

Original Paper

Democracies in Our Changing Times

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***“My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again
be seen as the last best hope on earth” (Abraham Lincoln)***

Abstract

The aim of the study is to examine how the transition from the orderly 20th century to the chaotic Post-modern 21st century, affects, reshapes the nature, character and the functionality of the Post-modern Democracy. This examination is conducted thru two phases that explore four areas of behavior; Personal—Needs and Feelings, Economic Drives, Social Concerns and Political Motivations. A short sum-up is presented on two comparison tables. Afterwards, a third section discusses some challenges for the future. Finally, some concluding practical points are offered for implementation. The first phase examines how people’s conduct and expectations, are changing during the transition period. It points-out that people change their aspirations and expectations, as they feel free and ready for meeting new challenges. However, at the same time, grows the number of confused individuals, who limp behind progress and need a special treatment. The economy at that time, has promoted Globalization and High-Tec industries. At the same time, society became heterogeneous and instable, while citizens, in general, seek stability and prosperity. In politics, new voters look for a greater influence and a deeper involvement in the work of government. In sum, many people want to feel, the genuine spirit of the promising post-modern era.

The second phase examines the effects and impacts of the transition on the nature and functionality of the Democratic state. It explores the similar four areas and conclude that the study’s observations, well indicate how people’s demands and behavior had changed and expanded due to the requirement to fit better and comply faster, with the Post-modern Chaotic Views. Further, some improving steps for empowering Democratic states, are proposed. At the end, some short practical points are offered for assisting professional, who eventually carry-out most of the implementation work. In sum, the 21st century foresees promising and inspiring prospects for Democratic states. The implementation of these forecasts depends mainly on a solid and consistent determination of the citizens and their leaders.

Most Democracies need to run a continual decisive civic order for assuring and securing their people “Blessing of Liberty”. Only history will tell whether and when this inspiring dream would come through.

Keywords

Democracy, Chaos, Current Reality, Education, People’s Conduct and Behavior

1. Democracy-Dilemmas and Paradoxes

*When we are no longer able to change a situation,
“we are challenged to change ourselves” (Viktor Frankl)*

This work was initiated due to the Author’s wish to find some logic and order in the less-defined regime of the Post-modern chaotic 21st century. In this endeavor we follow Linda Hutcheon (1989) who wrote: “Postmodernism is a phenomenon whose mode is resolutely contradictory as well as unavoidably political. Postmodernism manifests itself in many fields of cultural endeavors—architecture, literature etc... In general terms it takes the form of self-conscious, self-contradictory, self-undermining”.

Some years ago, we have published a work called “*The Upgraded Democracy Adjusted for the 21st Century*” (Avny, 2019). That work tried finding out “*How does Democracy, the leading form of government in the world, fit itself to the tremendous changes occurred in the world toward the 21st Century*” (The opening sentence of the above work). Due to the complicated situation of today, little has been done for clarifying this issue. Moreover, it seems that today, Democracy loses its historical glamour and appeal. It is so because several nations attempt to embrace a more autocratic and less democratic regime. This general confusing situation has previously been described as “*the Convolutioned. Reality*” (Avny, 2021). One should remember that Democracy is still a very universal and less-defined term. Nevertheless, it is so because, First, there is no one unique type or a single version of this form of government that was agreed upon; Secondly, there is no one given time-table, or an acceptable process for introducing and implementing democracy in any specific country. Almost always, these two decisions are made by every constituent for itself. The people themselves, and no-one else, are required and entitled to choose their own form of government. This simple and elementary request, frequently become very complexed and hard-to-get one. In a different work we also discuss the present and future dangers face Democracies in this Post-modern Time.

Here also appears the first meaningful paradox—sometimes, as already been happened in history—authoritarian rulers and dictators emerged from a democratic regime. On the threats and dangers to democracy see also Mancur Olson—“Dictatorship, Democracy and Development”. The second paradox refers to the meaning and the sense of the democratic process. A young established Democracy, significantly differs by traditions, habits and behaviors from an older system.

Thus, it is unfair to compare a young regime with another, older, matured and experienced one. The third paradox refers to the form of election which creates the government. In the United Kingdom (For example), the fore-mother of all Parliaments, the current election practice, prevents large shares of the constituent, from participating in the work of the elected government. These three examples of irony, just demonstrate that, Democracy, from its early days, was not and still is not, a perfect or a faultless system. But as Winston Churchill said: “Democracy is a complicated system but it is the best we have”. In conclusion, despite theories and theses, every nation, country or a single ruler, should decide on the form and the type of a democracy, that fit them. They also are entitled to choose the proper time-table and the suitable implementation pace, which meets best their requirements. Choosing and building people’s own form of Government is the essence of the Democratic idea. As Abraham Lincoln said it: “Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from earth”.

