take military actions killing hundreds of thousands of innocent people round the world without the citizens' consent.

If the system of the so called "representative democracy" is not radically changed, we risk extermination. Let's stop believing in the legitimacy of representation by parties! Let's stop living in denial! Let's open our eyes for the insight: The only fundamental difference between Al Capone and George W. Bush is the magnitude of their power!

The Cuban Missile Crisis October 1962



From 1949 to 1959, Cuba was in the clutches of Fulgencio Batista, but also of American gangsters who supplied prostitution and other sorts of pastime to rich American visitors. Economically, Cuba depended on the export of sugar-cane to the USA. In 1959, the regime was overthrown by Fidel Castro and his barbudos. Originally, Castro was not a communist, but the USA almost ruined Cuba by blocking its exports; the CIA made dozens of attempts to murder Castro; in April 1961, Cuban emigrants, supported by the CIA, made an unsuccessful attempt to invade Cuba from the Bay of Pigs. In the bipolar world of that time, Castro saw no other option but to turn to the Soviet Union for protection. The Soviet Union was surrounded by American bases armed with nuclear missiles, able to destroy all big Soviet towns. To at least partially counterbalance this threat, the Soviets began to place their own nuclear missiles in Cuba. Even if fully deployed, these missiles would have only been able to reach about one third of the US territory. It was only a gesture. In reality, the soviet leaders were only interested in continuing to have a good time in their *dañas*, certainly not in committing suicide by attacking the USA from Cuba.

The hawkish circles debating the situation in the White House did not see it this way. During the first days of the crisis, a preventive strike against Cuba was seriously considered. That would have unleashed a nuclear war with the Soviet Union and millions of

innocent people round the world would have perished. Only thanks to Kennedy's common sense the danger was averted. The outcome might very well have been different. And that was not the only incident of this kind. It was reported that, on several occasions, owing to a false alarm, American planes carrying nuclear weapons were already in the air, heading for the Soviet Union.

How can anybody call "democracy" a system in which a few individuals, or one single individual, are able to kill millions without the potential victims, or anybody else having any say, or even without knowing what is going on? This monstrous ideological imposture is only made possible owing to massive brainwashing taking place every hour, every minute

INTERNATIONAL

Czech Republic

Situation: Many, or most, of the citizens are furious with politicians because people are systematically robbed by corruption and embezzlement. The traditional parties loose members and voters. New parties emerge, e.g. The ANO (Yes) founded by the billionaire *Andrej Babiš* and *The Dawn of Direct Democracy* founded by Senator *Tomio Okamura* (of Japanese Origin). The whole system is undergoing a crisis. Grassroot initiatives promoting reforms are getting stronger and stronger. *8 January 2014:* The Slovaks, the Czechs' brother nation, seem to be even more radical than the Czechs. Recently, a video has been spreading from Slovakia, calling for a revolution, and exhorting politicians to leave the scene, or else their lives might be in danger. So far, about 60.000 people have downloaded it, among them many Czechs.

The **Movement for Direct Democracy** (HzPD) was formally established as early as February 2001:

The movement strives for the legalization of citizen initiative and binding referendum in Czech Republic.

In pursuing the promotion of methods of direct democracy, the movement cooperates with similar movements and groups in Europe and the world.

We demand that

1. the Constitution of Czech Republic be changed so that the citizens be endowed with decisive power by means of methods of direct democracy (see Citizens' Constitution Draft - DOC file)
2. the law concerning local (communal) referendum be simplified and radically reformed, so that by their vote, the citizens be able to decide on everything that is subject to decision-making by their representatives
3. the voting system and the Constitution of Czech Republic be changed so as to empower the voters to recall at any moment their parliamentary representatives
4. the same principles be established on the level of the EU as well

Where the quality of democracy is concerned, we are aware of the importance of the mass media and the concentration of economic power. Therefore, we consider the above demands only as a partial, although very important, component of efforts to achieve a democratization of the existing social system.

We believe that methods of direct democracy will be conducive to a humanization of society and the strengthening of human solidarity, as well as to ecologically benign behavior.

Without direct democracy, long-term sustainable development is not possible!

On 4. - 6. November 2013 in Prag and on 18. - 20. November in Nitra (Slovakia), initiated and organized by the **Center of Global Studies**, presided by **Dr.Marek Hrubec**, a conference headlined *Social Changes: Revolution and Transformation* (in Czech and Slovak) took place with considerable success. 34 persons, mostly academics, delivered speeches, many more attended and participated in discussions.

