

# The Perfect Time for the Perfect Democracy?

Some thoughts on *wiki-law*, *wiki-government*, online platforms in the direction of a true direct democracy.

KEYWORDS: electronic law and governance, people laws, direct democracy, obsolescence of parliament, democratic citizenship, wiki-sites.

[J. Manuel Feliz-Teixeira](#)

11 March 2012

*Physics, Modelling & Simulation*

## 1. Introduction

Due to its exceptional characteristics of intelligence and creativity, a modern human society should be an emergent system, not the result of the wish or dictatorship of some. Such a society should be for all those who may be interested in it. Not just for some. Although this may sound slightly utopian, these are the main lines of thought followed in the *wiki-system* of *law* and *governance* which draft we propose in the present text. Such a system, based on the continuous participation of free and well identified citizens in the proposal, the drawing, discussion and referendum of all the laws of their State (inspired by the excellent achievements reached from citizen's collaboration in [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org) project) would probably extend the activity of “politician” to everyone of us. Would that be less



click-to-contribute



damaging to our collective living than the present activity of professional “politicians”? More and more people seem to be convinced the answer is “yes”, since in fact recent history obviously shows that many of our professional politicians have behaved as professional abusers and even criminals.

*"We're at an incredible crossroads right now. They're demanding the right to wiretap the entire population. It's unprecedented. This is a technology that can be used to give everybody a voice. But it can also be used to build a Big Brother society so dystopian that if someone had written a book about it in the 1950s, it would have been discarded as unrealistic."*<sup>1</sup> ([The Guardian, 22Jan2012](#))

## 2. The need for a change

We will try to be concise, direct, and clear in exposing our views, in order to avoid spending too much time upon this subject, as there are so many other things we would like to write with respect to Physics. But the present issue is urgent, thus we feel almost a duty to address it: the establishment of a *Constitution* in a true democratic State should always result from a referendum agreed by its citizens. That should be the principle. Thus, theoretically, in any other case it is a non-supported *Constitution*, or, if we want, an incomplete or illegitimate law, since it was not completely legitimated.

On the other hand, we know that politics has been transformed

---

<sup>1</sup> [Carole Cadwalladr](#) , “Rick Falkvinge: the Swedish radical leading the fight over web freedoms”, [The Guardian](#), 22 January 2012.

into a kind of club for some. So, it is frequent in the so called democratic societies of our times that the destiny of those millions of citizens who own the State is left in the hands of just a few members of such a club, who may then almost freely decide in the name of the citizens even when they do not possess enough competencies, credibility, and knowledge of the subjects on which it has to decide. These subjects are often linked to technical issues, therefore the need for external advisers arises... and the external interference on the “democratic” process of decision softly starts. And this interference is usually not coming from the citizens' sphere. It is coming from the club, or from those who finance the club. Therefore it is, in its essence, the seed of an undemocratic interference.

But even surrounded by their external advisers, our politicians usually do not have arguments capable of confronting the power of arguing from those millions of citizens who own the State, as these are by themselves advisers, researchers, professors, technicians, workers, etc. These citizens are in effect a powerful sea of knowledge which is waiting to emerge and be established as the legitimate source of all the laws of the State. It is a fact that there are in general much more people with knowledge in the citizenship than in the governance; but at the moment legislation is still proposed, idealized and established in society by people who frequently are less skilled than many in that society. That is why certain laws seem so strange and

nonsensical. The biased rationalism of certain lawmakers lately became so poor that it even led the lawmaker's figure into darkness, for in many cases the logic of the law is a joke, and what matters is forcing it onto society, to impose it. Some moralists have sometimes the courage to call this “progress”. For example, one of the recent achievements of such a strange “progress” was the strange orthographic pact with Brazil imposed on our countries by our recent governments, about which the citizens of both countries now laugh and obviously reject<sup>2</sup>, as a serious attack on both the Brazilian and the Portuguese versions of our language. People have the impression that such a process was mainly driven by the strong lobby of certain editors, which have “democratically” decided to bypass the opinion of the citizens. And this kind of influence and interference happens in practically all matters of the State. We think, therefore, that it is now the proper time to evolve and give voice to the intelligence citizenship carries in itself. It is the proper time for laws to start to emerge directly from the citizenship, as long as the technical aspects to enable such a radical jump in democracy are resolved. There are now too many sinister proposals coming from certain politicians. Therefore the same technological resources they are trying to use to control entire populations must urgently be used to build

