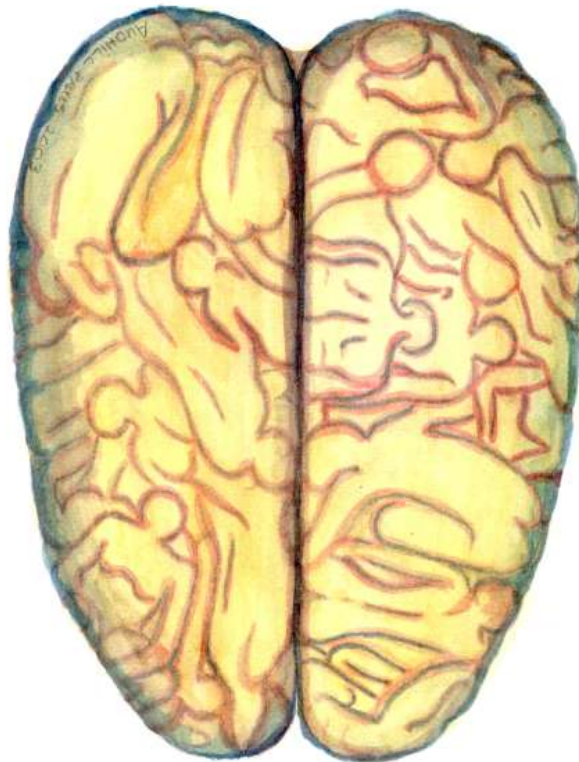


# Democracy 2.1

”How to Make a Bunch of Lazy and Selfish People Work Together”  
A Handbook About How to Maximize Collective Intelligence in Politics



Mikael Nordfors, founder of the Nornia and Vivarto  
Projects

This booklet is based upon the booklet Democracy 2.1, written 2003, by the founder of the Vivarto Cooperative, Dr. Mikael Nordfors.

Illustrations were partly done by Arnstein Myggland and Audhild Paus

The front illustration is a picture of a brain made up of people, thus symbolizing Collective Intelligence

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## Introduction

We have made this little booklet in order to in a very simple and logic way show that there is a common cause to the problems of war, poverty, lack of human rights and environmental destruction, and that cause is the human selfishness and our common greed for power.

Take any human being, it might be a professor of physics, a beggar on the street, a lonely mother, an aristocrat or a hippie and make him/her a king, and he/she will with a probability of 99% use that power more for his own good than for the common good.

This will in turn create an hierarchical power structure where benefits and decision-making power are accumulated at the top. This tendency will increase in more unstable societies, where a decent basic living standard is not available for everyone. "The food comes before the morale" (Bertolt Brecht)

We stipulate, that the best way to solve this problem is to convince enough amounts of people that they will benefit more than they will lose, if the power gets distributed maximally among all citizens. If everyone take care of himself together with the others, chances are greater of a more fair and equal society.

We state that the phenomenon known as "democracy" in most well-developed states on this planet is just a semi-democracy, with many laid backs such as corruption and fraud, populism, person fixation, lack of participation and indifference.

We also propose a new kind of democracy, Democracy 2,1, based on the concept of "Collective Intelligence" that has already been shown to work efficiently in day to day politics, that I hope might have a chance of solving many of the abovementioned problems.

We finally make some proposals how this can be achieved. I also invite you to make even better proposals, and to join us in order to make these proposals a reality so that we finally can get a decent society to live in.



If people where  
natural Saints,  
solving common  
problems would be  
much easier!



If selfish people gain power, they will probably use that power in order to gain even more power!

Some might say that politics is all about how to make selfish people co-operate in order to solve common problems.

## *Human Society behaves like a glass of milk!*

Just like fat drops attract other fat drops and end up like a cream collection on the top, leaving the most of the glass content with skimmed milk, power attracts more power, with the result that most of the power will become accumulated at the top of society, leaving most citizens without power!

It doesn't matter whether you call the power elite kings, the nobility, the finance elite, the communists, the mafia, the military, the fascists or the political or religious leadership. Society will anyway in more than 90% of cases end up in a hierarchical power structure, with most of the power accumulated at the top!

The chance that the man in the top will be a decent person depends on the system of society. In most cases you have to be cunning and manipulative to reach the top, meaning that there will be a very unfavourable selection process leaving a very small probability for decent and humanistic persons to become leaders.

You can say that the milk is not pasteurized, thus giving the evil bacteria a great chance to take over the whole milk bottle and making it bitter!





Socrates: All people have an ability for human reasoning and thinking, if they are guided properly.

Co-operation has many advantages, even from a selfish point of view

Because of this, we have developed law, politics, science and religion.

The most important factor for how the game will proceed, is the rules of the game.

# Enlightened Dictatorship?



Statement 1: Most people are not Saints

Statement 2: Saints seldom look for power positions

Conclusion: The probability of a Saint coming into power = very low

# War?

Statement 1: Most People do not want to get killed.

Statement 2: In a war, the common people get killed before the power elite.

Statement 3: The average people seldom profits from war

Statement 4: The Power Elite sometimes profit big time from war

Conclusion:

Authoritarian/Hierarchic Society models increase the risk of wars





# Poverty?



Statement 1: Most people do not like to be poor.

Statement 2: The Power Elite is never poor, even if their subordinates starve

Conclusion: Authoritarian/Hierarchic Society models increase the risk of Poverty.

When the basic human needs of food and shelter are not guaranteed, people tend to become more selfish, and less cultural/altruistic.

“The food comes before the morale”  
(Bertolt Brecht)

# Freedom of Speech?

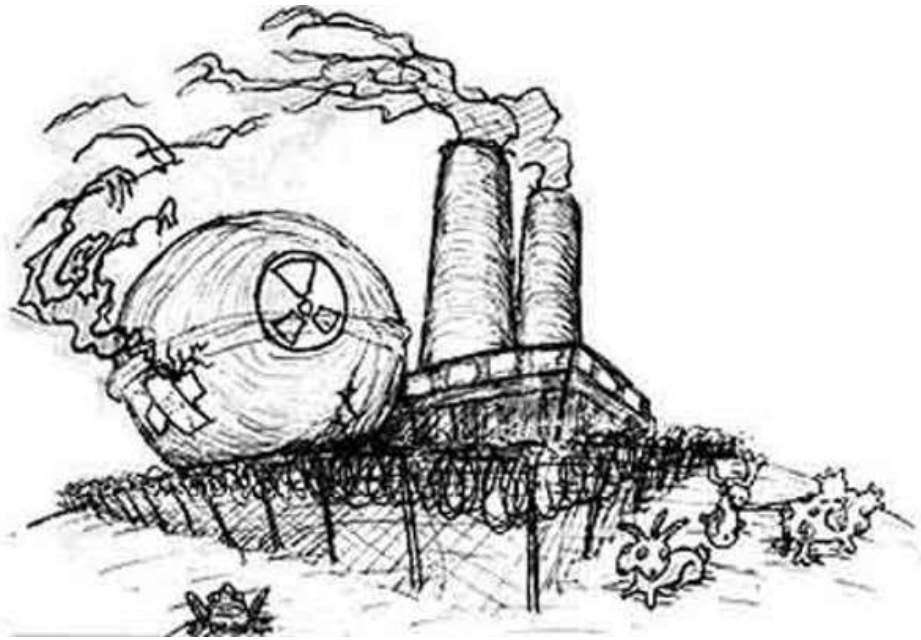


Statement 1: Ordinary people likes to enjoy the freedom of speech, education and free media.