Thematic sections:

Crises and Social Conflicts

Struggles for Recognition, Civil Society and Social Movements

Civil Open-Mindedness contra Deafness to Social Change

Transformation of Dissent into Mainstream and a New Dissent

Citizen Participation, Interests of Social Groups

Silence contra Anger: Excluded and Marginalized Social Groups

Non-violent Protests: Demonstrations, Strike, Hunger-strike

Power Assymetry: the Role of Guerilla

Ideologies of Social Change: Neo-conservative, Neo-liberal, Neo-socialist

Disagreement about Private and Common Ownership, Quarrels about the Market and Strategic Projects

Authoritarian contra Democratic Forms of Capitalism and Socialism

Connection between Local and Global Changes

Prof. Ph.D. **Milan Zelený**, professor of Management Systems, Fordham University, New York, has sent us 2 papers on the functioning of political parties, which were multiplied and distributed among the participants. Prof.Zelený's assessment is identical with that of Dr.Polak.

The introductory section of the Conference was focused on *Direct Democracy*..

Speakers: **Dr. Jiri Polak**, **Mr.Václav Vorel**, **Dr.Eng. Josef Zítek**



From the left:

Dr.Eng.Josef Zítek, **Dr.Jiri Polak**, **Dr.Ladislav Hohoš** (Slovakia)



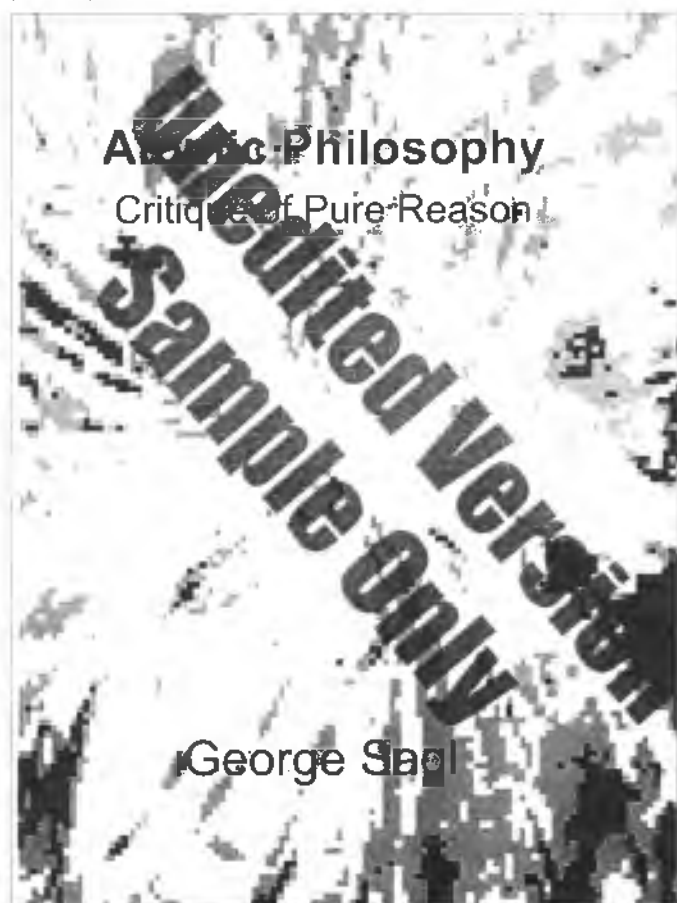
Dr. Marek Hrubec, Director of the Center of Global Studies and Organizer of the Conference

A new, similar conference, this time international and in English, is scheduled for 22.-25.May.

Recently, the Center of Global Studies has published an information booklet about An Unconditional Basic Income (in Czech). More information will come in the next issue of this newsletter.

Canada

Eng. MSc PhD **George Sagi**, one of the "founding fathers" of the Global DD Movement, is preparing for publication a profound philosophic work:



George S Sagi earned his Electrical Engineering Degree at the Technical University of Budapest, and an MSc qualification at the University of Manitoba, Canada. His thesis, Bertrand Russell's Analytical Logic, earned him a partial PhD credit at U of M St. Johns College, but

discontinued his studies. Sagi published the first quantised theory of traffic flow, the maximum and practical capacity of freeways and intersections, published in Traffic Engineering Magazine. Sagi has been a research scientist after his retirement, published several papers and books. His oil painting below, titled Superparticles, is a pictorial representation of the universal energy field of the universe, painted in 1963.