---

<sup>2</sup> Reaction from Ivo Miguel Barroso, professor at the Faculty of Law of Lisbon University (in Portuguese):

<http://www.publico.pt/Cultura/professor-de-direito-diz-que-novo-acordo-ortografico-e-inconstitucional-1533456>

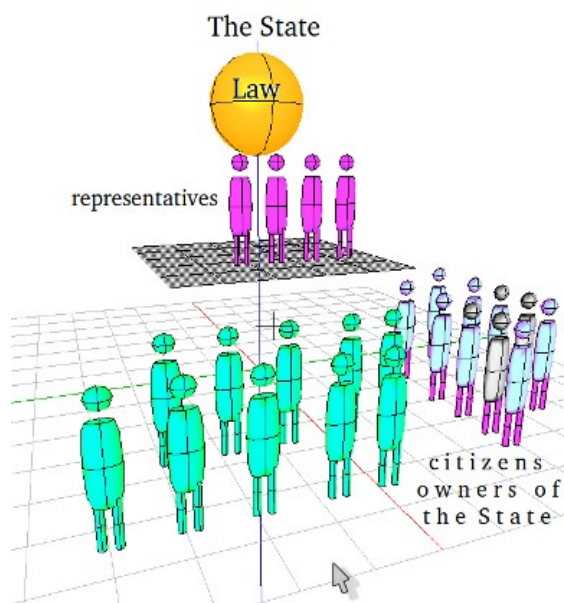
the antidote, and a new society for all.

### **3. The need for a parliament**

We should never forget that “*democracy*” in its essence means the “*government of the citizens for the citizens*”. So, in the concept of *democracy* there is absolutely no assumption that representatives of the citizens must exist. Of course, for too long there was no other alternative than to implement “*democracy*” by delegating the power of the citizens owners of the State into a small group of citizens, and call these “*representatives*”, and from them and by them expect a governance which would in principle represent, or at least respect, the wishes of the nation, or the State. We prefer to use here the term State, as it is more connected to the idea of governance.

In practice, as we know, such a process has forever implied the existence of a structure of institutions and positions which had to be separated from the citizens as a whole. Thus, when the moment of the election is over, the representatives of the citizens are physically separated from their own fellow citizens, and democracy is frequently over as well. The representatives are invited to enter another dimension of society: the dimension of governance, power and narrative. So, they are now a kind of elected *primus inter pares*, who have the right to populate the “*houses of the parliament*”, and meet and make laws and decrees at the *parliament*.

But, are these true “representatives” of the citizens? In fact most of the times not. Due to limitations of resources and management, and underground political interests, in most of our countries these representatives are in fact chosen by their “political mothers”, that is, their political parties, without citizens having any say on such a process, and citizens are only allowed to vote in *political parties*. This is “*representative democracy*”, of course. But from hereon representatives will do whatever their “mother” tells them to do, not what citizens want them to do. This is the first serious deviation from the original principal of *democracy*, and obviously the beginning of the great assault on the State and its citizenship. The representatives should always be chosen *directly* by the citizen owners of the State, not by any intermediaries, which in this case are called *political parties*, but of course they are groups of people organized with particular agendas and intents, not with the intents of the citizen owners of the State. Political parties should perhaps not even exist in a true democracy.



**Fig 1.** Basic structure of the *democratic* system, with *citizens* and their *representatives*.

But let us focus for a while on the figure of the *representative*. Some of them now start to think they own the State, therefore they can make any

decisions they want about citizens' lives. Even without consulting citizens' opinions. Some will also suddenly assume the position of educators of the citizens, and start to emit laws governing all little aspects of life while absolutely forgetting the essentials, the real needs of the population. They spend their precious time in regulating the ridiculous, every little aspect that can be used to charge more and more the citizens for their little “deviations from the law”. Meanwhile, towns degrade, buildings collapse, people in the streets have to search for food in the garbage in full view of everyone, and old, forgotten people die alone inside their homes, all of which are currently happening in our country.