Statement 2: The Power Elite often use censorship and propaganda in order to control society, sometimes in the form of advertisements privately owned media, sometimes in the form of the state controlled propaganda.

Conclusion: Authoritarian/Hierarchic Society models increase the risk of Censorship and Propaganda

# Environmental Destruction?



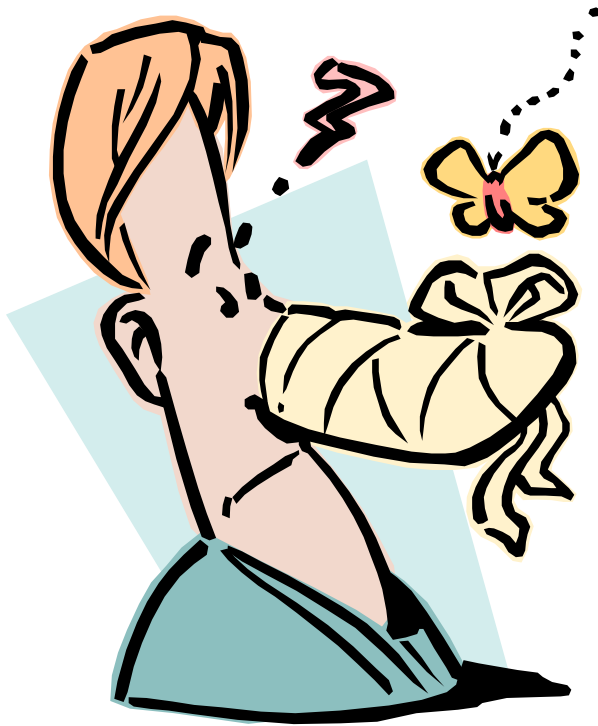
Statement 1: Most people likes to have a nice environment

Statement 2: The Power elite can often live in a nice environment with lots of trees and parks, while the underprivileged has to live in the polluted slum.

Conclusion:

Authoritarian/Hierarchic Society models increase the risk of environmental destruction

# Health?



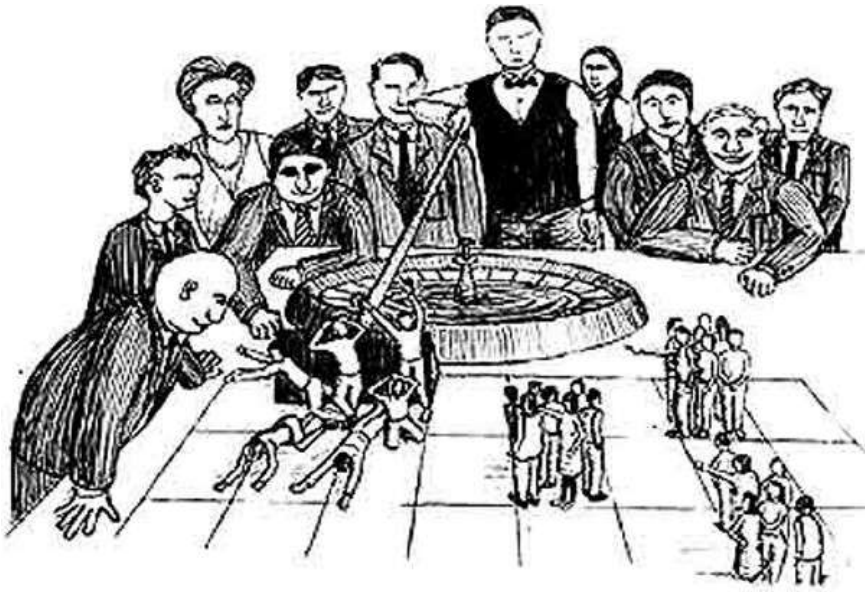
Statement 1: : The Power Elite can often have access to good health care while the poor cannot.

Statement 2: The Power Elite often promotes patentable dangerous and expensive health cures/research instead of cheap and more secure Health cures/research in order to make more money.

Conclusion:

Authoritarian/Hierarchic Society models increase the risk of sufferings due to bad health!