But this was in the Past. Today, directing people’s political empathy or antipathy, is the business of public-opinion specialists, rather than a result of an ideological discussion. Qualities Required for winning the general elections are mainly, high public performing abilities, good oratory skills and Media’s acting talent. These capacities easily surpass all traditional reasonable strategies. How ideas are presented, by whom, at what time and form, is more important at present, than their exact meaning and concrete implications. However, and for adjusting unreasonable acts and improper Parliament’s decisions, a designated organ was established—the Supreme (or Constitutional) High Court, which acts as the highest approving instance for legal and official decisions.

2. Individuals’ Conduct thru the Transition Period

“Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives—choice, not chance, determines your destiny”. (Aristotle)

The last decades of the 20th century, as well as the first decades of the coming century was important because during that period many social, economic and political systems had experienced significant changes. These changes had a significant impact on people’s conduct and on their expectations. During this transition period, the form of Government was chosen and reshaped. However, not always the first chosen version was the proper one. Not always the strive for excellence yielded the expected results. For better understanding the complexity of the issue four behavioral aspects were identified: I. Personal Needs & Feelings, II. Economic Drives, III. Social Concerns, and IV. Political Motivations.

“Knowing yourself is the beginning of wisdom”. (Aristotle)

We begin with analyzing some of the individual’s feelings and impressions. It is done so due to the view that he/she are the kingpins of every social or public initiative. As clearly was stated by Sigmund Freud: “We are what we are because we have been what we have been, and what is needed for solving the problems of human life and motives is not moral estimates but more knowledge”.

The first half of the 20th century contained two World Wars. The main message they sent to humankind was about the unbelievable and incomprehensible measures of the horrors, damages and catastrophes cause by these wars. The lesson was learnt and for over 75 years now, basic peace arrangements are kept by all political powers. The results are obvious, most world inhabitants enjoy at present, a long relative peace-time.

At the second half of the 20th century, at the aftermath of World War II, after the fears and the sorrows people had suffered during that period, and as many veterans came back home in millions, people looked for a stable and safe social environment for building their own life. Most citizens of the Western alliances, who won the war, sought quiet life and a system that will enable them to run normal, quiet and safe life.

Western Democracy versions, both Republican or Monarch types, met their expectations. The long war periods taught citizens, of all nations, to be part of great organizations, to trust them and to assume that government, which was elected by the people, works for them and acts on their behalf, is the proper and the just solution.

Things had changed with the turn of the century, when novel ideas and different prospectuses appeared and begun to evoke people and institutions. Despite the incredible advancement of technology, basic scientific issues still remain unsolved. The Chaos perception was introduced with the aim to open new and different science avenues.

An interesting change also took place in the way people, things and processes are evaluated. The former traditional, dual, or even digital method of Zero or One, good vs. bad, or positive vs. negative, is replaced by a more sophisticated method of continuity. People and things are assessed now more by their location on a given measuring scale, one to five, 1 to 10, or 1 to 100. This advanced method produces more study subjects and sub-subjects in cases of mixed populations. This method also helps in analyzing and better describing heterogeneous populations. On the other hand, this method assists in teaching lay-persons to see how small the differences between people are. It also sends them to the chaotic 21st century with the message that even people, who look the same, are not equal in their nature, ability and personality.

Within this conceptual transformation people started also to develop a different opinion on human development and growth. Their impact on the whole package of individual's needs, wishes, and behaviors, demand explanation. People's Emotions became legitimated and took their place in management studies and practices. The "Baby-boomers" grandsons and granddaughters sought some kind of emancipation. They want to feel free for meeting new experiences. They seek a greater involvement and participation in the current political processes. More and more young citizens wish to lead public affairs rather than to remain just passive followers.

