

## THE INCOMPARABLE DEMOCRACY

*Democracy is the worst form of government except for all the others that have been tried.*  
Winston Churchill

*Democracy means simply the bludgeoning of the people by the people for the people.* Oscar Wilde

*Democracy cannot be saved by supermen, but only by the unswerving devotion and goodness of millions of little men.* Adlai Stevenson

*In the strict sense of the term, a true democracy has never existed, and never will exist.* Jean Jacques Rousseau

I am a citizen of a small country that hardly anyone has an inkling of. It is just as well. It is located in a very remote area, extremely difficult to access. We number about three million, yet our population density is quite low. While we do not welcome tourists, we show any traveller that visits a minimum degree of hospitality. A few become so enamoured with our way of life that they seek to stay and become citizens. After a rigorous examination, only a few of those are permitted to immigrate to our country. They must have the proper psychological make-up and have abilities that would be a boon to our nation. Under no circumstances should correspondence between them and those they left behind divulge anything about our country and the type of people we are. We try to ensure that the rest of the world knows nothing about us. Since we are very different from the rest of humanity, we probably would be persecuted as many other minorities have been. We feel we live in an idyllic state and wish it to remain so without any interference from external sources.

We have an abundance of natural resources that provide us with all the material and energy we require. We were astute enough to amass the means to purchase a plethora of devices from the more industrialized nations. We have all the sophisticated electronic equipment that allows us to be aware of what is happening elsewhere. Actually, technologically and scientifically speaking, we are one of the most advanced countries in the world. Our electronics are superb and our computer skills unmatched. Mainly, this is due to an educational system that is quite unique. Everyone is given an equal opportunity to rise to the level of their innate abilities. While science and technology are critical, the arts are of equal importance. Most of our scientists, inventors, technological experts, philosophers, social scientists, health care providers, musicians, writers and artists are world class and many of them have won prestigious international awards. We are especially proud of the level of medical and pharmaceutical research that we support. The successes that we have achieved in this most important arena have not only been of benefit to us but too many others in all parts of the world. We are able to conceal the national origins of our leading professionals and academics by providing them with bogus identities.

Our crime rate is the lowest in the world. We have a very effective law enforcement system that concentrates on anticipation and deterrence. It is backed up by judicial and legal authorities that are most prudent and discriminating and who use the 'law' to dispense justice in as fair a way as possible. More often than not, these bodies deal with civil disputes.

We now come to the crux of the matter: we have no elected government. We have learnt not to trust 'politicians'. Our surveillance of most of the political systems in force elsewhere has taught us that politics, as universally practiced, is often nothing more than an exercise in usurping power by unacceptable means and by retaining it dictatorially. On the face of it, 'Democracy' has become a sham. We have replaced it with what we call an 'Incomparable Democracy". All our qualified citizens own advanced computers that are also available for national referendums. Our important laws deal with such things as the environment, the separation of religion from the state, new definitions of crime that consider unprecedented situations, working conditions, labour relations, foreign affairs, matters of national security, immigration, the definition of 'rights' and privileges, etc. Thus all are able to voice their views on a subject being considered and to vote on it. It is impossible to have coercive means used on anyone. The results of the referendums are calculated and provided by a master computer. Further, everyone has the right to propose a new law or an amendment to an old one. Thus all have a real say in our system of power. However, to prevent proposals that are inconsequential, or master computers cancel those from consideration. They have been programmed to use certain criteria to retain what is of importance and to discard what is non-essential. We now have a citizenry that feels its system of governance truly belongs to it.

While the preceding describes our current situation, it does not explain how we got to it. The truth is, we do not have a complete understanding of it. We do know the following facts.

The average intelligence of our populace, as measured by the most up-to-date tests, is significantly higher than the rest of the world's population.

We migrated here. Our origins varied, ethnically, geographically, politically, religiously, and racially.

It required physical stamina, brains and courage to make it through extremely harsh terrain and conditions to succeed in arriving at this very remote Garden of Eden. It was a prime example of the Darwinian notion of 'Survival of the Fittest, sometimes called 'Social Darwinism'.

The motives for this apparent foolhardy undertaking varied. One thing is certain. All desperately needed a radical change in their lives. How they got together is unclear.

The current form of governing is relatively recent. Other types were tried, with chaotic results. Party politics did nothing but encourage non-stop bickering over trivia that led nowhere. Instead of consolidating the various political blocs into two or three, which would have changed very little, a momentous decision was proposed by a few wise sages. Simply put, it was to eliminate the usual practice of governmental politics and replace it with a system of referendums monitored by well programmed and advanced computers, as previously described. It has worked amazingly well.

Its success may be due to its nature. It is a very covert operation. Also, and after much thought, the sages decided that the populace needed guidance. It is uncertain how this was achieved. The use of very carefully worded rhetoric is one possibility. Another is dissolving a carefully chosen drug in the water supply to render the populace more amenable. The critical factor was secrecy. It was of paramount importance that the public never know that they were being manipulated. They had to believe that how they voted was completely their choice. In some ways, they were like immature teenagers always ready to rebel against any authority, especially if it exercised a heavy hand. At the present time, I am the only one of the sages still alive. Thus in a peculiar manner, I guess I can be considered a benevolent dictator. So far I have not succeeded in finding a suitable person to replace me once I am gone. Dear reader, might it be you? However, it is possible that, having become wise, by habit and example, the citizenry will simply continue what we started. I hope so!

Jack Basuk

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