# Alienation?

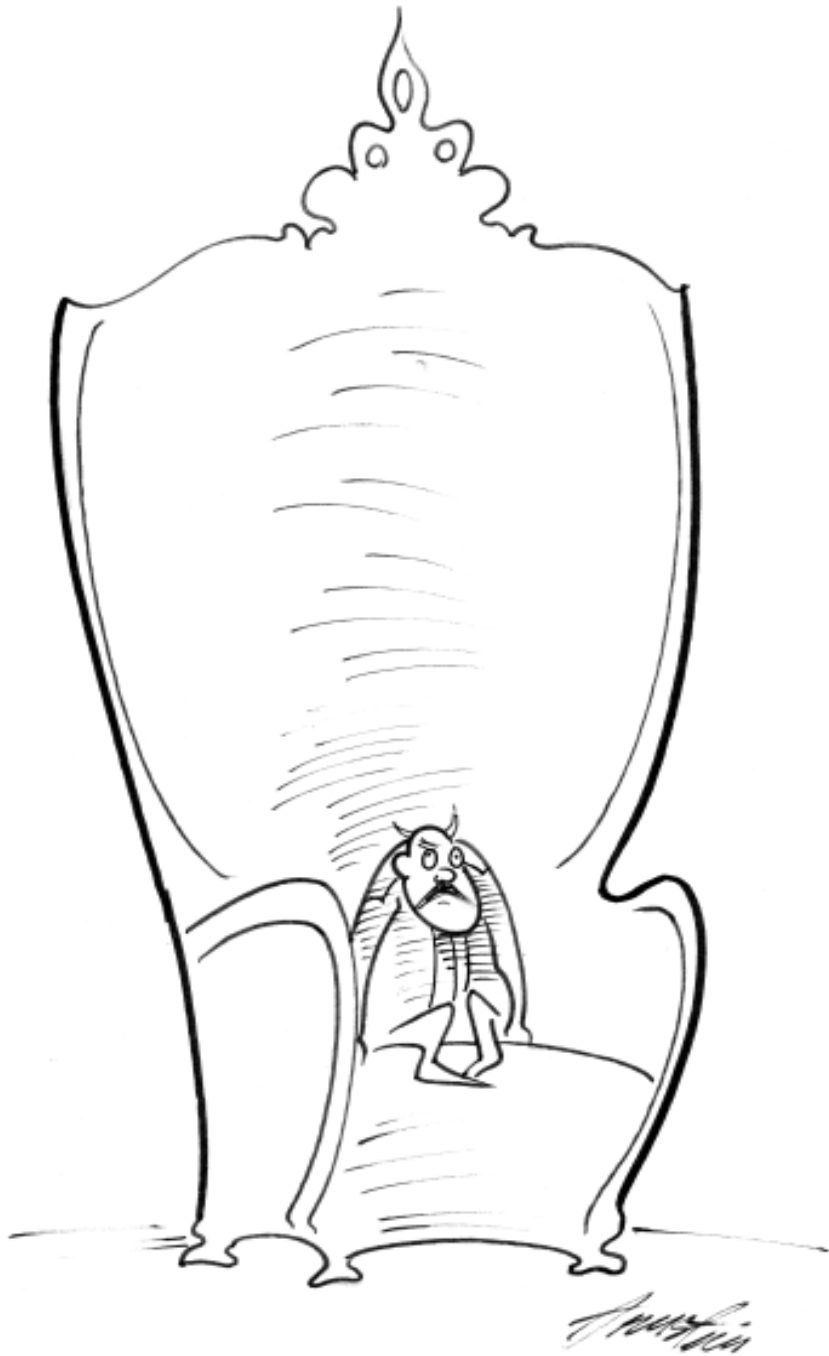


Statement 1: When people do not take part in the decisions about their own lives and environment, they will feel Alienated and helpless.

Statement 2: Alienation and helplessness increases the risk of depression and a feeling of "I do not care".

Conclusion: Authoritarian/Hierarchical Society models increase the risk of depression and lack of responsibility/initiative.

# The failed revolutions



Many of the previous pages resembles old socialistic/communistic slogans.

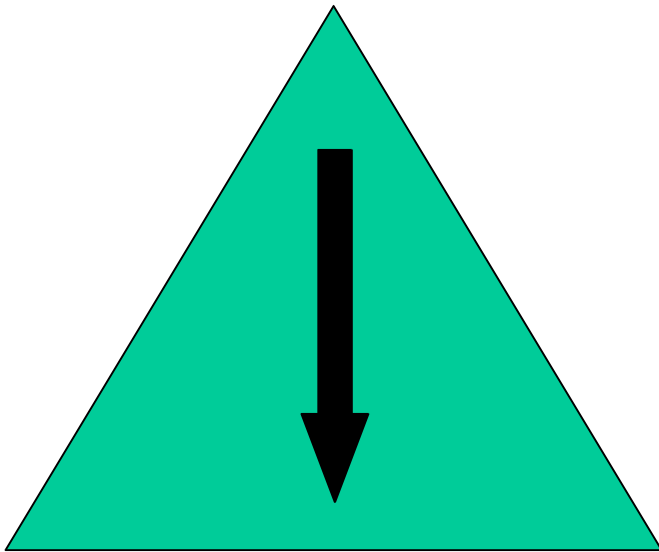
Marx and Lenin believed that things would get better, if only the workers would be in power in order to establish the “dictatorial rule of the proletariat”.

Reality proved them to be extremely wrong. Uneducated workers where in many cases much crueller and worse dictators then there aristocratic predecessors. The deeds of Stalin, Mao Tse Tung and the Red Kmeers in Kampuchea can beer witness of this.

The problem was not in who was in power, but in the power structure itself.

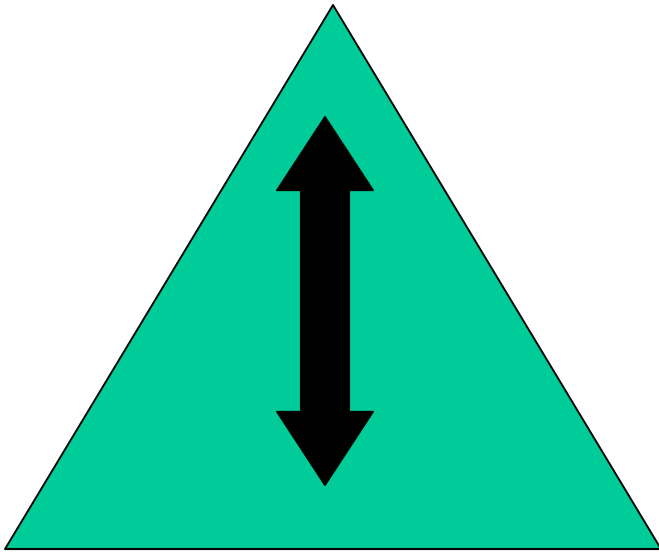
# Conclusion

Authoritarian  
organization  
structures are the  
main reason for  
war, poverty, bad  
health, lacking  
respect for human  
rights and  
environmental  
destruction!



# Representative Democracy

- a compromise?



- Sets limits to the Power-Hungry with law-making
- Different self interests might get a chance of balancing each other
- Basically, it is still an hierarchic/authoritarian structure with some democratic feedback



## Problems With Representative Democracy

# Populism?



- Socrates – You do not go to a crowd in order to heal your stomach problems, you go to a doctor who has expertise knowledge.
- If the experts rule, they are very likely to be selfish, and represent their own interests above the common interests.
- Democracy without access to knowledge and education can become populism!
- A very ancient and actual problem, especially in developing countries.

Problems With Representative Democracy:

# Lack of Flexibility, Creativity and Renewal?

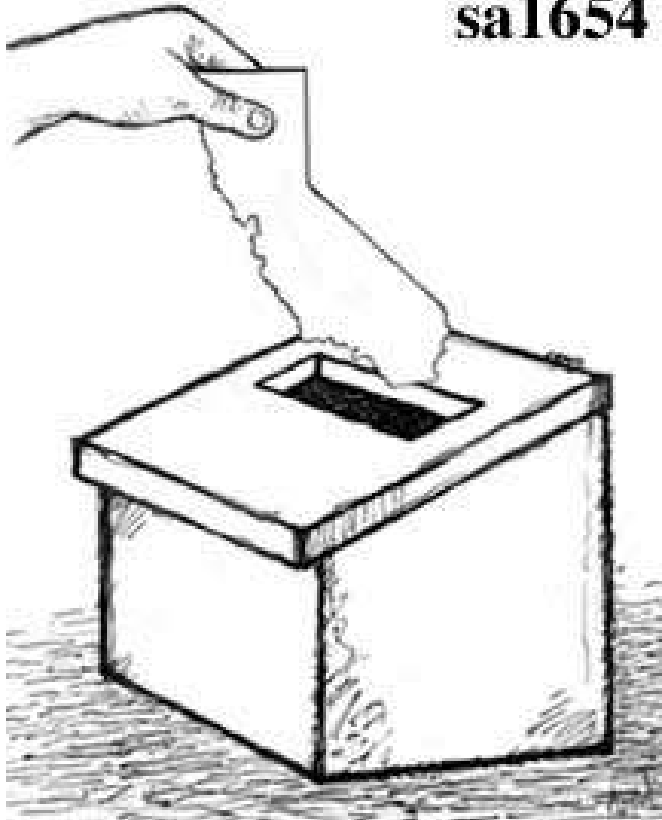


- Hierarchic power structures within political organisations may contribute to conformist and opportunistic thinking
- Politics and state activities is often decades behind private industry and research.

