

### 3.4. HISTORY OF DEMOCRACY

To find solutions for today's extensive suffering, we need to take a look at our collective past.

#### XIII. DECISION MAKING PROGRESSION

**10 000 BCE** - Extended families form the cornerstones of society.

**8'000 BCE** - With the development of permanent places of settlements, the complexity of the decision making process increases.

**3200 BCE** - Cuneiform, the first written language, is born to keep track of the mercantile dealings and government administration of Sumerian city-states.

**2050 BCE** - Ur-Nammu's Code, the earliest known written legal code, of which a copy has been found, allows for the dismissal of corrupt men and the protection of the poor.

**1500 BCE** - The Phoenicians of the eastern shores of the Mediterranean define the first step in the development of the alphabetic system that exists today.

**1200 BCE** – Writing is independently invented in North China; first with Oracle-Bone Inscriptions and then with the Big Seal Script (Chun Writing).

**500 BCE** - Republican and democratic states in India co-exist with the Eurasian royal dynasties over a vast territory for close to a millennium.

**487 BCE** - Perfection of the Athenian "democracy," which means literally "rule by the people." Only men who were born free in Athens and had Athenian parents could vote. Women, slaves, foreigners and minors (90% of the population) have no say.

**400 BCE** - Writing is developed independently in ancient Mexico by the Olmecs and forms the precursor to the Maya glyphs (used 200 - 1500 C.E).

**117 CE** – The slaughter of wild animals and prisoners for the entertainment of the citizenry occurs alongside secret ballots for local elections inside a Roman Amphitheater in what is now London.

**400 CE** - Indian Cultures develop a counting system depending on the number 10.

**550 CE** - The Sclavenoi and Antae nations, Slavs of the early Middle Ages, are not ruled by one man and have lived from of old under a democracy. Consequently everything which involves their welfare, whether for good or for ill, is referred to the people.

**600 CE** - China develops woodblock printing.

**960 CE** - China undergoes fundamental changes in all spheres including technological and commercial advances that reflect changes that will take place in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Europe.

**1041 CE** - Moveable clay type is invented in China.

**1100 CE** - For hundreds of years China is governed by men who have come to power simply because they do exceedingly well in examinations on the Neo-Confucian canon. The civil service examinations are open to 98 percent of all males (actors are excluded).

**1132 CE** - Henry I of France grants charters of corporate towns protecting commerce and industry.

**1142 CE** - The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois or Six Nations) Confederacy uses a system of governance across large parts of North America based on the consent of the governed, including men and women.

**1150 CE** - The male citizens of the commercial city-state of Novgorod at Kiev appoint and dismiss local princes and city officials through a "veche" meeting. Not infrequently two "veches" are held simultaneously, one on each bank of the Volkhov river. The disputed issue is settled in a fistfight on the bridge.