Separated from the citizens and with their lives now freed from the need of executing a normal job in order to sustain themselves and their families, as they are paid by the easy public money, *representatives* soon became people in exceptional positions, subjects of deep envy, special interests, secret missions, influence, etc. But the worse of this is that they also attract the more pervert spirits of the kingdom, who, by means of highly effective techniques of parasitism, and crocodile tears rhetoric, approach them with their own proposals, admirable promises, special offers of all kinds, and eventually with even subtle threats directed at them or their loved ones. By means of such an undemocratic activity, this obviously slowly spreads throughout *parliament* the seeds of corruption, from the lower to the upper ranks. At the first level, the novice

representative will be simply invited to join certain meetings, associations, causes, etc... most of them with a clean and shining face of unreprehensibility, usually of the charitable, philosophical, humanitarian or philanthropic type. Then, the representative may have to face more serious situations, like swear fidelity, make promises, etc. And so, the *democratic parliament* “elected” in the name of the citizens becomes the centre of attraction for an invisible parasitic cloud, and a silent storm which invisibly ruins *democracy*. The representative of the citizens is, in this way, slowly diverted more and more into the wishes and problems of those associations who contact him/her, or give advice, or finance other activities, than of the world of the citizens who in fact have trusted him/her. The representative of the citizens is therefore hijacked, the citizens are being attacked, while the so called *democracy* that existed for a moment on the day of the polls suddenly gives rise to a completely different system: we may call it “*demoncracy*”, since it is the indirect governance of the *demons*. The beauty and fascination of the word “*democracy*” will still be used and maintained in all the institutions belonging to the citizens, as a flag for “progress”. It will serve more than ever to celebrate, to propagate, perpetuate, advance, explore, and even export such a beautiful system named *democracy* even when it has become a fallacy. And *parliament* becomes the first stage of such a fallacy.

Some defend that the State should be fronted and ruled as an



enterprise, a company, and as such, be based on economical variables. But in fact the State can never be managed or ruled like that, since every person naturally passes through productive and non-productive phases, but only productive phases are of interest to the economy. It depends on the conditions the person is living under at each moment. And one of the conditions could be related to age, another health, these are just two examples. For an enterprise, old people, mentally ill people, diseased people, disabled people, unhealthy people, weak people, etc., are accounted as costs. This is because there is no *humanity* in finance or economy. These should be simply tools, not rulers. So, a State that would start to be ruled based on such principles would no longer deserve respect from its population. It would be a fake and a failed State.

#### **4. Why is the *representative* so important?**

But why have so many of our representatives become disappointments? Why are the *demons* so much attracted to the *representative*? Why is he/she now so important? Due to a simple and unique reason: the *representative* owns the power for legislating, the power for making the laws, for deciding things, the narrative. And this power for “creating the law” is the true vehicle for progress. Money is only the fuel, like gasoline in a car. The representative is the driver of the vehicle. It is therefore of prime importance for the “*demoncrats*” to quickly jump inside that vehicle when a new driver has been elected.

Only in that way, will they be able to control the vehicle without even the need of driving it, indirectly, by simply whispering in the ears of its driver.

The big tree of influence begins here, and it will tend to silently spread everywhere. Lifted by the vehicles of the citizens, *demons* now know they can go everywhere. It is a parasitic behaviour. One of its serious results is the financial disease presently attacking the Occidental world, which has led to the collapse of several institutions and countries, indirectly inducing suffering and premature death to millions of people. In my town, for example, misery is now spreading surprisingly fast. Today, I saw another old and solitary lady, dressed as a ruined noble, begging for a coin near a street of arts. Unfortunately, she was not a part in any artistic installation. Even arts, in these times, seem somehow perverted too, even prostituted in a certain way, since they commonly focus on intellectual digressions and fantasies, while obviously ignoring the misery everyone sees in the streets and the real causes of it.