Problems With Representative Democracy:

# Indifference?

sa1654



- Participation in democratic movements and elections has steadily diminished in the last 30 years.
- All parties fight in order to get the sympathies of the middle voters.
- The choice is like choosing between Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola.

Problems With Representative Democracy:

# Corruption and Fraud?



- Many political scandals.
- People do not trust politicians and the present system.
- Only interested in the peoples opinion before the election.

Problems With Representative Democracy:

# The Power Elite?



- Politicians seldom represent the average people.
- Very few lonely immigrant mothers.

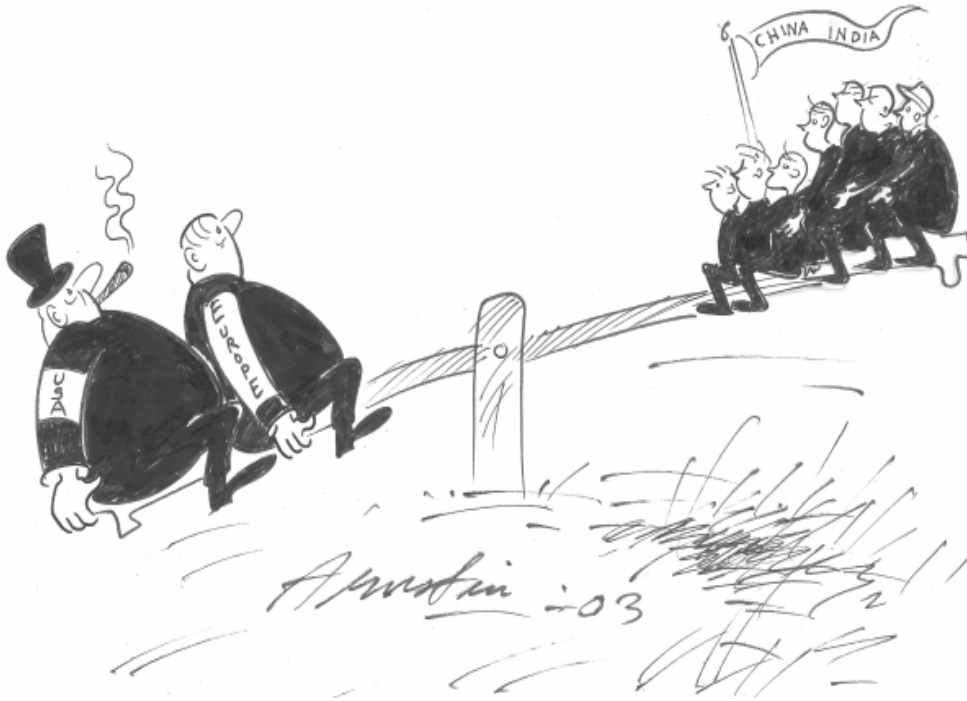
Problems With Representative Democracy:

# Power or Issues?

- Who will decide is more important than what to decide?
- Big problems, especially on the International Arena!



# Ineffective International Democracy?

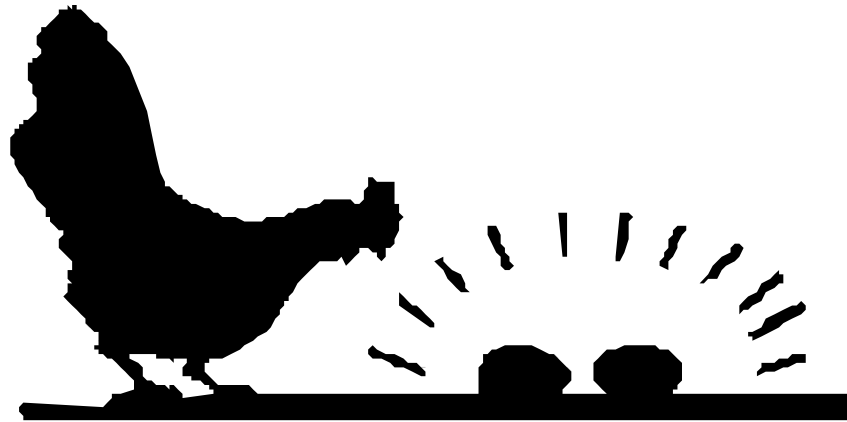


- There is no powerful, enforceable democratically controlled law-system!
- Without law and justice, weapons and money will rule!
- Will USA and Western Europe accept to become voted down by India and China?

Statement 1: Democracy needs human rights to work.

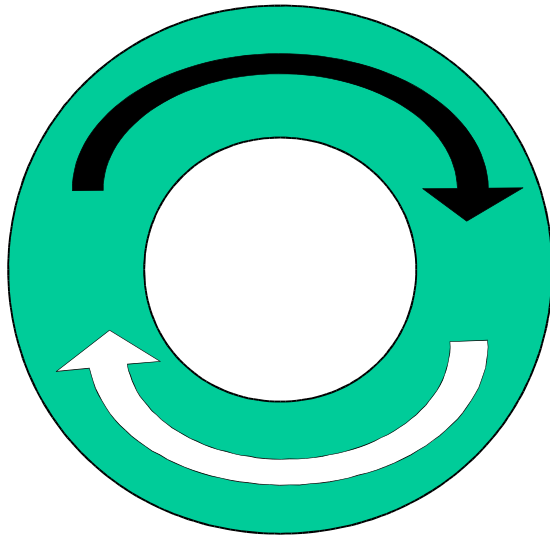
Statement 2: Human rights need democracy to work.

Conclusion: Democracy and human rights need each other!





## Democracy 2,1



## A Step Towards True Democracy?

- All major Decisions made by the people directly with Safe Electronic Voting
- No Intermediaries
- No-one is excluded
- 24 hour access
- Delegated Voting
- Aims at optimizing the relationship between individual and collective wishes

# The main Problems with Direct Democracy:

Lack of interest will bring down participation in some issues, which

gives a risk that minority with special interests will get inappropriate influence.

\* How to avoid immature decisions and populism due to lack of time, education and inexperience?

# Solution: Delegated Voting!

## **Solution:**

The Participant choose an advisor.