- 1200 CE** - Commerce and industry boom in Europe. Many new European universities are founded and large-scale manufacturing industries develop.
- 1201 CE** - In the Valencia region of Spain, officials are elected by the male owners of irrigated land to maintain a stable economic and agricultural situation in difficult conditions.
- 1291 CE** - The popular assembly of all male citizens, called the "Landesgemeinde," enacts all laws in Unterwalden, Switzerland.
- 1396 CE** - Greek classics are taught in Italy starting a revival of ancient philosophical concepts, culture and literature.
- 1400 CE** - The Igbo Agu-inyi village democracy gives political weight to all sections of the community including women and youth. The Africa continent has pockets of flourishing political institutions with systems and methods of leadership selection that share similarities with modern democracies.
- 1440 CE** - Gutenberg completes his wooden printing press, which uses metal moving type.
- 1441 CE** - The impact of printing includes drastically increased intellectual activity and the spread of classical humanism.
- 1444 CE** - Previously separated Sub-Saharan African cultures and European cultures connect permanently.
- 1480 CE** - 110 cities in Europe have printing presses.
- 1492 CE** - Previously separated North, Central and South American cultures and European cultures connect permanently.
- 1497 CE** - Previously separated Asian cultures and European cultures connect permanently.
- 1500 CE** – The centralized state rises in Europe.
- 1500 CE** – The planet is opened to global trade, but unfortunately more often than not, this is achieved with the backing of military might.
- 1500 CE** – Europeans colonize and exploit the lands and people of Asia, Africa and the Americas.
- 1501 CE** - There are 1000 printing shops in Europe, an estimated 35'000 titles and 20 million books in print.
- 1522 CE** – The sixteen surviving crewmembers of a Spanish expeditionary vessel become the first people to sail entirely around the world.
- 1525 CE** - Water routes link all the seacoasts of the planet for the first time in human history.
- 1530 CE** - Literacy rates in Europe have increased from 30% to 60%.
- 1550 CE** - The ancient practice of slavery is institutionalized internationally and practiced on a scale never seen before.
- 1560 CE** - Vast territories of entire colonies become forced labor camps in the name of profitability.
- 1570 CE** - The massive monetary benefits of colonialism and slavery flow into the coffers of European nations and the elite in the colonies.
- 1580 CE** - The traditional social infrastructures and cultures of many indigenous cultures around the planet are systematically destroyed.
- 1616 CE** - Previously separated Australian cultures and European cultures connect permanently.
- 1619 CE** –The male landowners in the North American settlement of Jamestown want to have a say in colonial politics. Elected representatives from each plantation or town meet at the Jamestown Church for the first Legislative Assembly.
- 1638 CE** - The first printing press is brought to the American colonies.
- 1646 CE** - The Treaty of Westphalia ends the Thirty Years' War in Europe and ushers in the concept of the modern nation-state.

**1649 CE** - The Levelers, a political group during the English Civil War, publish *The Foundations of Freedom, or an Agreement of the People*, advocating social equality and an extension of the right to vote to all Englishmen who are 21 years old or over and wealthy enough to be “housekeepers.”

**1653 CE** - The Levelers are met with fierce opposition by the ruling class and their ideas are suppressed for a while.

**1690 CE** - John Locke publishes *Two Treatises on Government*, promoting the concept of Natural Rights that all people are born with and that are to be protected. Locke expresses these as “life, liberty and property.”

**1750 CE** – The vast majority of the people, in most European countries and colonies, live in poverty, servitude and a state of constant exploitation without any say in the governing system. Sentiments to revolt stir in many places.

**1762 CE** - Jean-Jacques Rousseau publishes *The Social Contract*, developing Locke’s idea that all men are born free and equal. He defines a right to replace the state by forcible means if necessary if the government does not look out for the people’s best interest.

**1775 CE** – The people of the North American colonies revolt against England in reaction to the violation of the social contract as defined by the writers of the Enlightenment.

**1776 CE** – The revolting colonists issue *The Declaration of Independence* and announce: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...” In spite of that, slavery remains a legal institution in all thirteen states and women generally have no say in the new system.

**1787 CE** – The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights is established. The original U.S. Constitution permits the states only to allow white male property owners to vote or to hold an elected office.

**1789 CE** – The French people rise up in revolution to overthrow King Louis XVI and the French aristocracy in a bloody civil war.

**1789 CE** - The Declaration of the Rights of Man is approved by the National Assembly of France stating that: “Men are born and remain free and equal in rights” and asserting that people have the right to “liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.”

**1790 CE** - The first independence movement in Latin America ignites under the guidance of Toussaint L'Ouverture. The revolt in Haiti by the enslaved majority succeeds in expelling the French.

**1798 CE** - The paper machine is invented, allowing for mass production of paper at a rapid rate.

**1799 CE** – After a decade of bloody wars and internal conflict, the French people accept the coup d'etat by Napoleon Bonaparte who installs a dictatorship.

**1830 CE** - Joseph Henry sends an electronic current over one mile of wire and activates an electromagnet, which caused a bell to strike. The electric telegraph is born.

**1832 CE** - The self-governing British colonies of Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, as well as Switzerland, Scandinavia, and the Low Countries develop democratic forms of government. All the other modern democratic states are a product of the 20th century.

**1835 CE** - Samuel Morse proves that complex communications signals can be transmitted by wire.

**1843 CE** - The U.S. Congress contributes \$30,000 worth of funds to construct a 40-mile experimental telegraph line from Washington to Baltimore.

