



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 (No.1)
March 2013



WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER **DIRECTCRACY**

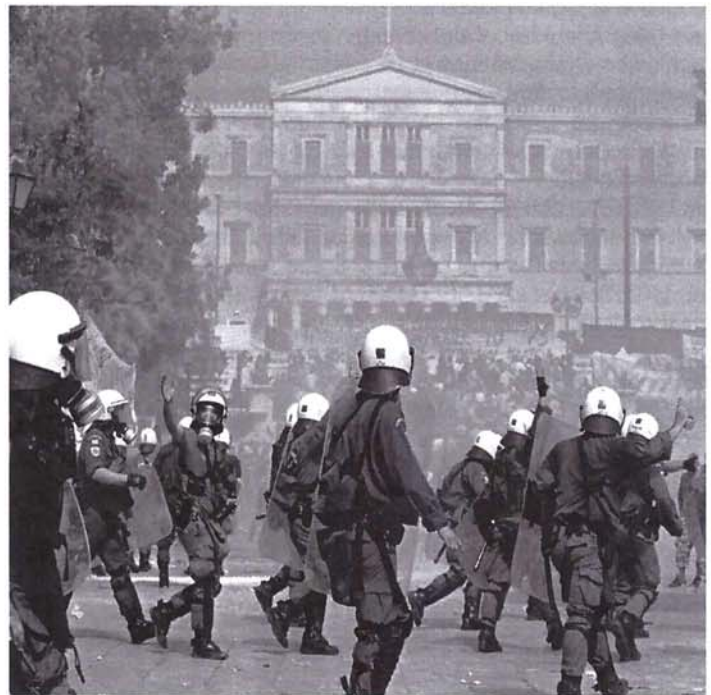
Global Interests contra Group Interests (by Jiri Polak)

To pass party-political rule off as democracy is almost as big a deception as to pretend that medieval rulers had received their mandates from God or Heaven. Political parties emerged in late eighteenth and during the nineteenth centuries as an expression of emancipation and growing consciousness of the most important citizen categories within nation states. Their leaders relieved decadent hereditary aristocracy as new ruling elites. Attention was focused on domestic problems. Global interests of the whole society, such as preservation of healthy environment, overexploitation of limited natural resources, preservation of world peace, fair treatment of the developing world – to these and similar problems, hardly any attention was paid. And yet, in the twenty-first century, these problems are assuming increasing importance. By neglecting or downgrading them, in a longer perspective, the ruling elites are threatening the very survival of our civilization.

In a globalized world, supplying all sorts of immediately available information at everybody's disposal, rule by political parties is becoming increasingly dysfunctional and obsolete. Party politics is based on **conflicts** among citizen categories, among parties and among various factions and individuals inside parties. The motive force of the behavior of party bosses is the struggle for power. For to prevail in this struggle, in spite of all attractive slogans, speeches and promises, they are ready to sacrifice their subjects' health, life, well-being - anything and at any time.

Only very few people still believe that Marxism is the answer to this situation. Rule by a single – Communist – party turned out to be even worse than any rule exerted by several competing parties. Marx was mistaken in almost every respect. Then why was Marxism able to obtain such success during most of the twentieth century? There must have been a grain of truth in it. Yes: Marx was right in pointing out that in post-feudal societies, a never ending class struggle was in progress. Only, he wrongly attributed the root of the evil to private ownership of the means of production in the hands of the capitalist class.

Who is responsible?



This time it's war - Syntagma Square, Athens

Contemporary Greece is a classical example of the absurdity of party political rule: Politicians obtain their mandates thanks to unrealistic, exaggerated promises to assure for their voters various improvements of their living standards: Higher wages, better social insurance, higher pensions, right to old age pension at a lower age, and the like. The State has not the money necessary to finance all this, so the politicians borrow what is needed from international sources. The loans increase more and more. The creditors begin to require reimbursement. This proves impossible without raising taxes and reducing various social benefits. In other words: Grassroot citizens have to pay for party politicians' recklessness and embezzlement. Result: Riots, or even revolution. Remedy: Abolish party political rule and establish a system based on semi-direct deliberative e-democracy. Very simple in theory. More difficult, but not impossible in practice. The cradle of democracy might get inspired by its great tradition and show the way once more.....

In reality, the evil is **any** exaggerated concentration of power in the hands of any oligarchy, capitalist, party bureaucratic, religious, or whatever. Contemporary class struggle stands between oligarchic establishments and the vast majority of

grass root citizens who, however, do not yet fully understand the nature of their predicament.
(to be continued)

INTERNATIONAL

USA

Senator **Mike Gravel: NI4D Package**, Chapter 12
Who Stole the American Dream? (excerpt)

"The present state of things is the consequence of the past; and it is natural to inquire as to the sources of the good we enjoy or the evils we suffer."

Samuel Johnson

.....
"All our efforts at improving public policy are rooted in the structure of representative government. Unfortunately, we continue to believe that electing the right people to public office will bring about beneficial change. So we repeat over and over again something that has been proven repeatedly not to work. I do not want to diminish the vital need to elect people of integrity to public office. The point I make is that such elections are not nearly enough to overcome the shortcomings of representative government.