## For example:

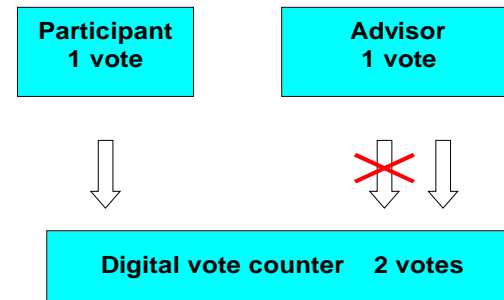
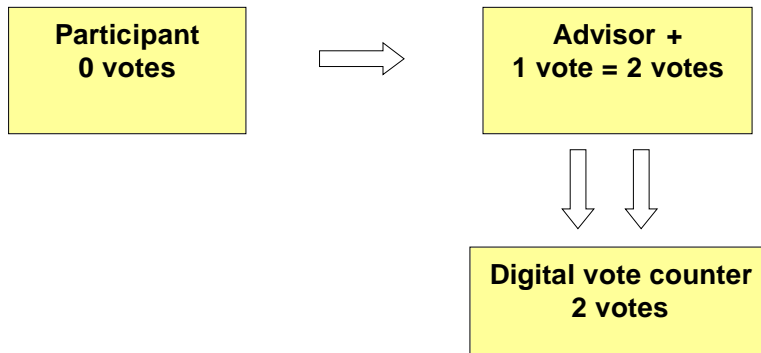
- an expert
- a special-interest group
- a political party
- a friend

# Delegated Voting

The advisor rates ideas and votes for the participant from now on = 2 possible outcomes

# Delegated Voting

Participant's Vote **Always** Takes Precedence Over advisor's Vote.



**BUT...**

# Delegated Voting

- **Dynamic** – Choose different advisors for different categories!

## *For example:*

**Defense** William Schroeder,  
former head of Peace Corps

**Economy** Dr. Lester Brown,  
economics professor

**Environment** Greenpeace

- **Flexible** – Change your advisor with the push of a button!

# Delegated Voting: Advantages

- Bigger Selection of representatives/advisors, it is very likely that you will know them personally
- You can always vote yourself
- The one who decides when to take part directly or indirectly is you and no- one else!
- Combines participation and expertise, you are not forced to choose between a corrupted expert or an unknowledgable crowd anymore!

# A new Solution to Populism?



- Everyone can choose their own expert advisors
- A bigger selection of experts – higher possible quality
- The new possibilities of participation will probably lead to more politically mature and educated people.
- The advisors do not have to make a political career first, they can be closer to the people

A new Solution to:

# Lack of Flexibility, Creativity and Renewal?

- Actively encourage and empower people towards an effective fulfilment of the shared human potential.



# A new Solution to Indifference?



- Many voters fails to identify themselves with a particular political party or ideology.
- Would you accept to be forced to only have a choice between a few pre-packed bags of food, where all of them includes meat (especially if you happen to be a vegetarian)?



A new Solution to

# Corruption and Fraud?

- Collective Intelligence gives more transparency, and less big power positions to fight about.
- It is much more expensive to bribe one million people than to bribe one politician, and harder not to get caught!
- More people will be able to view and investigate common decisions.



A new Solution to

# The Power Elite?



AIDWILL 10/11/05 2003

- Everyone will be represented equally.
- You do not have to be a political conformist in order to qualify as advisor.
- No Power positions to fight about!

A new Solution to

# Power or Issues?

- The focus will naturally be more on the issues.
- Direct influence of the people internationally, without any countries in between!

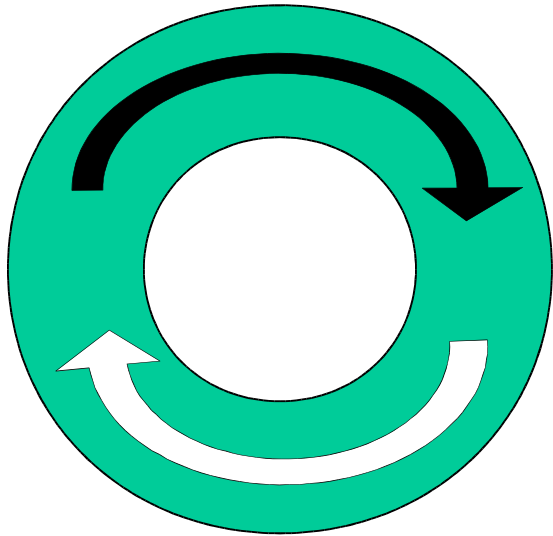


# Ineffective International Democracy?



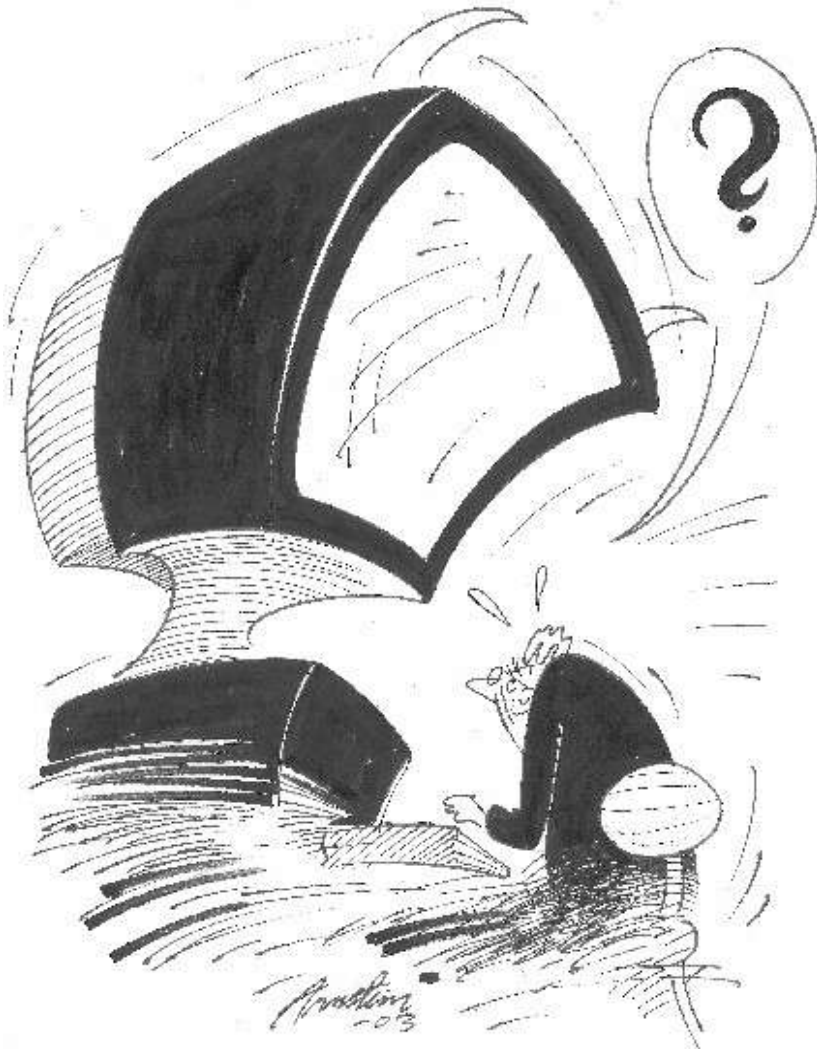
- Many scientists agree that politicians need some kind of global law and democracy
- United Nations is a organisation with some of these aims - although it is often blocked by conflicting nation interests and lack of power
- As there is presently no effective and democratically controlled world government and world law, you can say that the Global democracy domain is like an uncharted territory!
- Therefore, nothing can stop the citizens of the world to just do it, if we decide to! No revolution is needed!!