- **Economic Drives**

After the Second World War, people were used to act and work in large organizations because they were the best employers, which provided safe and secured working places. The national economy was also based on Big Businesses, resulted from the World War economy, which enabled fast expansion and meaningful economic growth. Two meaningful economical changes took place during the last quarter of the century. First was the incredible outbreak of the Electronic and Computer industries, which paved the way for the establishment of the High-Tec industry. This was the most meaningful qualitative change that could be termed as the Second or the Third Industrial Revolution. This change was also important because it affected and reshaped the nature of most conventional and non-conventional industries all over the globe. The Second meaningful change was a quantitative act. It marks the significant transformation of the Bilateral Foreign Trade, towards becoming a whole new Globalization Movement. This movement has caused the reallocation of many manufacturing and production lines and facilities. It caused basic industries to move from US and Europe to China and other Less Developed Countries (LDCs). The above mentioned two meaningful changes had seriously affected both, big businesses, and industrialists. They had increased their revenues and profits, while dividing their employees into two groups: (1) Elderly skilled workers, who lost their well-paid jobs, and (2) Younger technological-oriented individuals, who became the new high-paid employees. It is obvious that this important economic change had many effects and a real impact on people, societies and relevant industrial Nations.

- **Social Concerns**

As previously described, life at the second half of the 20th century was relatively normal for most people in US and Western Europe. Whereas the century's fifth and sixth decades dealt mainly with recovery and reconstruction, the remaining years allowed people to enjoy their achievements and accomplishments. Life seemed safe and stable. It led citizens to promote and support the existing of active social and communal organizations. Baby boomers and World War II. Veterans got old and sought tranquility and prosperity. On the other hand, the next generation, young people who looked for excitements, perceived the new High-Tec growing industries as a real future challenge. They saw it as a fresh opportunity for acquiring experience and knowledge. Others, who failed to find their way to High-Tec Start-ups, became sour and aggravated. After failing to find other opportunities they became frustrated and began to look for uncommon and less-social alternatives.

As in other cases and, based on many historical events—Transition periods, were in the past, and still are at present, the incubating and nursing homes for both, those who seek scientific challenges and technological excitements, and at the same time, a small group of social drop-outs, who failed, feel frustrated and look for revenge. Unfortunately, most communities and societies fail to see this reality. Consequently, they fail to dedicate attention, people, resources and time for resolving these ailing phenomena.

Political Motivations

All the changes mentioned in the previous sections, eventually are summed up and expressed at this section. Theoretically, in a Democracy, which rests on general elections, the voting box is the place where citizens can express their opinions on Governments' deeds. This practice well marked one of the core values of the system, but only one among others. Three other processes took place in the political arena along the passage from the 20th to the 21st century, they are

- 1) The Irrelevancy of the political-economic debate, for nowadays situation. Most current economic theories rested on products and goods' Scarcity—a rare situation in the prosperous 21st century. Thus, most of today's economic analyses and recommendations fail to foresee Post-modern developments.
- 2) The failure of many economists and theorists to understand the nature of the Post-modern reality. Mistakenly, they do not see that today's consumers, act and buy in accordance with their both, rational and emotional motivations and wishes, rather than being driven only by logical needs or rational considerations, as many economists permanently teach.
- 3) Most traditional differences between the main competing economic schools (Capitalism and Socialism) had faded away and almost disappeared. The nowadays running political-economic systems contain the positive and constructive elements of both systems. In many cases they are even biased in according with the rulers' needs.

Political Correctness is another social factor that in the past and frequently also today, disturbed and sometime even prevented embracing a real thru approach for solving the problem. When diagnose is biased, due to wrong feelings, compassion or pity, no doctor will dare to prescribe a medicine.

In conclusion, the Effects and Impacts of the passage to the 21st century caused many changes in the four behavioral areas. People changed their aspirations and expectations they feel freer and ready for meeting new challenges. But, on the other side, grew the number of confused individuals, who limp behind progress, feel bad and are an attracting ground for many dangerous initiatives. The Economy had promoted Globalization and new promising High-Tec industries. Society became heterogeneous, more people sought stability and prosperity rather than capital profits only. In Politic, many new voters looked for a greater influence and involvement in the government work. People want to feel the spirit and personally participate in the Post-modern new adventure. Table 1, below, summarizes the main changes.