ALL PEOPLES DREAM of freedom and happiness, particularly those who have experienced the inequities and repressions of autocratic governments. We Americans were blessed with the opportunity to realize our dream of freedom at the confluence of the Scottish, English, and French Ages of Enlightenment in the 18th Century, when ancient Greek concepts of democracy experienced a rebirth. Nevertheless, we had to struggle for our freedom with blood and sacrifice in a revolutionary war. It wasn't until 1787 that the structure of our government took permanent shape, the design of which became a beacon that would guide the peoples of the world toward a system of representative government."

Quotes of the Founding Fathers endorsing Direct Democracy

The basis of our political system is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government. - **George Washington, 1787**

The people were, in fact, the fountain of all power, and by resorting to them, all difficulties were got over. They could alter constitutions as they pleased. - *James Madison, 1787*

All power is originally in the People and should be exercised by them in person, if that could be done with convenience, or even little difficulty. - *James Wilson*

Each generation has a right to choose for itself the form of government it believes is promotive of happiness. - *Thomas Jefferson, 1812*

Greece

13 December: A letter sent round by Mr. **George L.Kokkas** in the name of *N.G.O. Forum for Citizens' Democracy, Athens*
"Dear DD colleagues all over this world!

A dozen of years passed since we established WDDM (Worldwide Direct Democracy Movement, www.world-wide-democracy.net) in Athens and Delphi, Greece, and we don't

have any example of a modern functional Direct Democratic system in any country of the world yet, even if we had recently the "revolutions?" of Tunis, Egypt, Libya etc.

I think that Greece could offer such a chance of a great change of its political system in the coming, tomorrow New Year 2013 and the preparation of such a development here in my country was the cause of my relative absence internationally during the latest two years. I ask you to excuse the lack of information in English from the respective part of the Greek Direct Democratic Movement, as our struggle locally was tremendous during the horrible crisis the Greek people were hit by; we spent our time in preparations! Now is the time to ask for your assistance to make it happen!

We established a New Citizens-Parliament called DIMOVOULIO POLITON (The Citizens' Will) and we try to fulfill a citizens' Constitution next March, according to the ideas put forward in the speech I gave in San Francisco two years ago, in our International Forum

(<http://www.dimopolis.gr/dp1/ektos/pagosmio-kinims-amesis-dimokratias/istoria/170-globalforumdirdeemsf2010>). Then we plan to submit this text to a Citizens' Referendum for approval, even if we will use an electronic voting of Greek people, independently of the current Constitutional provisions, and we need information from you about this practice, in the field of technological methods, as well as about the content of our new Constitutional text.

Therefore, we ask for your proposals, for a modern DD Constitution that could make Greece again the cradle of Modern Direct Democracy, overcoming the current crisis!

Please accept our **warmest wishes** for **the New Year 2521 (used after the Democratic Revolution of Cleisthenes in ancient Athens! 508 B.C.)**

UK

News from **I&Rgb**

15 November.

"QUOTE

The 10 initiatives and one referendum on the November ballot did more to drive Golden State voters to the polls than the presidential contest, which was never much of a contest in Democratic California, according to a new USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times poll.

The survey found that 48% of Californians were more motivated to vote by one of the ballot measures than by the race between President Obama and Mitt Romney.

Just 39% of voters said they were most enthusiastic about casting their vote for president.

Among the measures, Proposition 30 was viewed by voters as the most important measure one on the ballot. A quarter of those surveyed said Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to temporarily boost taxes on sales and upper incomes was their primary reason for going to the polls.

"It dealt with two issues – schools and taxes – that are always at the front of voters' minds", said Dan Schnur, director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at USC.

Proposition 30 passed with more than 54% of the vote in last week's election.

E2D-international - recent discussions (excerpts)

14 December, Mr. **Paul Nolen** wrote, "Here in Belgium we joined the Pirates. We did not get sufficient response for our E2D initiative for the local elections and the Pirates seemed the best chance to promote direct democracy."

Answer: from Mr. **Sven Mason**, "Hi Paul, interesting news, will you be keeping your website going? If you are not progressing as a standalone party I would suggest we move the "E2D Signatory Parties" forum: <http://e2d-international.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=104>

into the "Direct Democracy Political Movements by Country" <http://e2d-international.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=120> ... creating a Belgium entry, with a note about the merging. We could then perhaps create a new Pirate Party subforum in the Belgium area and if you wanted to, you could post about your DD actions there,"

Answer from Mr. **Paul Nolen**, "Hi Sven, when more E2D members are working together with other political developments it is maybe better to make a separate group of those who cooperate with another party?"

17 December, Mr. **Paul Nolen** wrote to Mr. Sven Mason, answering his letter of 15 December: "Hi Sven, thanks for opening a forum entry on that. I answer in between. Paul"

15 December, Mr. **Sven Mason** wrote, "I made a quick forum entry from your notes:

<http://e2d-international.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=104&t=3209>
I was not involved in the founding of the E2D collective and the concept of signatories and have not focused much on it. I understand your point about having a distinction of Signatory Parties, and organizations developing DD, creating a pure DD political party is not the only path to DD, but believe the idea of E2D as a collective is to have per country parties that are committed in writing to DD and DD only.