# Conclusion

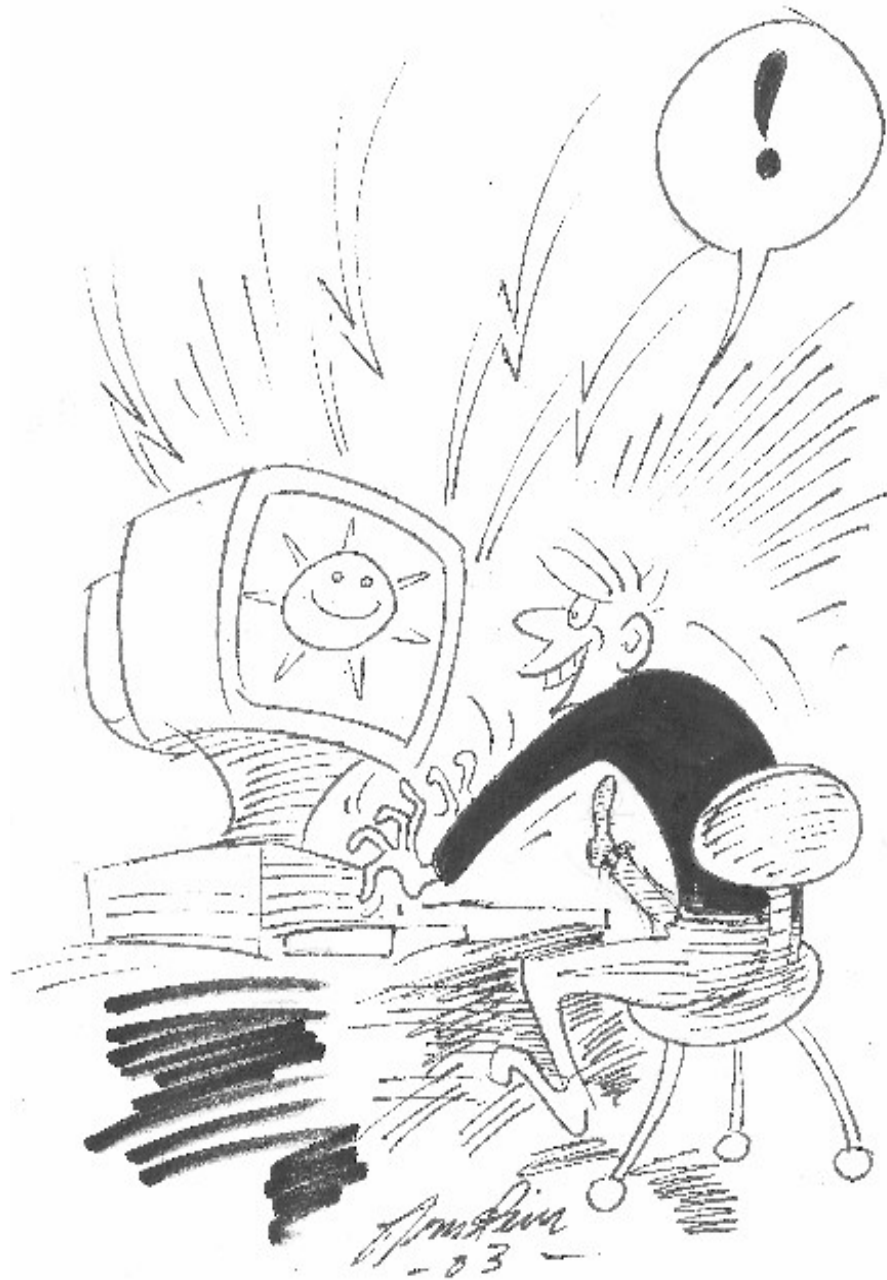


The most important issue for peace, a sound economy and the issue of environment, is the issue on how to organize ourselves in a balanced, efficient, and democratic manner!

# The Major Obstacles for Democracy 2.1



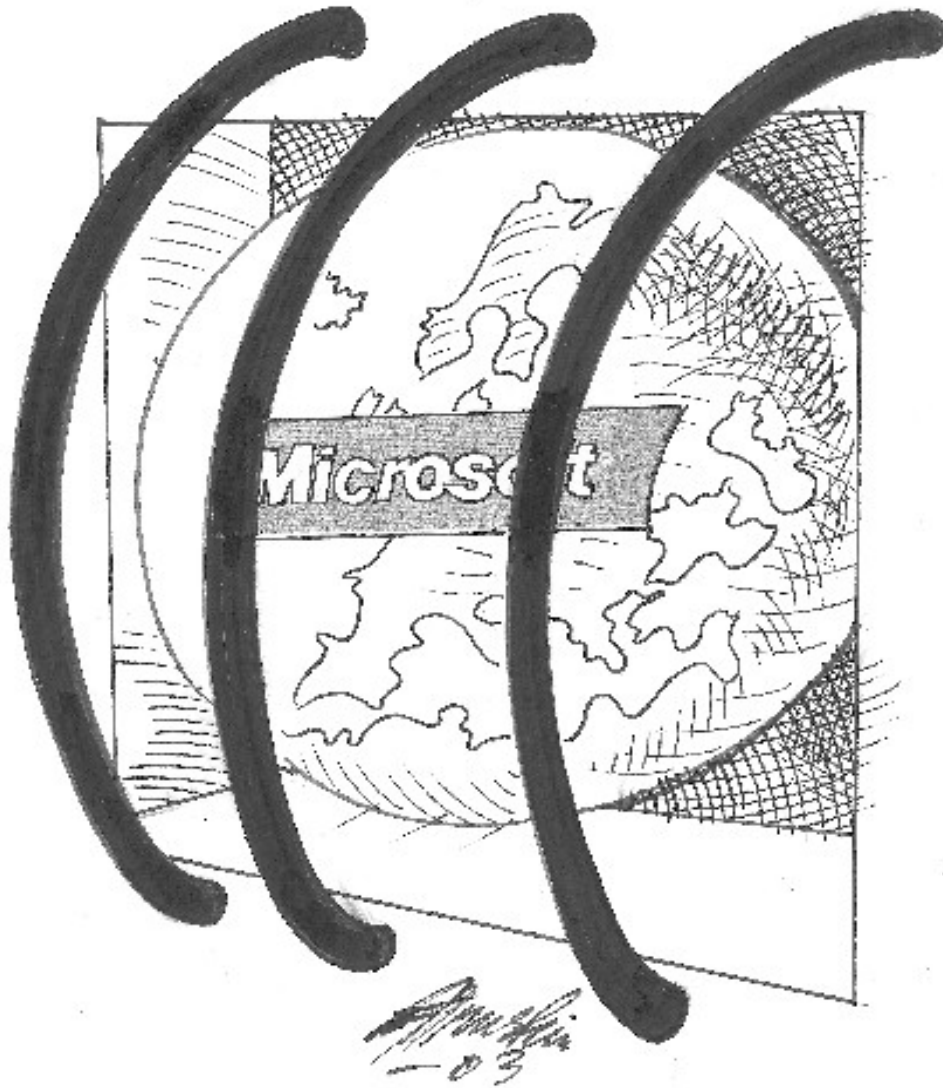
- Many people do not have access to computers and Internet – and the knowledge of how to use them.
- Many do not believe Democracy 2.1 will work and do not want to spend time studying how to use the new democratic possibilities.
- The concept of Democracy 2.1 is unknown to most people.
- It is hard and challenging to make a complex software system that is stable, have the necessary features and is user-friendly.
- The people in power seldom want to risk losing their present privileges by implementing change.
- People know what they have, but not what they will get. A general fear and resistance towards the unknown.