## 5. Demons games

Unlike the *democrat*, the “*demoncrat*” is not interested in politics, in the sense of a political debate. It is simply interested in *power*. It needs the *power* to further its own objectives. But, since *demons* know very well how to hijack *democracy*, they happily support any democratic aspirations of people if that is to become an advantage. We have often seen it happening for

some time in our world. And the old technique of “divide-to-conquer” is being systematically applied in many cases and places, almost synchronously. Here, most of the population are not aware of it or don't even understand it, but people and institutions feel highly stressed because of it. Constant changes in educational directives without any consent of the citizens; constantly focusing into secondary and ideological issues while avoiding to address citizens' most relevant needs and aspirations; ridiculous orthographic pacts that create unnecessary tensions in the society, without the consent of citizens; forcing [gentrification](#) in the best places of towns without respect for its original citizens, without the consent of the citizens; supporting of and participation within invasions and wars against the will of the citizens; political and economical [bullying](#) of foreign countries without the consent of citizens; introduction of biometric identity cards without a serious debate for listening to the voices of the citizens; signing under-the-table pacts criminalizing downloads on the internet ([A.C.T.A.](#))<sup>3</sup>, without listening to the opinions of the citizens; use and abuse of poisonous [geoengineering](#) in the airspace, without the respect or consent of the citizens, etc.; these are only some of the cases that could probably be classified as clear abuses to the citizen owners of the State, if not crimes.

But there are many other cases, as we know. The utilization of public institutions, including the military, to pursue their agenda,

---

<sup>3</sup> *Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement* (ACTA)

as it happened at least during the last decade in the *democratic* USA, in the opinion of Mr General [Wesley Clark](#)<sup>4</sup>, can be pointed out as another terrible case. In many countries, people now also realise that *public* enterprises or companies have been seized and then invaded by *private* interests, slowly weakening the State not only in its heritage but also in a way that the money generated by those companies will be mainly diverted into private pockets, during the process of a “*public*” exercise. These attacks are usually so slow that several years pass before most of the population realizes that these companies are not *public* any more, they do not belong to them any more. Also Foundations, Associations, Institutes, based on the concept of a *public-private* partnership, usually degenerate into assaults on the owners of the State, assaults which are planned to be slow, in order not to destroy the elusive impression that those resources still belong to the citizens. Trying to seize the water resources of a country seems to be one of the latest fashions of the “*demoncrats*”. And yes, management could be privatised, but never the *public heritage*, as seems to be the tendency. Private managers could even be excellently rewarded for their performances, but the flow of money from a *public company* should never be allowed to cross into private pockets. Otherwise, the *narrative* is not any more the citizens' narrative, since the State now belongs to those who have the power of the

---

<sup>4</sup> A video: <http://youtu.be/amDKQJS8uJ0>

money<sup>5</sup>. So the State is not a State any more, but instead a kind of feudalistic system. Our democracies have recently been sold and have been bought, again without the consent of their citizens, and, if such a tendency spreads, citizens will be no more than slaves of their owners, in a kind of a technological feudalism.

Of course, both the *markets* and the usurious *bankers* are in the centre of the storm. They have enjoyed crashing the global economy with their nasty bets and financial games. Then, they crashed. Then, citizens had to be attacked by their *representatives* in order to help bankers to recover. As a compensation, *bankers* have decided to mock the citizens and punish them once again by keeping on paying excessive salaries and bonuses to their “excellent” managers. The *markets*, in turn, decided to point the inquisitive fingers of their *rating agencies* to the citizens, in order to punish their countries again and again, forgetting that the money they have been rescued with was the money of the citizens. Citizens have then almost asked them the favour to try being fair and correct, but their answer was once again implacable, and the citizens were punished again. Citizens have then furiously complained, made demands, threatened them; but they answered with police force, thereby physically punishing the citizens this time. Citizens have started to show symptoms of confusion, ill health, expecting compassion, solidarity, some help; but the *demons* even

---

<sup>5</sup> An interesting article on “The Guardian”, UK: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/feb/24/why-super-rich-love-uk>

continued to [poison their skies](#)...

## 6. The reaction

In reaction to this, more and more people are organizing themselves worldwide, both on the streets and online. People seem to have finally understood that “*demoncracy*” is obviously and definitely not in favour of Mankind. Thus, there is a big wave of indignity and hope growing everywhere with the sentiment that citizens are being attacked not only with respect to their money but also on their rights, their health, and their patrimony. And a *democracy* in which the citizens have to continuously organize and demonstrate their indignation against the decisions of their *representatives* is not any more a healthy democracy. It shows, instead, that democracy has been attacked by those who do not care about citizens. So, the future democracy cannot be in the streets. It must naturally and silently emerge from all of us.