Yes, that was the idea. No program, only direct decisions by the citizens. The only choice left is representation by "liquid democracy" or not.

The Pirate Party, although an interesting alternative, seems a bit fractured and some offshoots in danger of becoming hierarchical. Many PP members probably believe in pure DD but it seems to me not to be a clarified commitment of the movement, there is a promise of more democracy but also a specific agenda being pushed – at what point does the DD stop and the party politics begin?

The Pirates are fractioned because they wish it that way, as far as I can see. That avoids that too much power gets concentrated at the top. Anyway, that is their aim. I know that that remains a struggle in every organization. And the more rebellion the better as far as democracy is concerned. Of course this is in contradiction to a "strong party" and that is the weak point where "natural leaders" take over, or try to do so. It is also not an obligation to replace representative democracy with direct democracy. We only want to give the opportunity to do so if the people want to. We notice that in Switzerland French speaking cantons are less using the direct democratic tools compared to German speaking cantons. That is their choice and there is nothing wrong with that. It has probably a cultural background.

That being said they may be a practical path to implementing elements of DD and offer a more "voter exciting" platform to discuss and develop DD ideas.

Yes, at the moment I think it is.

It is up to the E2D group to decide what constitutes an E2D signatory party, I think it is a good idea to wait a few months to see how your decision/s to join the Pirate parties fan out, the E2D community has not really set in stone how to become and maintain being an E2D signatory but merging into a Pirate party would mean no longer being a political party committed in writing to DD, in our forum I would suggest that means listed

and discussed in the "Direct Democracy Political Movements by Country" section rather than "E2D Signatory Parties"? Unless the argument could be made that although promoting and supporting the PP you are maintaining a commitment to break away from them if they go against developing DD, or something like that.

Well, I certainly break away from them if I come to the conclusion that "democracy" is only window dressing. But that is my personal opinion. In the mean time I am sure that I can perform a number of workshops where I can at least mention the different forms of democracy and recent developments. For one, the Egyptian referendum will give a lot of opportunity to explain that a plebiscite (government induced referendum) has nothing to do with "democracy". Sven Paul

WDDM

16 January: Mr. **Miroslav Kolar** wrote, "For now I have modified the WDDM site so that it does not require any attention at all. It looks the same as before at the first glance, but all the dynamical features are removed. Basically it is frozen in time, archived (no log-in, new posts, new member registration). I'd be happy to hand over the saved MySQL databases if somebody else wanted to continue a dynamical site. I promised to maintain the domain name registration in the meantime (or "forever", i.e., as long as I am mentally capable to take care of such things).

The most used feature of the site proved to be the e-mail exchange. The mailing list had its problems too, and is gone.

I would like to send you all the e-mail addresses of all the remaining 92 subscribers. You can put them all in a separate WDDM Contact List in the address Book of your e-mail program. Then by typing the single name of this WDDM Contact List in the "To:" field of a new e-mail, you can simply send an e-mail to all the WDDM "members". And thus have a decentralized mail group without any single administrator. New members can be added by invitation ...

If somebody does not want their e-mail address be given away to all others, please let me know as soon as possible. I'll wait for a few days before sending the address list out.

As for the archive of the old mailing list (since 2005, almost 3000 messages), I am almost done with it. It's actually interesting reading ...

31 January: Mr. **Miroslav Kolar** wrote, "By the way, the first ever WDDM mailing list at Yahoo!groups (started apparently when they were still called eGroups) is still somewhat active, and all its messages (starting from July 2000) are again available.

See: Post message: wddm-list@yahoogroups.com etc.

Mirek, thank you very much for your outstanding contribution to the movement!!! (JP)

SIMPOL

Simpol International – News Update 12 November

Headlines:

Simpol on Huffington Post

Simpol at TEDx Berlin - 23rd November

"Pledge Drives" in Germany and the UK – Please join in!

Globalisation seems to be causing politicians, NGOs, economists and trade unions such a lot of angst these days. We just can't stand to see them in such torment!

That's it for now folks.

Many thanks for your continued support for Simpol. The only way is together!

Simpol International – News Update 10 December

Headlines:

John Bunzl's TEDx presentation, The Political Prisoner's Dilemma, is now online!

First German Political Party signs the Simpól Pledge

Simpól gets exposure with top German International news broadcaster

New Video offers great intro to Simpól

Up-coming events in 2013

Simpól Newswatch – send us your newsclips!

Simpól's News page is updated regularly



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, JUGOSLAVSKA 19, PRAHA 2, CZECH REPUBLIC



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 (No.1)

March 2013

**WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY
NEWSLETTER**

Published by MDD - Movement for Direct Democracy
Responsible editor: Jiri Polak, Design: Bohuslav Binka, Picture: Katka Svehlova
MDD - MOVEMENT FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY
JIRI POLAK, ASSARHUSAVÄGEN 64, S-24736, S. SANDBY, SWEDEN
PHONE: 046/58891, E-MAIL: JIRI.POLAK@SWIPNET.SE