# Solution 1: Start by reforming the Computer Business!

- Computer Programmers have access to Computers
- Computer Programmers know how to use Computers
- Computer Programmers can enhance the democracy program usability!

# The Software Monopoly Dilemma



- People want to be able to communicate with their computers
- Gives a demand for standardized Computer Software's that work together
- Gives a strong trend toward a monopoly!
- Monopoly increases costs and diminishes competition and quality, and gives a lot of centralized, possible authoritarian power to the creators of the monopoly!



VIVARTO

# The Vivarto Co-operative, a Solution to the Software Monopoly Dilemma?

- Aim: To construct an Open Source based alternative that is owned by both consumers and producers.
- A Coop that is being run democratically and efficiently.
- No middle men, a minimum of bureaucracy and employees, and equality and fair trade among all actors.



# The Vivarto Co-operative

## Customers and Developers can...

...Send in ideas how to enhance and develop a certain product.

...Read and discuss the ideas, and ...



# The Vivarto Co-operative

...give them a rating!

**+2**

The program automatically sorts  
the ideas according to popularity:

**+1**

**Idea top list**

**0**

The best Ideas will be sorted out  
and continue to the.....

**-1**

**-2**

# The Vivarto Co-operative

## The Technical Decision Making Conference

Here our technical staff will give expert feedback on the pros and cons of each idea.

All the different pros and cons will be rated and sorted in separate columns.

We also decide how many consultant shares each idea is worth and how high the priority is

In this level all decisions are made by the consultant share owners of the company with weighted voting (voted weighted to how many shares you have) and delegated voting

# The Vivarto Co-operative

## The To-Do list

Here all tasks are auctioned to the programmers of the world

The consultant share value is marked for each task

One consultant share = One working hour

Some urgent tasks might be done by our own steadily employed people

Here programmers can send in their patches for reviewal. When accepted, they will receive a certificate with consultant shares that will give them the right to participate immediately in the decisions of the company.

The acceptance patches is also done by the consultant share owners with the help of delegated voting

# The Vivarto Co-operative

## A Smooth Transition...

Founders consultant shares will be slowly diluted, when they are no longer in majority, a strong new culture will have emanated and the value of the company will have increased

There will be an exchange rate between consultant shares and Dollar/Euro, depending of the amount of cash in the company. Consultant shares can only be sold back to the company in order to avoid speculation and tactical overtake by i.e. Microsoft

Customers buying consultant hours will also receive one consultant share for each hour they purchase. This price will be higher than the price Vivarto buys back shares for . The operating margin for Vivarto is partly based on the difference between this purchase and selling prize, that in turn will be influenced by tendency by the customers and programmers to sell their shares/keep the consultant shares.

# The Vivarto Co-operative

A Gradual Change towards

a more mature and aware planet...

- Some of the surplus money is used to educate young people in small villages in India, Africa etc. to use sun-driven simputers and to learn from the Internet, and to support Global Democracy
- The Vivarto Cooperate business structure will be incorporated more and more in companies, that all will be managed by the people
- The world will be run by electronic direct democracy with advisors.
- No more war, pollution, poverty

# Solution 2: Initiate Demoex-like Political parties!

Demoex is a short for Democracy Experiment Association for Direct Democracy via Internet.

In September 2002, Demoex got a seat in the local parliament in the city council of Vallentuna, near Stockholm, Sweden

Demoex made it possible to be active in the local governments debates for anyone, but only members have the rights to vote and thereby influence our seat.

Demoex concept is mixdemocracy - a combination of direct and representative democracy. When Demoex get the summons to a new local Parliament meeting, they first sort out the issues they want to focus there attention on.

These issues are then debated before they finally send their ballots to the local parliament meeting. Their representative in the local government votes like the majority of the members.

In the following there will be a brief presentation on how demoex works:

# www.demoex.net

## A Practical Example

- Demoex started off as a grass-root initiative. It all begun at Vallentuna upper secondary school October 3rd 2000. The municipality organized a theme day on "IT and democracy" and the question why so few young persons are politically active emerged.
- Some students answered that they did not approve to choosing between ideologies. They expressed that their point of views were impossible to place on a political right-left scale. Other students were pessimistic about the aspects of political influence. "Decisions are made from above" they argued. Others answered they had no time to involve in politics. Others again thought of politics boring, tiering and insignificant.
- After an internet debate, an oral discussion with local politicians followed. The evaluation showed that students appreciated the speed and the structure offered by the electronic debate-system - but they felt run over by the traditional oral debate.
- From this experience, a handfull of students discussed with their philosophy teacher possibilities of developing democracy. That was how the Demoex idea was born.
- Soon after, they contacted Mikael Nordfors, a pioneer within e-democracy in Sweden. Already in the early 1990's Mikael founded a party with a similar ideology. Mikael offered to use the software he had implemented through his company Vivarto. They made the site <http://www.demoex.net>, and managed to get one seat in the local election in September the 15th 2002!



# www.demoex.net

## Stage 1, Sorting Out

- Sorting Out means that the irrelevant questions from the local parliament agenda will be taken away.
- Demoex do not want to spend any time with irrelevant issues. Votes take time and money - and therefore they decide what votes they are going to take part in.
- In the Sorting Out process, all the public affairs that the community government are dealing with is presented. The members mark what affairs they want to discuss and vote for. If at least 33% of the members voting want to discuss an affair, there will be a debate and a vote.

# www.demoex.net

## Stage 2, Debate

- In the debates, the members can argue for or against different political proposals. The debates are the base for the democratic votes.
- The arguments for and against a proposal are presented in two different columns so that you easily can compare the arguments. The members rank the arguments, and the higher the argument is ranked, the higher they are placed in their column.
- A member can contribute arguments to try and convince the other members of the "right" opinion. An argument must be both relevant and trustworthy to be good. Arguments that include facts should therefore have sources.
- The debates are run by an administrator who make sure there are always arguments both for and against a proposal. The administrator also makes sure that the people in the debate follow the rules.