After so many years of research, Sagi presents a revolutionary new philosophical concept of the atom. Democritus static concept of the undividable atom is replaced by a new dynamic concept of incessantly chaotically moving primordial atoms, he calls primordial particles. This

empiricist method leads to physical concepts of space, gravity, dark energy, dark matter, and the evolution of our universe. People with high school physics and mathematics knowledge and others with higher education could easily understand Sagi's step-by-step presentation.

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France

13 January, Mr. **Quentin Grimaud** sent a letter to e2d-international:

"I am an active member of several communities involved in (true) democracy, mainly the one called "Les Gentils Virus" ("The kind viruses"), <http://gentilsvirus.org/>.

The "Kind Viruses" are those who believe that:

- We are not in true democracy, because we can only elect masters who decide everything for us.
- Many problems in our society are the result of the political impotence of citizens, and would be resolved long ago if the people could really do something about it.
- We absolutely need a real democracy to solve these problems.
- We have to talk around to awaken the slumbering citizens in all of us, so that we would be numerous to demand a true democracy.

We try to give people the virus of democracy, hence the name "Kind Viruses". We would like to establish a contact with your NGO, and to discuss of possible actions or projects we could do together. An example of project I would like to talk to you about is for the European Elections.

We are submitting lists in each region of France for the European elections, where people on the lists have been picked at random among a whole set of citizen volunteers. The "political programme" of these lists consists in ONLY ONE THING: candidates promise that if they are elected, for each law proposal which comes to the parliament (I guess you know that only the Commission can make law proposals, not even parliament members), they will cast a vote with an internet tool

where every citizen could vote, and apply exactly the output of this vote. This is a way to bring direct democracy to the parliament with its current rules.

For more information about our initiative, see the <http://democratiereelle.eu/> website and translate it using Google translate."

Switzerland

Europamagazin 2/2013

edito by **Paul Ruppen**

Tschechei – Perspektiven der direkten Demokratie by **Jiri Matuszek**

"Direkte Demokratie ist die beste Medizin für unsere Gesellschaft"
Interview von Cora Pfafferott (Democracy International) mit Georgeta Ionescu

Kurzinfos Demokratie:

Direkte Demokratie in Österreich – Alibiaktionen!

Französisches Initiativrecht als Mogelpackung

Beteiligung in der Schweiz wird unterschätzt

Hoffnung auf ferne "Eliten" statt mehr Demokratie? By **Paul Ruppen**

Neoliberale Politik zerstört die EU by **Annette Groth**

Kurzinfo: *EU-Kommission gibt grünes Licht für umstrittenen Gentechnik*

Buchbesprechungen:

Schweizer Gewerkschaften und Europa

Euroland wird abgebrannt..... et al.

Les idées principales de l'anarchisme et la critique de l'Union Européenne by Chris Zumbrunn

Auf dem Weg zu den Wurzeln by **Luzius Theiler**

Kurzinfos

USA

13 December, a letter from Mr. **Josiah Moss** (excerpts)

"To all National Initiative enthusiasts, almost 100 legislators from 32 states met at Mt. Vernon on Saturday to discuss a Convention of States."

"It was the impression of those who spoke with attendees that their sense is not if an Article V convention will be held, but rather when", one volunteer reported.

Florida is the third state that has officially joined onboard by pre-filling the application!

Now this atmosphere is the opportune time for everyone who truly want change in the form of direct democracy.

Imagine the United States with a similar government like Switzerland and Uruguay, where we can bring our troops back home, change our tax code to a more fair tax, end the drug war, and countless other progressive changes." See <http://convention.movements.us/>

"PS. Watch the recently released documentary *It's Time We Talked*. This is the best documentary yet on the National Citizens Initiative."

A new interesting site: www.RedefineNow.com

28 November, a letter from Mr. **David Grant** (excerpts), "You may be interested in my lecture: "Steps Toward Abolishing War: Unarmed Peacekeeping and A Two-Legged Democracy." It is available as *text with slides*

The 50-minute speech is also online through Vimeo in two versions."

(The above materials and more can be downloaded at <http://thecommonlot.com/>)

"By the way, I hope to be attending the 100th anniversary of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (I am a former staff). It will be held at the place of the organisation's foundation, Lake Constance, Switzerland, in early August 2014."

