



The Misery of Mainstream Political 'Science'

by Jiri Polak

At a politological conference, I heard one of the prominent participants saying, "We do not know why wars exist. More research is needed." At another occasion, I heard another prominent saying, "As a matter of fact, we are civil servants."

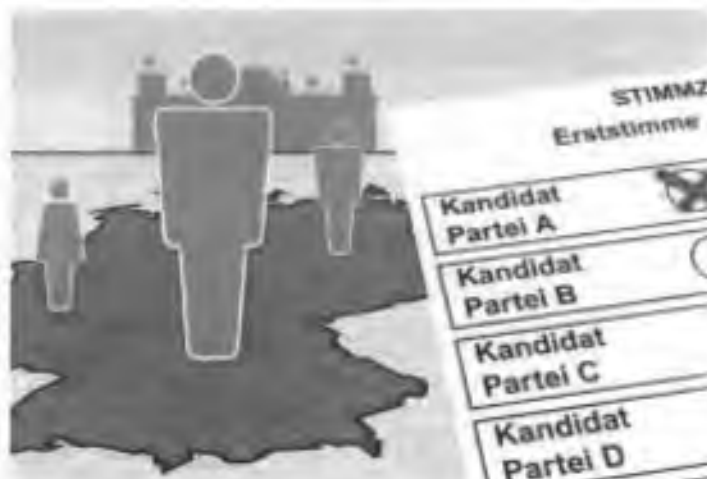
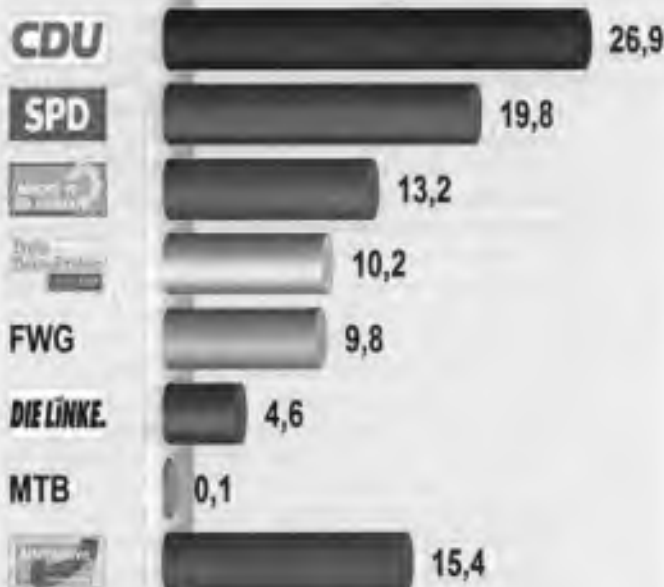
These two quotations elucidate the substance of this would-be scientific branch, at least in Europe. The European departments of political science are financed by the State, that is by politicians, the same politicians the nature and activities of whom this 'science' is supposed to examine. Would the researchers be sincere and impartial – as all, or the great majority of researchers in other branches are – they would have to expose their employers to devastating criticism.

Why wars exist? I believe plain common sense tells us that wars are instruments of criminal oligarchies who struggle with other oligarchies or with their own population to preserve or expand their power sphere and rob their adversaries of their property, regardless of the cost.. For this purpose, they brainwash their populations, manipulating them to offer their lives, health, property and families. The oligarchies pretend to fight for a noble purpose and until now, the large masses have been stupid enough to swallow such nonsense. Fortunately, more and more people begin to see through the deception.

What research is needed to understand these real causes of wars? What mainstream political 'scientists' do in this field is not research, but fabrication of various types of smoke screen. Very popular are the *System Theories* – Structural Functionalism, General System Theory, Input-Output Theory These theories handle political systems as some mysterious impersonal entities behaving in a way people can only marginally influence and only imperfectly understand. Therefore, anonymous civil servants, well paid to pretend doing research in departments of political science, can have a good time, slumber in their offices and invent all sorts of excuses for the mass murders politicians make themselves guilty of.

QUO USQUE TANDEM?

POLITICAL PARTIES



Where is the individual citizen?

Czech Republic

A new, strategical website is being prepared, called

Citizens for Democratic Constitutional Reform, Czech Republic

In 1998, the **First International Conference/Congress on Direct Democracy** took place in Pribram, Czech Republic.. Thanks to the chairman and chief organizer, Prof. Ph.D. **Theodore L.Becker**, USA, participants came from all continents except Africa, even t.ex. From Australia, Japan and South Korea. Most of them agreed that it would be useful and desirable to stay in touch during the following years. In order to facilitate mutual contacts, as well as in order to preserve the history of these contacts and various actions taking place in various countries, it was also agreed tat we would publish a quarterly called **Worldwide Direct Democracy Newsletter** with Ph.D. **Jiri Polak**, Sweden, as editor in chief.