Table 1. Changes in People's Conduct thru the Transition Period—A Comparison between the 20th and the 21st Centuries

The Four Areas of Behavior	The Orderly Modern 20 th century	The Chaotic Post-modern 21 st century
<u>Personal Feelings</u>	Living and Behaving By-the-Book	Crafting and shaping different courses of Life. Seeking and fostering Excellence
	Complying & Obeying all Rules	Liberating from unnecessary Bureaucratic Limits
<u>Economic Drives</u>	Accepting and Enjoying Safe and Stable Public and Private Organizations	Looking for and Supporting Free and Fresh Enterprise.
	Enjoying and Sharing National Projects	Promoting High-Tec and Advanced Technological Initiatives
<u>Social Concerns</u>	Being an ordinary Community member	Looking for new ways and different Goals for Life
	Following and meeting the social undertakings	Promoting exciting experiences and other Novel opportunities
<u>Political Motivations</u>	Supporting Democratic parties.	Seeking a greater involvement in the Political process
	Participating in the regular political process	Pushing to increase Citizens involvement in the Political decision making

3. How Democracies React in Chaotic Conditions

As an overture, one would mistakenly claim that no rules exist in a Chaotic environment. However, the truth is that even within such a milieu, some rules still exist, manage and demand a required conduct. Finally, some conclusions and recommendations may later be derived, with possible courses of future actions. As previously said, Chaos seems to be the term for describing the transition period, where democratic states are required to act at the early decades of the 21st Century. At this case, the exploration points-out on concrete steps required for finding-out how to transform a given individual behavior into the leading conduct of the democratic state. Again, the study explores four version of

behavior: 1) Personal Concerns and Satisfactions, 2) Economic Wishes and Developments, 3) Social Pursuits and commitments, and 4) Political interests and Achievements. A short version of the study is presented on Table 2.

- **Personal Concerns and Satisfactions**

“Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm”. (Winston Churchill)

The Chaotic environment is a good and a supportive platform for developing many types of private enterprise. These initiations could be either good or bad, positive or negative. The drives that motivate people appears mostly at concerned individuals. It should again be emphasized that without these talented and gifted individuals nothing would be achieved. The external environment, like family, school, community and the government, may assist in choosing the type, the volume or the location of the start-up. But for ensuring the project’s execution, a working joint interest group should be established. It should be between the interested single entrepreneurs and the external institutions. Both parties should be convinced that without such a cooperation, or even a partnership, little would be achieved. This point is very crucial due to the different character each participant has. A single entrepreneur mostly is a dedicated individualist, who dislikes bureaucracy, while, his/her counterparts, the official agencies, are not used working with unconventional and less-formal entities. This internal contradiction is another paradox, frequently appears, in the Post-modern High-Tec Start-ups. The irony lays with the bizarre reality when business-persons ask a Liberal Democrat government to secure their professional secrets. This request may contradict some free-information liberal rules.

In conclusion it has to be noted that while individuals develop themselves during the transitional period, to seek growth and development, democratic states still have some way to go until they will be updated for properly meet the new era demands. Here, again, some paradox appears, while young new innovators seek novel challenges, running public officials, prefer and favor mainly conventional projects. We have little to say on this issue but to join Gorge Bernard Show as he said: *“The reasonable man adapts himself to the world: the unreasonable one persists, in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man”*.

- **Economic Wishes and Developments**

“Seek not greater wealth but simpler pleasure; not higher fortune, but deeper felicity”. (Mahatma Gandhi)

The move to the 21st Century also demonstrates the sift from Scarcity—based economy, toward economy of affluence, plentitude and prosperity. In many democracies, the basic economic challenge at present is, how to distribute, deliver and sell, goods and services, which are manufactured in surpluses. This major concern, is less-known and is little mentioned in the traditional classical economic textbooks. It is even more embarrassing since only few of the older industries had foreseen such a situation and only few had prepared tools for properly resolving it. Another major economic development that occurred during that period was the significant expansion of the High-Tec industries

and the fantastic growth of the Start-up initiatives. In some countries this move caused things to change. Governments, investors, financiers, owners and directors had realized that at present, high-level talented and qualified human resources are going to be the main element that should be recruited, nurtured and cherished. Moreover, all understood that this high-quality human group, demands also some share in the enterprise, as they ask for shares and bonds. This type of private initiative promotes and encourages a new type of individualism—a creative individualism. A person who needs privacy for creating and inventing new products and novel courses of communication. For more information see A. Avny (2021).

The third Mega change refers to the economic theory. The former rigid rules on complete separation between the public and the private sectors became obsolete. More joint ventures and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) appeared and became popular. For example, Government was asked to help big private Industries (in 2008 financial crisis) and private firms were called for assistance in the Covid 19 Pandemic. People and governments began to understand that future immense challenges regarding Earth, Climate and Environment necessitate serious cooperation and continuing collaboration of all relevant bodies.