**Fig 2.** A mask of [Guy Fawkes](#), one of the symbols of the worldwide [hacktivist](#) group “[anonymous](#)”. This group is presently very active on the Internet, and is popular for its hacking activity and dramatic online messages.

Mankind now has to think. We are at a crossroads. Progress should never again be imposed or dictated by the wishes of some, it must be decided by what citizens themselves believe in. Even if some insist upon imposing

their own *narrative*, diverse *narratives* should naturally exist. Mankind is now thinking on developing its societies based on their own beliefs and cultures, and principles of good relations with the other societies of the planet. After all, we are already connected to each other, not just through *facebook*. Legislature and even decisions (executive) in a State can already turn to be *public*. The *parliament* is in effect obsolete.

## 7. How to start?

The final objective should be approached carefully, step by step, but the three usual branches of governance, legislature, executive, and judiciary, should be considered to be put completely under citizen control. We would suggest that the first phase be dedicated to giving citizens the ability to redraw (rewrite) the *Constitution* of their State. The second phase should be focused on giving citizens the ability to decide as a *virtual parliament* (legislature), and then declare the dissolution of the parliament due to its obsolescence. The third phase would be to enable citizens to become the *judiciary system*. And in a fourth phase citizens would even be enabled to decide on *how to manage* the State, in order to control decrees and direct the executive (the governors). Of course some governors and figures like the *Head of State* (the president or the king) should be maintained, as well as the military, but in fact all these would be under direct citizens observance and control.

We believe that such objectives can easily be achieved once

citizens start to organize and build by themselves the following *wiki-sites* as the platforms for enabling such an evolution, which must give free access to every registered citizen of the State:

**The wiki-law:** (legislature)

An online and interactive platform which allows registered citizens to create, criticize, propose and vote for any paragraph of the law presently being updated. This same platform may contain the *State's Constitution*.

**The wiki-government:** (executive)

An online and interactive platform which allows registered citizens to criticize, propose and vote for any decision to be made by the government, in terms of paragraphs of decrees or other documents.

**The wiki-justice:** (judiciary)

An online interactive platform which allows registered citizens to argue and vote for decisions concerning judiciary issues, based on the present law. There should always be law specialists who should propose decisions and moderate citizens debate.

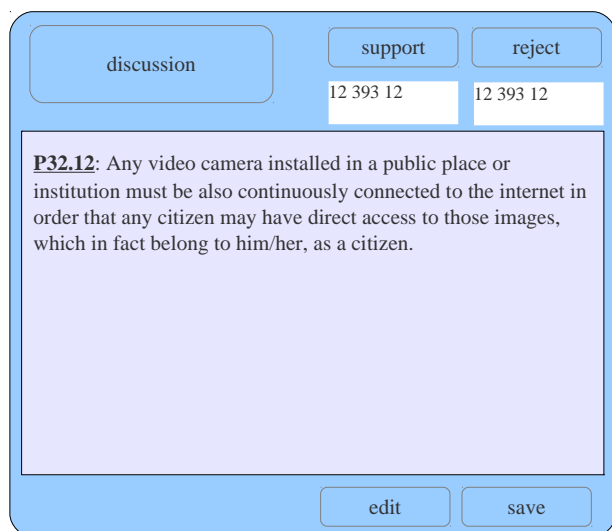
In order not to exclude any opinion or participation of a citizen even if considered unacceptable, thus ensuring a high degree of visibility, each of these platforms should include a little corner



or place into where all the inappropriate messages would be sent, instead of being deleted. It could be named the “**wiki-trash**”. In this way even that kind of information would still be available to the community, who could understand the reasons why they have been rejected.