Naturally, not all persevered and during the years, regrettably, a few dear colleagues have passed away. Nevertheless, many remain in touch, occasionally, and go on carrying the torch, among them some prominent persons. Let me mention at least three: Senator **Mike Gravel**, USA, who contributed to the fall of President Nixon owing to the Watergate scandal, prevented plans to test nuclear weapons in the Pacific, etc. , Prof.Ph.D. **Peter C.Dienel**, Germany (now deceased, to our great regret) who introduced to the DD movement a deliberative method called *Planning Cells*; Prof.Dienel was personal friend of the former President of Germany, **Johannes Rau**; Prof.Ph.D. **Milan Zelený**, USA, an internationally renowned professor at Fordham University, New York.

Organizations, discussion circles and even individuals promoting the idea of Direct Democracy went on appearing in many western countries. The most important among them is the German *Mehr Demokratie* which has thousands of paying members, paid editorial staff, and own periodical. In the USA, we can mention e.g. *National Initiative for Democracy*, and the *Occupy Movement*, in Great Britain *I&R* or *INIREF*, in Ukraine the *Academy of Direct Democracy*, in Czech Republic the *HZPD* (Movement for Direct Democracy), in Greece the *Greek DD Movement*, and others. The basic program of all these organizations and activists is expressed by *I&R* – Initiative and Referendum, i.e. the right of grassroot citizens to force the political leadership to organize a referendum on an issue, if a petition demanding that gains support of a sufficient number of signatures. In this way, only individual issues can be corrected, while the political systém itself remains more or less unchanged.

However, beside these „mainstream“ procedures, a growing number of citizens strive for a change of the very system. Participants of the two Conferences, chaired by Prof. Becker, demanded just that. In Czech Republic, a strong movement is focused on the enforcement of a referendum concerning the adoption of a new, *Citizens' Constitution*. At least four drafts of such a Constitution, written by ordinary citizens without the participation of any political party, exist already. There are plans to register this movement, thereby increasing its official status. Undoubtedly, development goes in the direction of rule by the people instead of rule by parties. This change of paradigm might be the only way to save our civilization, threatened by global catastrophes, especially a climate change and deterioration of natural environment on which we all depend for our survival.

The first of the above mentioned four drafts of a Citizens' Constitution was put forward in the nineties within the framework of the HZPD. It took the existing Constitution as a basis. In

2015, three more drafts were put forward, that of Eng. **Zdenek Trinkewitz**, that of Dr. **Radoslav Štědroň** and that of Eng. **Jan Piroutek**. The text of Eng.Trinkewitz is concise and satisfies the criteria of a juridical document. The two last mentioned are voluminous (Dr.Štědroň's draft has 53 pages) and they open much larger perspectives than it could be expected from a mere Constitution. Undoubtedly, a long and broad discussion could reduce both texts to an adequate length. Here is the front page of Dr.Štědroň's draft. It has been printed and edited in a very attractive form.

Návrh k dvouleté
celonárodní diskusi ve
veřejnoprávní televizi a
veřejnoprávním rozhlase tak,
aby po úpravách mohla být
ústava schválena referendem
osmi a půl milionu českých
voličů.

Ústava České republiky

Translation: Proposal for a two years long nation-wide discussion in public service TV and Radio with the purpose of presenting it, after adjustments, for a national referendum. The eight and a half millions of Czech voters could thus have a say.

A quotation from the Preamble: "Allow us to be a sovereign, independent State, steered by Direct Democracy. We shall prove that it is possible. We shall not threaten anyone and demand that all people in the world behave in the same way. For us, a decent State is more important than anything else. The purpose of this Constitution is to define such a State, to define the meaning of Right and Justice. Everybody – rich or poor, mentally or materially, wealthy or having empty pockets, has the right to equity and justice."



To our great regret we have been informed that this spring,

Mr.**Zdenek Reimann**, our faithful collaborator since many years, suddenly deceased. He shall not be forgotten!

USA

29 June, Ms. **Sandy Heierbacher** sent round this letter (excerpt):

"1. Registration is up at www.ncdd2016.eventbrite.com and now's the time to benefit from our Early Bird rate.

2. The deadline for workshop proposals is Friday, July 8th (next Friday)

If you haven't yet marked your calendar, the 2016 National Conference on Dialogue & Deliberation is coming up this October 14-16 in the Boston area. NCDD conferences bring together hundreds of the most active, thoughtful, and influential people involved in public engagement and group process work across the USA and Canada, and we hope you'll be one of them!"