For successfully carrying out such missions, people must overcome their fears, put aside their disagreements and rise above their former individualistic habits. They must adopt the Team-Work practices and follow them. This is another example where two contradicting characters appear as a result of the same significant change. The ability to work and create alone, as a talented individual, and the request to collaborate and carrying out missions by Team-work are, in fact, two sides of the same coin—the Advanced Progressive Individualism. This may be the Post-modern improved and enhanced version of individualism vis-à-vis the former Capitalist competitive and egotistic one. This also is a good example, which teaches how economic change can and sometime even forces people, to reconstruct their habits and adapting different courses of action. As most single entrepreneurs already had embraced this attitude, not all democracies understand how critical is this advanced economic approach. But they have no choice; real freedom and prosperity depend on genuine progress.

- **Social Pursuits and Commitments**

The move from the orderly Modern 20th century to the Chaotic Post-modern 21st century, which termed here as the transitional period, was and still is, a significant event. It affects, directly and indirectly almost all walks of life all over the globe. It emancipated many people from traditional limiting habits. It freed them from irrational old boundaries and unnecessary inhibitions. These talented and competent people want and need to materialize and substantiate their new feeling of freedom. They hope to have fair chances and proper conditions for setting-up a continual process of creation and innovation. Governments and communities must be opened for them; new avenues of development and growth should be prepared for them. They also pursue a greater involvement and a more significant influence on the quality of their life. States must be attuned to these requests and resolve them by political means. On the other hand, this new situation also increases the number of less-fortunate, drops-out and the

people who failed to accept the changes and failed to suit to the new zero-boundaries world. As previously mentioned, this is also another paradox created by the Democratic regime. It is a good example case where a positive enhancing change, for many, creates frustration, pain and anger, for a less-successful minority.

Nature and science strongly claim that Equality does not exist among people. A Jewish proverb says: *“People differ by their mind and brain as they differ by their face and appearance”*. In short, People vary and therefore they have different dreams and hopes, specific needs and varied ambitions. The Democratic state should be able to meet most of these specific needs and desires.

Additionally, it should be noted that, a technological improvement, in any instance of life, like automobile speed for example, is accompanied almost always, by a more tougher and rigid safety limits and restrictions. Because, at progress, advancement and development, like in other processes, there are no free lunches. Because concessions come only with commitments.

The new chaotic situation, which encourages individuals to seek opportunities and assists others to look for self-actualization, is a very healthy and promising opportunity. Such an initiative may push nation's up-ward toward a better future. However, social activists, community leaders and state's-person should remember that also they have to prepare ways and facilities for providing proper treatments to the small minority of less-fortunate. Since eventually, they may be the threatening trouble-makers of the future.

- **Political Interest and Achievements**

Politics is less appealing, but is among the real things that mark real life. All great ideas, transcendental, noble, and uplifted philosophies will stay in as ideas in mind, without the politicians' involvement, which is sometimes vulgar and offensive. Although and other public administrators, perceive themselves as the nation leaders or the shining lighthouses in the dark reality, they use, sometimes, to decline to the lowest level of expression and behavior. Two major events are further discussed, as they took place during the transition period; they are:

1) Settling the intensifying and amplifying citizens' demands for increasing their active participation in the work of government, and 2) Resolving the gradual ideological phasing-out process, of the traditional past political parties, in many Democracies. It happens due to ideological degradation and conceptual mixing-ups processes.

The transition into the 21st century caused the original personal, economic and social interest groups to join forces while merging and becoming a greater and a stronger player on the political arena. Private and Public businesses pursue greater partnerships, while entrepreneurs sought support and encouragement. High-Tec Start-Ups looked for qualified candidates, as less-fortunate individuals pursued proper solutions. The free capable citizens demanded to increase their participation in the public decision-making processes. Voters call for promoting the use of public referendums and claimed for more involvement in the work of government.

The continual phasing-out process of many political parties, has increased the social chaos and pushed to reexamine the relevant course of action. That happens because current reality indicates that most political parties finished representing political Ideologies and Policies. They became more leader's-oriented and Media friendly organizations.