9 January, a circular letter from Ms **Sandy Heierbacher** (excerpts), "First, I wanted to share the National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation's "2013 Milestones" infographic (which can be viewed and shared easily at <http://ncdd.org/13876>)....."

"Second, we also have a great little Year in Review post up at <http://ncdd.org/13788> that I encourage you to check out."

"Third, we wanted to encourage everybody to scroll down the latest posts on the NCDD blog at www.ncdd.org/news."

20 January, a circular letter from Mr. **David Frank**, "This plan is for Real Direct Democracy. It can be installed Community by Community. Since when did the We the American People decide that it is fine to use our tax Money to Buy Military Equipment to be used in Our Communities against US? I think that it is about Time for Issues like this to be decided by We the People. Here is the plan: <https://david-frank-9e0b.squarespace.com/mission-statement/>

Germany

mdmagazin 3 - 2013

Editorial by **Roman Huber**

Konsequenzen aus der Bundestagswahl für die Arbeit von Mehr Demokratie

Leon Friedel: Das Lavieren muss ein Ende haben!

Neelke Wagner: 25 Jahre Mehr Demokratie!

Bruno S. Frey: Macht Demokratie glücklich?

Neelke Wagner: Hauptverhandlung in Karlsruhe

Regine Laroche: Demokratie im Test: Das Volksentscheidsranking

PD Dr. **Otmar Jung**: "Entspricht der Landtag dem Volksbegehren ..."

Ländertelegramm

Jan Hagelstein: Der Aufrechte Gang

Oliver Engelbrecht: "Wir sind der Staat!"

Leserbrief, Information etc.

mdmagazin 4 - 2013

Editorial by Ms **Claudine Nierth**

Ralf-Uwe Beck: Jetzt erst Recht!

Tim Weber: Schritt für Schritt Mehr Direkte Demokratie

Sarah Händel: Ende der Saure-Gurken Zeit?

Claudia Löhle: Wat(t) für Berlin?

Ländertelegramm

Carsten Berg: Die europäische Bürger-initiative nimmt Fahrt auf

Cora Pfeiferott: Demokratie-Tour an die Donau

Frank Rehms: "Alle Macht dem Volke?" etc.

Leserbriefe etc.

UK

1 December, a report from **I&Rgb**, "Two December events (A,B) about citizen-led direct democracy in Europe. (excerpts)

Event A – **Direct (public issue) democracy in Interdisciplinary and international context 2013/2014** Mid-and Eastern Europe, Austria, Switzerland and Germany

Technical University of Dresden, Main Hall and Old Mensa,

Duellerstrasse 2, Postcode 901069, Dresden

5 – 6 December 2013

Thursday 5th December

I. Direct Democracy in Middle and East Europe

Expert presentation about: Hungary, Estonia; Discussion;
Russia, Romania, Bulgaria

Friday 6th December

II. Direct Democracy in Austria, Switzerland and Germany

..... Discussions

Discussants: Dr. Hans-Peter Bartels Social-Democratic Party
SPD, member of parliament

Arnold Vaatz, Christian Democratic Party CDU,
member of parliament

Event B – University of Poznan, Poland

THE EVENT UNDER THE HONORARY PATRONAGE OF
THE SWISS EMBASSY IN WARSAW; The Research Group
"Helvetic Initiative" and the Faculty of Political Science and
Journalism ... extended an invitation to a seminar on Direct
Democracy in Switzerland and beyond ... Special guest of
the seminar: Mr. Martin Michelet – Minister of the the Swiss
Embassy in Warsaw

9 January, a report from **I&Rgb** (excerpt): "The member of
parliament for Richmond Park, Zac Goldsmith (former editor of
the Ecologist) has proposed a law to introduce the "recall", a
form of citizens' initiative which enables voters to sack their
constituency MP without having to wait for the next general
election.

Presenting a private member's bill he asked in the House of
Commons (4 December 2013) "That leave be given to bring a
Bill to permit voters to recall their elected representatives
in special circumstances"

Goldsmith briefly describes the Recall procedure:

"If a percentage of constituents – usually about 20% - sign a
petition in a given time frame, they earn the right to have a
referendum in which voters are asked whether they want to
recall their MP. If more than half of the voters say yes, there is a
subsequent by-election."

*MPs' voted on this proposal in parliament: For 127 Against 17
Next presentation ("reading") of the law proposal (bill) in
parliament Friday 28 February"*

15 January, a letter from Mr. **John Dodds**, "Some friends and
I are working on getting this started in the UK and setting up a
single united website for us to work together.