11 August, Ms. **Sandy Heierbacher** wrote, "Hi, everyone! So many Americans are disheartened by how political polarization seems to be driving a wedge between us. This polarization has become a national crisis with profound repercussions for our personal relationships, collective well-being and the future of our nation.

NCDD's upcoming national conference in October (www.ncdd.org/events/ncdd2016) is focusing in on how the amazing people in our field are bridging political, racial, and other divides, and how we can play a major role in healing our nation after the presidential election."

26 July, Mr. **David Gallup** sent the following letter to *The Community of World Citizens* (excerpts):

"What if the citizens of the state of Texas Decide to leave the United States?

What if they have a referendum on whether to exit the Union, to once again become an Independent Republic of Texas?"

"What would this mean for the people living in Texas?"

"Could Texas depart legally?

"One of the main considerations about whether a state is sovereign is its ability to establish treaties and relationships with

other countries. Because the majority of powers of the government are vested in the Federal government (Congress, President and Courts), states are prevented from contracting with "foreign" governments.

Article IV of the US Constitution establishes admission into the United States by a new state with consent of the Congress, but does not deal with state secession. The remainder of the Constitution is silent on secession, neither denying nor confirming a right to secede."

"When Texas became one of the United States, /it/ entered into an indissoluble relation...More than a compact, it was the incorporation of a new member into the political body. And it was final."

"Under national law, Texas cannot legally secede."

"Could Texas depart illegally?

Would this be considered an insurrection? Would the federal government exert its armed forces to stop Texas? Could this lead to another civil war?"

"Texans could make a peaceful declaration of independence and find other governments to back them up. Countries such as Kosovo, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Crimea, formerly part of other nation-states, have all declared their independence in the last few years. They found backing by Russia or by rulings of the United Nations' International Court of Justice.

TEXT versus Brexit?

The difference between Texas trying to leave the US Union and Great Britain choosing to leave the European Union is that the EU was created by a treaty signed by members, a treaty that, in Article 50, allows for "member states" to withdraw."

"Furthermore, the EU has no constitution to bind the European states together into a new indissoluble entity,"

"Will Great Britain's departure from the European Union precipitate the EU's demise?"

"Even if Texas were to leave the Union, just as Britain has "left" the EU, it cannot leave the earth. World Citizenship, the union of humans as humans, shall not perish from the earth."



UK

Prof. **Theodore L. Becker** has established contact with a group in Great Britain called the *Sortition Foundation* - a small group of enthusiastic volunteers, currently working on the project <http://www.g1000.uk>. Their chairman, Mr. **Brett Henning**, wrote, "I'm finishing off my book on sortition, which will be published later this year by Unbound:

<https://unbound.com/books/the-end-of-politicians>

On 24 June, **INIREF** sent round the following text:

"Statement by *Campaign for direct democracy in Britain*

After the Brexit result, many are now asking, should we have more referenda or do they do more harm than good? This invites the question, can we improve the quality of our democracy and the ways in which we conduct our public affairs?

Our democracy is way out of date and badly designed so that elected politicians often fail to represent the majority of us.

In recent years Government and Parliament have carried out ballots, referenda about: Scottish independence, the House of Commons electoral system (alternative vote), the European Union. As ruling politicians see it, with these ballots they were asking the people for their opinion about an important public issue. The results of these votes are 'not' legally binding but are only advisory and may be ignored by the government of the day. This is weak democracy of poor quality.

In our opinion our state needs more and better democracy, not less. The right to initiative and referendum should belong to the people (acting through the electorate) and not lie only, as now in effect, with the government.

What is meant by "more and better democracy"?

For instance, a large number of voters should be able to start a veto referendum of government policy or make a formal proposal for electoral decision (ballot) on new law. See more detail at <http://www.iniref.org>

On 26 June, **INIREF** published the following letter:

"Hallo Neil Johnston,

Thank you for reminding us about the e-petition for a second referendum about the EU. Now (20:45 on June 26th 2016) there are 3.3 million endorsements.

Parliament may debate this proposal but, as we, the electorate, have no formal right to demand a referendum, the House would not be obliged to comply with the request.

Because the "Brexit" process - instigation, campaigns, level of participants' information and public debate - were all deeply flawed, there is a case for another, early, referendum on this matter. To do this well we should rapidly introduce well-designed democratic procedures such as the citizens' proposition ("initiative") and voter-instigated, legally binding referendum. A constitutional basis for this innovation in UK is already in place: in the Convention of Civil and Political Rights which says that citizens have the right to take part in their government both directly (on public issues) and indirectly at elections. This Convention has been ratified by Parliament and so the new regulations could reasonably be introduced, at least for emergency use, by a government order (then no need to wait for H o L and Queen;-))

Our campaign group Citizens' Initiative and Referendum I&R-GB / www.iniref.org would be happy to advise MPs and other people or groups on how to proceed with the introduction of a more citizen-led democracy: We can refer to a panel of experts in design of modern democracy.