The different Social-economic policy, which was used as the ideological manifesto of the traditional parties, had lost most of their supporters. Both, Capitalism and Socialism had deteriorated and lost their appeal. The results yielded a combination of their positive demands and produced a revised Social-Capitalist Democratic Paradigm of the 21st century. Many of World inhabitants, and citizens of Liberal Democracies in particular, wish and prefer, to feel and see the, World led by a decent and respectful ideology rather than by the brutal capitalism. People pursue a democratic system that secures individual freedom, enables earning a decent income and maintains a balanced set of social rights and commitments. This desired democracy also could take a proper care of Nature, Climate and Environment.

A specific warning on dangers anticipated for Democracy by Autocratic regimes, is presented by Mancur Olson (1993) who said: *“Under anarchy, uncoordinated competitive theft by ‘roving bandits’ destroys the incentive to invest and produce”*. Thus, *“the conditions necessary for a lasting democracy are the same necessary for the security of property and... economic growth”*. We have just to agree to this 30 years old warning and add that today, at 2024, the dangers of Dictatorships, radical terror groups and bandits are even more frightening, because they are accompanied with killing and death.

The above observations well indicate how people's demands and behaviors changed and expanded due to the requirement to improve and fastening their compliance with the Post-modern Chaotic reality. The 21st century have a promising future. It depends mainly on the democratic nations and their people and leaders, who should be able to ensure that these inspiring dreams will come through.

A short compact description of How Citizens and Democratic Nations React in Chaotic Conditions is presented on the following Table 2

4. Challenges Confront Democracies

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.

Nothing can be done without hope and confidence” (Helen Keller)

Although things, at present, seem annoying and sometimes even frustrating, we state, here and now, that we see no choice, but to be optimistic. Those, who lived in the 20th century, facing its two World Wars that killed over 50 million people and the unreasonable Cold War, at one hand. And with the *“One step of Humanity”* on the moon, some thirty years later, who face at present the unprecedented, extra-ordinary technological break-throughs, those cannot but believing that, prosperity and justice finally will prevail. From this point of view, some remarks and views are offered, on how to upgrade the Democratic state.

Table 2. Foreseen Citizens and States Conduct at the 21st century—A Comparison between Individuals and States

The Four Versions of Behavior	Citizens Updated Conduct In the 21 st century	Liberal Democracy expected Conduct in the Postmodern 21 st century
<u>Personal Concerns</u> and <u>Satisfactions</u>	In a permanent search for personal Growth, further Development, and Satisfaction. Pursuing new challenges self-satisfaction and Accomplishments.	The state and its agencies must be open-minded, sensitive, supportive and encouraging new ideas and young non-conventional initiatives
<u>Economic Wishes</u> and <u>Developments</u> <u>environment</u>	Looking for Joy, Satisfaction and Happiness, as better updated goals for life Promoting the idea of an assured decent income, social activity and environment awareness, as the leading goals of society	States should enable and encourage their citizens to enjoy better, safer and a more satisfying just life States should look for a novel balanced, and a broad outlook on Labor- Capital relationships
<u>Social Pursuits</u> and <u>Commitments</u>	Seeking more choice and more Autonomy Pursuing a greater and more substantial Involvement in the Political world	States must change their former formal approach to their citizens States should help, encourage and empower those who voluntary carry-out most of these initiatives
<u>Political Interests</u> and <u>Achievements</u>	Voters demand more involvement in the political life. Citizens interested in promoting ideas on Direct democracy	Democracies should find ways for meeting their citizens political wishes 3 options are offered; 1) Public Referendums, 2) Encouraging informal activities, 3) Setting up a by-pass Mechanism of special bodies to overcome excess formalities

4.1 The Individual

“Success means having the courage, the determination, and the will to become the person you believe you were meant to be” (George Sheehan)

As with all unique undertakings, development begin with people, with the less-comprehensible and unpredictable individuals. So further, some reflections on them, are presented.

- **Cognitive and the Emotional urges inspire and motivate people**

Individuals, act and perform usually due to a multi-factors impact, composed of many drives. But the above-mentioned two urges are among the most powerful and significant human drives. All along history, most works and opinions were turned to people’s rational thinking or logical behavior. Despite great studies conducted in Europe, some hundred years ago, little attention was given in US, to the emotional side of behavior and management. It changed with the publication of Daniel Goleman (1997) book, Emotional Intelligence.

Confident, are the key factors in building their personality and behavior, as young or older individuals. Thus, it should always be remembered, that individual’s Internal-world, their Inner-Self and Ego, are the main engines and the primary mechanism, which pushes, inspires and directs people's behavior and decision-making practice. Although this important subject deserves more discussion it cannot be done here due to this paper’s limits.

