



Shall we survive? by Jiri Polak

Round the world, billions of people live happily unaware of the catastrophies menacing, if not their own survival, certainly the survival of their children and grand-children. Global warming, pollution of the environment, plundering of limited natural resources, a nuclear war started by oligarchies who fear to loose their power positions and privileges.... Certain scientists whose expert knowledge permits them to see the whole magnitude of the global threat, unprecedented in history, have lost their hopes and are falling into passivity. Most of the experts, as well as most citizen activists who want to do something about the deteriorating situation, limit themselves to public discussions and warnings addressed both to the public and to party politicians in charge. It is true that some half-hearted measures are being taken but they are not enough.

What's wrong? Why don't we join forces and do what is needed, no matter the obstacles and the costs? The root of the evil is the rule by political parties pretended to be "democracy". As a matter of fact, rule by parties never is and never can be *democracy*. If it has replaced rule by hereditary nobility or various types of open dictatorship, rule by parties, no matter how many, is a step in the right direction, but democracy? Never. No party represents the whole population. Decisions made by parties are the result of a never ending tug of war among various factions and vested interests manipulating opinion of the voters at all levels by means of privileged access to the media and enticing promises, often forgotten or diluted as soon as the purpose has been reached. What is put to vote are limited, material, short-term interests of the man in the street and power positions of the oligarchies, not measures needed to assure the survival and well-being of all nations, which should be the voters' prime interest.

What, then is the badly needed remedy? Obviously: **Remove political parties from decision-making processes!** Impossible? Yes, as long as citizens remain passive and poorly informed about where the world is heading. But at the age of the internet, information about real motives of political decisions and various types of hidden influence cannot be kept secret for ever. Already now, groups of activists and individual political thinkers try to introduce elements of Direct Democracy into party-based systems. Their program, however, is not sufficient. Almost all of them only focus on the inclusion of P&R into current, party-



Czech Republic

ZDENĚK TRINKEWITZ

SVĚDECTVÍ SOUČASNÍKA



Výbor z publicistiky a paměti 1937-2015
2. rozšířené elektronické vydání

based systems, leaving the systems otherwise unchanged. But some visionaries, particularly those belonging to the circuit of Prof. Ted Becker, do envisage a radical change of the system itself by presenting drafts of new, citizens' Constitutions. In Czech Republic, five such drafts have been presented so far, for the time being not attracting any attention to speak of. In these drafts, two principles stand out: 1. Political

parties may be financed by membership fees and private gifts only, not by public means. 2. Members of Parliament and other representatives may be only elected in single mandate election districts; i.e. election of persons, not of organizations.

Transformation of political systems in the Globe's major countries according to these principles might be the only way to save our civilization

UK

On 8 September, **INIREF** wrote: **"UK Parliament must take back control: brexit**

"Now in early autumn 2016 our elected members of parliament should exercise the power which they hold for us by responding clearly and decisively to the EU referendum which they called! The UK parliament enacted the EU referendum. Legally it seemed to be a consultation of the people. In June the result arrived. We propose that Parliament should respond to the referendum which it called, to the people, in order to determine what will happen now. A parliamentary resolution about this could be issued, further, law could be passed to govern how things shall proceed. Matters to be addressed include:

The government and political circumstances have substantially changed, so should be an early general election?

Parliament must show how we will proceed, for instance:

Who will determine if or when and under which circumstances the EU exit article can be triggered?

Will there be a referendum to decide if negotiated or prospective conditions for leaving the EU are acceptable to the electorate or not?

If there is to be another ballot about this then surely it could be organized and structured better than the one which we have seen in 2016."

On 28 September **INIREF** wrote: "

• **APPEAL TO PEOPLE IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE FOR ACTION IN AND COMMITMENT TO THE MOVEMENT FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY (below)**

• **Our comments, latest are below – scroll down to read or search for headers.**

BREXIT MEANS BREXIT MAY SAY OUR PRIME MINISTER THERESA. BUT WHAT

DOES BREXIT MEAN FOR PEOPLE'S POLITICAL RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY?

- Ways to better democracy after UK "brexit" referendum
- Our comment on a (later) 4 million strong petition for a second referendum on EU membership
- People's political rights and sovereignty after the Brexit ballot. Easy but effective ways to improve our democracy
- UK Parliament must take back control: brexit

• The Labour Party could win supporters and mobilise non-voters by proposing genuine citizen-led direct democracy."