### **Wiki-paragraph**, the base for interaction:

Since all the interactions with the citizens will be based on an *interactive paragraph* (due to some lack of imagination we will call it “*wiki-paragraph*”), the first important step for implementing this system is to define all the *properties* and all the *functionality* of such a *paragraph*, including the *mechanism for voting it*. Only after this is resolved can all the existing texts of the present laws be reorganized based on this *base entity* of interactivity, and then be transferred into the online platforms. Citizens are to access, discuss, propose and vote, *paragraph by paragraph*, all the law. Technically this is not a difficult thing to achieve. There will be thousands of experts on Information Technology out there capable of designing and implementing a system like this. It is perhaps time to start doing it. And the funny thing is that no one needs any permission of anyone to do it. The State belongs to the citizens, so, it can even start tomorrow, by a group of skilled and well organized citizens, without even the need to interfere with the ongoing activity of the present *representatives*. These will govern till the proper time comes for them to be dismissed.



**Fig 3.** A simplistic example of the interactive unit named **wiki-paragraph**, by which citizens propose, compose and vote all the laws governing the State. As with any other document, an association of **paragraphs** may become a **section**, an association of sections a **chapter**, and so on. All the text of a law can be organized in this simple form in order to allow citizens to manipulate it very easily. Students could even be taught on how to use this in their secondary schools.

## 8. Continuous referendum

One of the most interesting aspects of this method for legislating is the fact that the law is always in a state of *referendum*, and it could be easily updated year by year, on the last day of the year, for example. People would know they had an entire year to discuss the various aspects of the law, and propose changes, and vote on them, but on the last day of December, the most voted *paragraphs* would be collected, and the law for the new year would be chosen and transferred to another internet site to become the definitive law for that year. People could then restart the process of debating it, but they would have to comply with it for a whole year.

Another interesting aspect is that the State would not have to spend any money on the complex process of elections, or to guarantee the fairness or legality of that process. The attentive citizen would already be informed of the results. It would not be a game of luck any more, but a simple process of evolution, constantly observed by the citizen owners of the State. The last day of December every year would be the day of *confirmation*, not the day of *choice*.

There are several other advantages in this system. It would for example, lead to a smoother democracy, but the most interesting advantage is the fact that suddenly there are no more *representatives* any more in *parliament*. In fact, *parliament* is now empty. A museum of democracy could be installed there. Thus, no more underground political groups or well organized political parties are needed, because citizens already draw and chose directly their laws, as they believe they express their wills better. Perhaps, for a short while, there will be the need for *executives*, the government, of course, but these will have to comply with the law chosen by the citizens, so they would also be immune to the activity of the *demons*. And *demons* would have no other chance than trying hard to seem saints... it would even be funny.

## 9. So, what to do now?

Thomas Morus and Plato had their times. But we should not

forget we also have ours. Many [utopias](#) have inspired human beings, but it is also important to act... The “perfect” democracy can only be achieved when the majority of citizens have become aware, educated, and sufficiently instructed about what is really happening in the world. So, education is of the utmost urgency, but it must be conducted in parallel with the implementation of a real democratic system. So, what to do now? Implement an interactive system of law and governance:

1) Translate the present law into a *wiki* style site system, organized by chapters, sections and subsections; but in a way that the minimal text element is the *law-paragraph*. This base entity of text must be an interactive entity, that can be edited by the *proposing* registered participant and also voted upon by any registered user online. Each registered user will be uniquely identified through the use of their own identity card number (ID). The first step is, therefore, to structure the actual law into the form of a *wiki-law* that allows any citizen to continuously vote it.

2) The second step is to transform each *law-paragraph* into a commented text, similar to what is already being done in many articles of online newspapers. The *law-paragraph* would be the “article” with a single 1-paragraph statement. And comments would be associated with it as a discussion. This would replace the depressive present day “parliamentary sessions”. Parallel to these comments would be the new and clean *law-paragraph-*

*proposals*. The most voted *law-paragraph-proposals* would naturally emerge from the others and be kept in visibility. And these emerged *law-paragraph-proposals* (of course in the form of *law-paragraph* entities) would be the natural candidates to replace the present *law-paragraph* when the great-day-of-confirmation finally arrives. On that day, the whole law would change, by simply replacing the old *law-paragraphs* with the new ones. As for the *Constitution*, perhaps a revisionary period of four years would be more appropriate.

Let Democracy begin!



[clíc-to-contribute](#)

*By J. Manuel Feliz-Teixeira*

*Porto, 11 March 2012*