- **The individual human-being, was and still is, the Key element, the crucial building block and the essential cornerstone of all human enterprises on Earth**

All others, objects, things, creatures and processes, exist in order to enable people to run a decent, humble, fair and proper life. Thus, human-beings must take into account that they are not alone on the planet. They always should therefore, respect and honor all other inhabitants on Earth. Because this fact is so important, we tend stating it again and again.

- **The “Normal Distribution Theory”**

It is a useful instrument for describing or analyzing groups of people. Advanced analyses or descriptions should use this theory because it provides a better and a more accurate picture of the explored population. The theory, which rests on wide statistical observations and was examined in many cases, claims that any normal group of people (a minimum number of participants is required) is divided into three parts; Two minority parts at the two ends, each with 20-25% of the population, and one majority group at the center, with 60-70% of the population. This theory enables to overcome the Paradox of Dualism, that provides solutions only to two poles’ phenomena, like Positive and Negative, or Long and Short.

- **Most normal human groups, contain people of all genders, types, sizes and competences**

This is the principal assumption that leads directs and motivates us in this work. The first inference derived from this statement is that, everyone, he or she, have some type of capability, proficiency or skill. This is the real meaning of heterogeneity, where everyone receives different talents and varied

abilities, some get little while others may get more.

Thus, the simple and outweighing argument is right when it claims that people are not equal, they vary in their minds and capacities, as they differ in their faces and appearance. The above-mentioned statement contradicts Equality's popular and traditional meaning, as quoted and promised by many political platforms.

The simple basic truth is that; at the 21st century, many Democratic societies are heterogenic rather than homogenic, thus, everyone has some talent or ability, but they are not equal. Such a major change in the meaning of a 250 years old primary value as Equality should be recognized as a significant paradigm conceptual change. This renewed paradigm seeks Equality among different, rather than equal people. Because of many reasons, political correctness among them, many evade from discussing this point. It is our hope that from now on, the real meaning of Equality will prevail—it is an Equality, between or among, different people rather than among equal ones.

- **Children Education should begin at the earliest years possible**

A well-known American philosopher John Dewey (1859-1952), had called, hundred years ago, to make Education more practical, involved more in real-life experience. As he recommended: “Dewey called upon schools to provide children with experiences such as gardening, sewing, building structures, etc... For Dewey, democratic education teaches young people to become creative individuals who contribute to society”. At the 2020s, when every child uses the mobile-phone daily and many youngsters are electronic wizards, such a call seems anachronic, however, it reminds us all that “Human Touch” was, is, and would always be necessary. In addition, we propose to embrace a new paradigm, which teaches, that, cooperation, collaboration, togetherness and teamworking are proper platforms, reliable leverages and promising keys for a good and prosperous life. This statement contradicts the former Capitalist teaching that competition is the key for success. This simple and elementary truth should be taught to children at their kindergarten years.

As had Aristotle said many years ago “*Those who educate children well are more to be honored than they who produce them; for these only gave them life, those art of living well*”. Children and adults should learn to know that camaraderie is not a luxury; it is not an extra bonus and not an imaginary privilege. Camaraderie, as well as being a member in a team or a colleague in a professional group is a normal achievement, opened for anyone, not only for privileges.

- **Every young person, male or female, should learn to develop his/her own ambition**

They should do it for maximizing their growth and development potential. This is our smartest conclusion to them and to all other readers. We hope that future youngsters will make it, due to their own motives and internal drives, rather than because of sick unhealthy envy, or unrealistic competition.

- **The Family, (all types of families), who raises and nurses the individual, also is the basic unit of every social construct**

Societies that rest on families and promote them are healthier, stronger, more balanced and civilized. No question that within a family-oriented community, single individuals can and should find their

respectful stand and fair position, but societies must stop their long unjust history of unintentional negligence. Healthy families give birth and rise healthy children. Healthy children grow to be healthy citizens that run, develop and advance civilized Democracies.

- **The Family as a social stabilizer also is a Quality-of-Life Promoter**

History indicates that family-oriented societies usually are stronger and more stable. As a result, their members are better in meeting unconventional and inspiring challenges. Additionally, observations indicate that family-oriented societies face better the tumults, disorders and threats appear frequently in today's convoluted reality. Observations also point-out that Family-oriented communities, which are well-led by open-minded less-traditional leaders, are stabler and safer and are better hubs for young innovators and entrepreneurs. The explanation for this phenomenon is quite simple. A person who lives within a supporting and loving environment develops a stronger self-esteem and self-confidence. He or she is better raised for coping with all kinds of internal or external challenges. As capable active citizens they always try to solve their problems by themselves.