Many more interesting articles can be downloaded from INIREF's website www.iniref.org

USA

30th September: Mrs. **Sandy Heierbacher** sent round information about a new NCDD conference. Excerpts:

"The schedule page at <http://ncdd.org/events/ncdd2016/schedule> provides a pretty good run-down on what's going to be happening at the conference, and the workshop page at <http://ncdd.org/events/ncdd2016/workshops> will really get you going!"



Translation: **A Contemporary's Testimony – selection of publications and memories from 1937-2015**

Since many years, Ing. **Zdenek Trinkewitz** has been one of the most prominent members of the group of activists who want to change the oligarchic, mock-democratic system of Czech Republic so that it becomes a genuine democracy. He is the author of one of the drafts of Citizens' Constitutions.

Leaflet of the Initiative **Participatory Budgeting:**

Rozhodujte o rozpočtu vašeho města

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- ▶ Transparentnost
- ▶ Svoboda
- ▶ Odpovědnost
- ▶ Bezkorupční prostředí
- ▶ Ekonomická efektivita
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www.participativnizrozpet.cz info@alternativazdola.cz www.alternativazdola.cz FOND

Translation:

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- Freedom
- Responsibility
- Corruption-free Environment
- Economic Efficiency
- Citizen Activity

"As you may know, the theme for NCDD 2016 is *Bridging Our Divides*, and we'll be finding innovative ways to lift up stories about healing the bitter partisan divide – along with many other persistent gaps in our society – and focusing on how, contrary to the popular narrative about intransigence across divisions, regular people are creating paths that move us forward together in addressing our nation's and society's biggest issues."

.....
 "NCDD conferences only come around every two years, and you won't want to miss this one! Learn more about the conference at www.ncdd.org/ncdd2016. Hope to see you there!

Germany

mdmagazin Nr. 110 / 4/2016

EUROPA

CETA VOR GERICHT

SCHIEBET CETA IM BUNDESRAT?

DIE BRITEN SIND WEG!

EIN DEMOKRATISCHEN NEUANFANG

BUNDESLÄNDER

FÜR ÜBERRASCHUNGEN GUT

LÄNDERTELEGRAMM

GRUNDLAGEN

NICHT AUFREGEN, NUR ANREGEN LASSEN

OMBUDS FÜR DIREKTE DEMOKRATIE

VON DER NOTWENDIGKEIT (TEIL 2)

INTERNATIONAL

HAT DAS SCHWEIZER VOLK IMMER RECHT?

REZENSION

DIE MODERNE ISONOMIE

DEMOKRATIE-NACHRICHTEN

KURZ NOTIERT

Editorial by Mrs. **Claudine Nierth**, Bundesvorstandssprecherin von Mehr Demokratie

International

The international DDD conference, scheduled for May 2017, has to be postponed. Information will come later. Instead, we plan a one day Czech conference on drafts of Czech Citizens' Constitutions, in the same hotel.

On 2 September, Mr. **David Gallup** sent the following blog to the net (excerpts):

"More than 65 million people have become refugees (15 million), stateless (10 million), or forcibly displaced (40 million) due to armed conflict, persecution and natural disasters."

"What if all of the displaced people of the world came together, like the Refugee Team who participated in the Olympics, to create their own country?"

"From the arduous journey that the population faced to achieve their freedom from persecution and from their appreciation of their new-found liberties, the Displacedlanders would use their ingenuity, enthusiasm, and persistence to create a thriving and vibrant society."

"But why should these fellow humans have to create their own new country to have their rights and basic needs upheld? Why are millions stuck in refugee camps with inadequate food, housing, healthcare, education and opportunity?"

To have the kind of world in which the rights reaffirmed in various declarations and treaties such as the UDHR, the ICCPR and the ICESCR are fully met, we should all be able to claim, and then exercise, our rights no matter where we happen to live on the planet. Human rights and duties are not bound by territory, they are not dependent upon the nation-state in which one happens to be born.

If everyone had citizenship everywhere, statelessness would no longer exist and only natural disasters would forcibly displace people. With world citizenship, if we do not like where we live, if we do not like the politics or the rulers, then we could live somewhere else.