Here's the wiki <http://directdemocracy.wikia.com/wiki/Introduction>

And here is our current planning document

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1.YAWxuVliPxiSjyuiJ9DbYtClDey8AXjUaX_Tf790cok/edit?usp=sharing

We currently have a former Goldman Sachs IT architect
designing the software systems for us."

Sweden

2 December, information from **Aktiv Demokrati**: Debate
about Liquid Democracy from World Forum for Democracy in
Strasbourg – 2013.

Introduction to the debate: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/world-forum-democracy/lab1>

More debates: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/world-forum-democracy/deferred-transmission>

Direct sending: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/world-forum-democracy/live>

Ireland

<http://directdemocracyireland.ie/>

South Africa

<http://www.directdemocracy.org.za>

Miscellaneous

19 October, a letter from Mr. **Sven Mason** to Mr. **David Ding**
(excerpt): "I had some more thoughts about your project
and how it could support/develop DD in New Zealand. If you
developed an online voting platform (which I understand you
will be doing) and a method of verifying the voters (I think I saw
you were going to do that), then you basically have the political
DD support system."

20 October, a letter from Mr. **Paul Nollen**: "I would add to the
ideas of Sven the possibility that we, here in Belgium (Dutch
speaking part), are developing an internet tool for gathering
"signatures" for a citizen initiative. It is already active in the
Netherlands (in Dutch). We can, by law, and if we can gather
enough signatures, put a subject on the agenda of the local
council and we have the right to defend that subject in the
council. It is not much but it is a step towards direct democracy.
Next to the internet part we have to look for support with
signatures on paper because internet signatures are not yet
accepted here. But nevertheless we will work both ways."

20 October, a letter from Mr. **Bruce Eggum**: "Thanks Paul. Here
in USA we have Congress, not Parliament. DD for USA we have
the right to petition so your Belgium Initiative may work for USA
too. Getting a Referendum may be more difficult, requiring
another petition. (We need to make referendum mandatory ?)

**Wars have nothing to do with democracy, security, women's
rights, peace or stability. They are fought for money and
power and nothing else.**" (Emphasis added. Bravo!! JP)

27 October, Mr. **Paul Nollen** wrote, "I read somewhere that the
organisation is 'democratic'. And I would propose something
there. Vested interests are always trying to let us believe that
we are working in a 'democratic' way. That way they are
misleading us in what the real meaning is of democracy, and
that is something we have to defend also in my opinion.

– Democracy is the legislative authority of the people.

And yes, it can be by representation or direct. But most
representative systems are not a democracy but a participacy.
The ultimate test is the question: are representatives voting by
their own will and conscience or are they following party dictation
in order to get an electable place with the next elections.

In a country with representation and direct democracy this
is not a great problem but in states and countries with only
representation participacy is a problem and probably the major
cause that people are turning away from this system. In a
participacy organisations have legislative rights indeed but it
is clearly no democracy, they all respond to the 'iron law of
oligarchy' (Robert Michels)..

- As far that all kind of organisations and systems is concerned
we can talk about 'maximum participation', 'decisive rights',
'voting rights', and so on, but this has nothing to do with
legislative authority and that way, nothing with democracy."

14 January, Ms **Charlotte Ryö** sent round a few interesting addresses:

<http://www.erc2.org>

(European Referendum campaign)

<http://democracy-international.org>

(Europe)

<http://www.opendemocracy.net>

(the World)

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

<http://www.democraticdiretti.it/>

<http://dd-la.ch>

(Latin America)

14 December, an article in **Den Fria Tidningen** (The Free Journal; translation from Swedish)

Excerpts: "Guy Standing. The Precariate Movement is Taking Shape. They are hesitant, timid, and powerless. The parties are deaf and blind to their needs. But something is happening – in Naples' slums and in India's corridors of power, says the professor of economy **Guy Standing**.

The class structure he describes in his book consists of a growing crowd of highly educated people with uncertain jobs and unsure income. But also of migrants and job seekers as well as of those who have recently lost their jobs. They are united by uncertainty and insecurity. Another characteristic of this precarious class is anger – and the fact that they do not have any strong ties to the State."

It becomes increasingly evident that no political party can respond to the needs and preferences of this newly emerging "precarious class". It consists of heterogenous and self-conscious citizens who can only reach fulfillment of their priorities by acting as individuals and in harmony with others. (JP)

UKRAINE

RESULT OF A LACK OF DEMOCRACY!



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