As a rule of thumb, it seems that the number of active communal bodies indicates the population's rate of development. More voluntary organizations mean higher level of social development.

4.2 The State

- **The State is the political organ**

which materializes and represents all national missions and the traditional callings of native citizens. Also, it is an organ, that expresses the combined political and economic, local and global, interests vis-à-vis international institutions and other nations. Consequently, the state is required to act smartly and properly in both, the internal arena and the external international stage. In general, states are examined on these two issues: 1) the quality of their in-house services to their citizens, and 2) their international stand and influence. These two undertakings not always run together. Sometimes the first service functions well, while the second limps behind, and vice versa. The State also faces high-level inner conflicts, which occur among its fellow citizens and between them and the official agencies.

A wide-ranging study done by a Swede professor Axel Hadenius (1945-2021) named Democracy and Development draws data from 132 states. He indicates how complicated it to collect the relevant data, how difficult it is to keep it relevant and how problematic it to publish it. In many countries even democracies, National Pride and Prestige comes before data-credibility. Since this is a legitimated bias in some nation, progress and technology can do little about it.

Bureaucracy, by definition, is an important system enabling governments to rule. However, this well-intended tool had expanded to a point that it became a burden and sometimes even a hindrance. Post-modern Democracies should resolve this issue by enacting three instruments:

1) Maximizing the use of E-government auxiliary services, 2) Encouraging and enhancing informal initiatives and projects, and 3) Setting-up a by-pass mechanism constructed of designated committees for removing excess formalities and resolving irregular and exceptional cases.

Note: We humbly state that most of our recommendations refer to Western Liberal Democracies of the size of 5 to 70-80 million citizens. Smaller or larger states require the introduction of some adjustment and specific changes.

5. Conclusion—Practical Hints for Execution

“Smart people are inspired by Hints while fools deserve Whips”

(An old Jewish saying)

At the end, we conclude with practical points, as is recommended by the Chinese writer Lao Tzu: *“Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small”*. This message was aimed to specialists, who prefer short, clear, concrete and practical expressions:

- **The Ranking Measuring Scale of Evaluation**

This evaluating method should be used rather than the former dual or digital methods. It places the evaluated subject on a marking-point on a measuring scale. For example, answering the question, “is Mr. X a good teacher”? The proper answers are: “He is very good, 8-9, on the 1-10 knowledge scale, but less capable in delivery 6-7, on the quality of explanation scale. His average teaching mark therefore, should be 7-8, in the quality of teaching general scale”. Although, such a complicated answer to a simple question is, boring and sometimes even tiresome, but this is the proper way to go in R & D. This renovated practice replaces the previous method of evaluation, which allows only two alternatives: Yes or No, Good or Bad.

- **The Normal Distribution Theorem, or the Bell-shaped Model**

This is the main tool for studying and analyzing social groups. It divides populations into two groups: A) The Majority group—containing 70-75% of the population, and B) Two Minority groups—representing the top and the low levels of the population. Each group contains 10-15% of the Population. This division is only tentative as it rests on varied boundaries.

- **Heterogeneity** is the nature of many societies in current Post-modern Democracies

This situation strongly indicates that People are not Equal. They differ by their mind and soul as they differ by their face and appearance. Still, they deserve enjoying Equality before the Law and Equal opportunities.

Thus,

- **Nations’ heterogenic population, normally is divided**, due to the

Normal Distribution Theorem, into several population groups. Each of them deserves a due fulfillment of its specific requirements.

- **The Different social groups** and the specific ways required for promoting their growth, education and development, should be legitimized and initiated from the earliest kindergarten years.

- **Clear and unclear mental or social disorders**

would and should be observed, diagnosed and treated at the earliest possible time.

The exact way of implementing these recommendations is the business of the gifted and able professionals. However, it is very helpful citing what experts wrote: "*Having a reliable, truthful and the earliest possible diagnosis, is the most required prerequisite for getting good results afterward*" (Medical Doctors' advice).

At the end, we admit, not all questions were answered. However, we shall continue until Liberal Democracy will prevail. We will overcome by asking questions, as said: "*The highest form of Human Excellence is to question oneself and others*". (Socrates)

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