Regards, Michael Macpherson (Dr.) "

On 18th July, **INIREF** published the following article on the web:

"People's political rights and sovereignty after the Brexit ballot. Easy but effective ways to improve our democracy

Many voted for Brexit in order to "take back control of our country from faceless bureaucrats in Brussels. But did we ever stop to think about what control WE 46 million plus voters, citizens have over parliament and the politicians we elect to "work for us"?

It is accepted that the elected parliament can supervise and over-rule all bodies, companies, plus all other entities and persons in the state.

This is the meaning of "parliamentary sovereignty".

With "parliamentary sovereignty" the parliament can apply the power of the people to control and manage public affairs.

However if the people wish to select and decide on any public issue, exercising their "direct" political rights, then they are entitled to do so.

Methods which enable an electorate to apply these direct political rights include the people's law proposition which can lead to a law-making referendum and the citizen-launched veto-referendum which can be used to block bad or unwanted government or parliamentary actions or laws.

For the future of our democracy, for constitution building and also as a way to resolve some uncertainties in the Brexit drama, we should urgently consider introducing best possible, modern democracy (see e.g. Swiss and other regulations and Constitutions about political rights).

Regarding Brexit: Serious commentators have suggested that a second EU referendum should be held, to allow the people of the UK, this time having knowledge of terms and conditions negotiated with the EU and better informed about the whole issue, to consider whether we should leave or decide to remain in the European Union.

A referendum desired and launched by a large part of the electorate would have more weight and democratic legitimacy than a "plebiscite" like the Brexit ballot which was in effect imposed by the Conservative government, as a way to solve its own internal feud and to fend off the election threat posed by UKIP."



INTERNATIONAL

On 19 July, Mr. **Jonas Liljgren** wrote, "I recently had a meeting with two persons from <http://democracy.earth>. They are interested in setting up a new website for promoting decentralized governance, that would be broad enough to encompass different platforms. It would encompass E2D but also include similar projects not doing this through the party system.

But we are not content to just promote participatory democracy of the type that just serve as input to the existing structure of politicians that can choose to ignore the result of the process.

I'm hoping for a revival of E2D with the new generation of the movement.

Democracy Earth is an outgrowth of Partido de la Red."

mdmagazin Nr. 109, 3/2016

Editorial by Dr. **Michael Efler**

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Forum für direkte Demokratie und EUROPA-MAGAZIN

"Das Forum für direkte Demokratie ist eine überparteiliche Bewegung von Leuten aus der ökologisch-sozialen Lager, die der offiziellen EU-Politik gegenüber kritisch eingestellt sind."

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EUROPA-MAGAZIN

für dezentrale politische Strukturen in Europa
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Redaktionsadresse:

EUROPA-
MAGAZIN

Luternauweg 8

3006 Bern

Tel. 0041 - 31 - 731 29 14

Fax: 0041 - 31 - 731 29 13

Impressum

Herausgeber:

Forum für direkte Demokratie
EU-kritisch, ökologisch, sozial

Redaktion

Paul Ruppen (pr)

Lektorat:

Gérard Devanthéry, Miro Schnyder,
Christian Jungen

Logos und Buchersterne: Josef Loretan

Entwicklung und Konzeption der Website:
Chris Zumbund Ventures, CH-2610 Mont-
Soleil

Redaktionsadresse:

EUROPA-MAGAZIN, Luternauweg 8,
3006 Bern, Tel. 0041 - 31 - 731 29 14
Fax: 0041 - 31 - 731 29 13

<http://www.europa-magazin.ch>

E-Mail: forum@europa-magazin.ch

Druck: S&Z Print AG, 3902 Brig-Glis

Auflage: 2 000

Erscheinungsweise: 2 mal jährlich

Jahrgang 24, Nr. 64, Juni 2016

Abonnement: Fr. 30.-, Euro 30.-

Redaktionsschluss: 30. Oktober 2016

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Redaktionen und
Abonnenten:
Europa-Magazin
Luternauweg 8
3006 Bern

CH-3900 Brig
P.P.

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, OLBRACHTOVA 62, PRAHA, CZECH REPUBLIC



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 18 (No.3)

September 2016

WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY
NEWSLETTER

Published by MDD - Movement for Direct Democracy
Responsible editor: Jiri Polak, Design: Bohuslav Binka, Picture: Katka Svehlova
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