# www.demoex.net

## Stage 3, the Ballots

- The ballots are the most important service of Demoex. The ballots' deadline is one day before the meeting of the community government. The result of the ballots are transformed into mandates according to statistical distribution. Demoex "politicians" represent this distribution in the community government.  
The members only vote in the issues they have chosen to vote in, which is far from all. All the questions that leads to a ballot have first been discussed.  
Ballots only have two alternatives, yes or no. Of course one
- In all the different ballots and ranking opportunities performed in Demoex, the Vivarto Advisory system has been working. You can clearly see how the advisors get less power in the "hot" issues and more influence in the more "cold" issues.
- The Advisory system has therefore contributed to increased stability and competence in the issues of Demoex.

# www.demoex.net

## Results

- Demoex has been appreciated in swedish media, and was elected to be one of the 100 best websites in Sweden 2003, before among else MSN!
- Parisa Maloghali, the Demoex representative was selected to become the politician of the Year in Vallentuna this year!
- Demoex managed to influence and change many decisions in the local parliament, at spite that they only had one seat. Among else they managed to turn down a suggestion for increased salary for local politicians with pure argumentation!
- The system has been working properly, except for some server instabilities and useability problems, which led to a temporary change to the proprietary ED system 1/1 2004.
- The Advisory system has therefore contributed to increased stability and competence in the issues of Demoex.
- A scientific evaluation of the Vivarto Advisory system in practical work has been performed by Karin Ottesen, Mitthøgskolan, Sundsvall, Sweden. It is available at <http://www.demoex.net/index2.htm?PHPSESSID=1ec8350503210b5fb3113ef40ea72ba4>

# Solution 3: Create a network with Free World Internet Cafes!

Purpose: To encourage democratic participation, problem solving and the usage of free software in the local/global community and diminish the digital divide.

Make a café with access to computers with broadband connection using free software like Gnu/Linux and free wireless LAN access.

At the Cafés there shall be café members who can assist guests by teaching them how to use the different software's. It could also be a center for organized education about how to use free software and the Internet.

The Cafes shall be owned and run by the café members themselves, using collaborative software like the Tikiwiki to make common decisions.

The cafes can also act as a meeting place for organizing global democracy and help free the world from war, pollution and starvation.

More local and fun oriented activities like parties, concerts and festivals can of course also be arranged.

The Cafes can also be a meeting point for recruiting new participants in the Vivarto Cooperative.

The mission of the Vivarto Cooperative is to educate/organize programmers supporting free software in cooperative democratic way. This can be extremely helpful for countries with many well educated low paid people like Russia and India and help these countries to keep their skilled programmers stay in the country and to revitalize the local economy.

The Cafes can be a meeting point for local political activities and problem solving and for local demoex-like political parties and representatives

One of the core ideas is that these Cafes shall be an open meeting space for all the people who want the world to become a better place, with the primary interest for eating food in a nice environment as a common denominator, and that all these cafes together can create a network that can change the world.....

# Solution 4: Using Democracy 2.1 in order to create a World Democracy!

<http://nornia.org> !

Many leading politicians and scientists agrees upon the fact that we need to strengthen global democracy in order to combat problems like the greenhouse effect, wars, terrorism, global epidemics and starvation. Calculations has shown, that if we could use only 1% of the world income in a synchronized an efficient manner for these purposes, many of these problems could be solved.

The United Nations has tried to achieve many of the abovementioned goals, but has only limited success so far. One of the main reasons might be that nations hesitate to give up some of their national sovereignty for common purposes. Another that the member nations have a non-optimal, democratic decision-making structure, with too many middle-men between the citizens and the decision-makers.

## **Global Democracy - An uncharted territory!**

Therefore you can definitely with some right state that the area of global democracy is like an uncharted territory, where we, just like the pilgrims on the ship Mayflower, now have the opportunity to sit down and make new, better rules for how to organize the new, unknown continent. No-one can stop us from doing this, if we just decide to do it!

## **If the financial markets can, we can also do it!**

The financial markets have already organized and decentralized themselves by using the resources of the Internet. This has resulted to an increase in power in favor of the market forces. Now it is time for the citizens of our Planet to also get organized in order to civilize and regulate this powers.

## **A living experiment**

Nornia.org is a living experiment in order have to make this happen, and we have already developed a policy making forum, that can be a starting point for this evolution. The seed is there, now it only needs some sun, water and clever gardening in order to become a beautiful Global Democracy Tree!

## **How to start?**

One of the main problems with organizing a global democracy over the internet is that most people do not have access or education enough to take part in such an experiment. To organize world-wide Democracy 2.1 over the Internet can to many people seem like an Utopic vision.



One way to start this process is to start a World future Council, with respected leaders and scientists working together by using Democracy 2.1 on recommending solutions of the problems of the world to the worlds politicians and leaders.

This process has already started at <http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org>

Another way is to construct a global eParliament, where people from all countries and parts of the world are randomly selected to become World Parliamentarians. They will then get a salary, education on how to use the different information and decision making systems and of course have free access to computers with Internet.

This body can serve as a preliminary world parliament that will truly represent the peoples interests, and not be diverted by the power elite. The abovementioned World Future Council can functions as advisors.

Later on, more and more people can become invited, until we finally have all human beings in the world represented!

The delegated voting system will help overcoming the digital divide issue, as I.e. an entire village can be represented by a common advisor who has computer access.

## Solution 5:

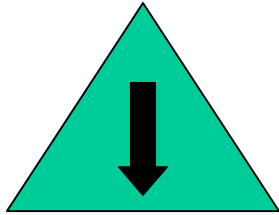
Please fill in yourself and put on the Policy Making Forum on <http://Nornia.org> or send to [info@nornia.org](mailto:info@nornia.org)!

Hopefully the task of creating a better society for all of us will never end there will always be room for each of your productive contributions!

You can also right a note here:

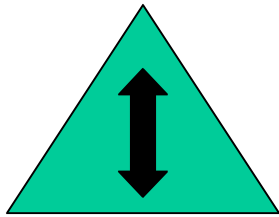
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# The effects of different communication- and organisation structures



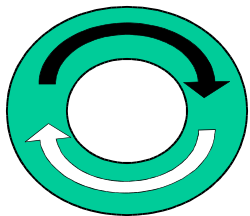
## Authoritarian/Hierachic

War, poverty, no freedom of speech, destruction of environment,  
lack of responsibility?



## Representative Democracy

Populism, lack of flexibility, creativity and renewal, indifference,  
corruption and fraud, a power elite, more focus on power than issues,  
ineffective international co-operation?



## Collective Intelligence

Continuosly developed competence, creativity, involvement,  
transparancy, reliability, practical issue-oriented, international  
co-operation, felt responsibility?

This paperwork was developed, November 2004, by the founder of the Nornia and Vivarto Projects

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If the citizens get empowered, they must also get resources in order to inform themselves and to delegate decisions when needed - just like a president with advisors and secretaries!

*It is neither wishful nor possible for everyone to take an active part in all common decisions, but the one who shall decide when to take part or not, is you, and no-one else!*