Instead of creating a separate country for all displaced people, world citizenship, as a valid and legal citizenship beyond any other status that someone may carry, would ensure that everyone has at least one citizenship which, in its inclusiveness, upholds our concomitant rights and duties.

"World citizenship, as the highest level of allegiance, empowers us to focus on equality, justice, unity, friendship, sustainability, and harmony with each other and the earth."

On 20 September, Mr. **Roger Kotila** wrote, "I am pleased to report that **World Beyond War** has included the EARTH FEDERATION as one of the potential alternatives to establish a peaceful world without war."

DWF Special Edition, September 19, 2016 (excerpts)

World Beyond War

"Resting on a convincing body of evidence that violence is not a necessary component of conflict among states and non-state actors, **World Beyond War** asserts that war itself can be ended. We humans have lived without war for most of our existence and most people live without war most of the time. Warfare arose about 6,000 years ago (less than 5% of our existence as *Homo sapiens*) and spawned a vicious circle of warfare as peoples, fearing attack by militarized states, found it necessary to imitate them and so began the cycle of violence that has culminated in the last 100 years in a condition of permawar. War now threatens to destroy civilization as weapons have become ever more destructive. However, in the last 150 years, revolutionary new knowledge and methods of nonviolent conflict management have been developing that lead us to assert that it is time to end warfare and that we can do so by mobilizing millions around a global effort."

War What's It Good For?

By **Bob Hanson**, DWF Board Treasurer

.....
 "More and more people are realizing that if war ever made sense, it no longer does. If ever there was a cause worth supporting, it is ending violent conflict. I had hoped that I might live long enough to witness permanent peace happen, but that is looking more and more problematic.

Life is a wonderful miracle. But, until humans learn to co-exist peacefully, there is a strong chance that life as we know it will come to an end one of these days. One screw-up by someone with his finger on the nuclear button and game over. Have you noticed? The cold war is gradually coming back? NATO is pushing on the borders of Russia and Putin is pushing back. Fortunately, ideas about war seem to be evolving. Once seen as an inevitable feature of human life, this ancient practice is increasingly seen as outdated and avoidable. A year ago, the Congressional hawks would have had us bombing Iran on the chance that it might be planning on developing nuclear weapons. Fortunately, President Obama went for diplomacy and a majority of Congress supported him. War was averted."

Two Reasons for War

by **Hank Stone**

War famously being "hell", why do we Americans do so much of it?

There are two big reasons we have wars.

Money, of course, is the obvious reason. Our country spends about 1 trillion dollars every year on wars and preparations for wars. Everyone who gets that money is understandably concerned that peace may not break out.

The man on the street does not want war, but doesn't like to think about it either. So delegates thoughts about war and peace to leaders who promise to keep us safe. Those leaders generally can gather more personal power, and get a pass for possible misbehavior, if the people are agitated about crazy terrorists under their bed.

So everyone who receives a piece of that 1 trillion dollars per year, understandably enough, likes war.

"The other big reason America gets into wars is a constellation of traditions. Everyone who was around after World War 2 was regaled by heroic tales of brave soldiers, who kept America safe by fighting "the good war". We have experienced parades, marching bands, snappy uniforms, medals, and clean-cut, disciplined, fearless young men".

The Earth Federation

Introductory commentary to World Beyond War's section 52 (The Earth Federation) – a white paper for "A Global Security System. An Alternative to War."

The Earth Federation rests upon the Constitution for the Federation of Earth, also known as the "Earth Constitution." Drafted by the World Constitution and Parliament Association, this constitution addresses the fact that the nation-states are

stuck in a geopolitical war system which now endangers the entire world.

A key issue is the United Nations Charter with fatal flaws that prevent the UN from ending war. Beside being undemocratic, the Charter lacks enforceable world law. Leaders of Bully nations responsible for world crimes are never punished. Because of sovereignty, they are above the law.

Earth Federation activists seek to popularize the Earth Constitution while calling for UN Charter review. Adoption of the Earth Constitution would set the stage for a world federal union and a "new UN", or Earth Federation equipped with a well-designed World Judiciary system which includes a World Ombudsman office to help insure Good Government. All weapons of mass destruction would be eliminated. War is outlawed."

..Roger Kotila, Ph.D., editor, Earth Federation News & Views

Merry Christmas and A happy new DDD Year!



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