**1844 CE** - The Morse system of electric telegraphy is introduced commercially.

**1848 CE** – Female activists hold the first conference, in Seneca Falls, to begin the Western women’s suffrage movement.

**1866 CE** – The European and North American continents are connected by the first Trans-Atlantic telegraph cable allowing instant communication between the two.

**1877 CE** – The development of the telephone changes the face of communication again, by adding the element of voice to personal transmissions.

- 1884 CE** – Representatives of fourteen European countries meet at a conference in Berlin and divide up the African continent into 50 irregular parcels, ignoring thousands of indigenous cultures and traditional regions.
- 1885 CE** - The first telegraph cable is laid between Europe and West Africa.
- 1888 CE** - Brazil is the last former European colony to abolish slavery. The practice continues illegally for years.
- 1893 CE** - New Zealand becomes the first nation to establish a system of universal suffrage extending voting rights not just to all men but also to all women.
- 1899 CE** - The citizens of the Australian colonies vote, in a referendum, to become a federal state.
- 1900 CE** - Worldwide, only 55 sovereign states exist, none of which can be judged as functioning electoral democracies by today's standard of universal suffrage for competitive multiparty elections. 12.4% of humankind live under a form of government that can be deemed somewhat democratic.
- 1901 CE** - Marconi invents wireless radio communication.
- 1903 CE** – The Pacific Ocean is spanned by a submarine telegraph cable.
- 1914-18 CE** - World War I demonstrates what widespread devastation humanity is capable of by applying its recent industrial and technological advances to aggression.
- 1918 CE** – Women finally get the right to vote in Austria, Canada, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation after a long, hard struggle.
- 1919 CE** - Belarus, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden and the Ukraine follow with female suffrage.
- 1920 CE** – Even the United States grants the ballot to women. The fight continues for the next twenty years, in an internationally organized campaign, to achieve female suffrage in 30 more nations.
- 1920 CE** – The idea of a People's Assembly is proposed to be part of the League of Nations, but is rejected. The organization ultimately disintegrates because it fails to protect all of its signatory members equally.
- 1939 CE** - World War II becomes the first true global event. The population of the planet loses a degree of innocence, as violent conflict engulfs every corner of the world, triggered by the self-serving interests of a few men.
- 1942 CE** -Technology, science, communications and transportation advance in leaps and bounds. Disastrously, these progressive steps are mainly applied to the efficient killing of others.
- 1943 CE** - The first electronic general-purpose computer is introduced.
- 1945 CE** – The U.S. uses the first atomic bomb against the population of Hiroshima. Three days later a second atomic bomb is detonated over Nagasaki. Japan surrenders, following the never-before-seen devastation. World War II formally ends.
- 1946 CE** - Universal suffrage is extended to women in Croatia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Senegal, Slovenia and Togo.
- 1947 CE** – After years of struggle against the English supremacist government with a non-violent resistance movement under the guidance of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, India becomes the world's largest democracy. All Indian women and men are instantly enfranchised with the passing of the Indian Independence Act.
- 1948 CE** - The General Assembly of the newly founded United Nations adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world..."
- 1950 CE** - 80 sovereign states exist. 31% of the world population can elect their leaders through democratic means.
- 1950 CE** - The gap between the average income in the richest and poorest country is 35:1.
- 1950 CE** – It has taken the telephone 75 years to reach 50 million users.
- 1951 CE** - Computers are sold commercially.

**1956 CE** - TAT-1, the first Trans-Atlantic Telephone Cable, connects Europe and North America.

**1957 CE** - The Soviet Union successfully launches Sputnik I, the world's first artificial satellite.

**1957 C.E** - Ghana becomes the first Sub-Saharan African state to shed colonial rule and declare independence.

**1965 CE** - Most former European colonies in Africa struggle hard and achieve independence. Many new democratic institutions and states are formed worldwide.

**1965 CE** - 189 years after the Declaration of Independence stated: "That all men are created equal..." The Civil Rights Movement under the guidance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. forces the U.S. Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act giving African American citizens the right to vote.

**1965 CE** – Early Bird, the first commercial satellite is launched from Cape Canaveral. Global satellite communications begins.

**1967 CE** - Many newly independent nations borrow heavily from international financial institutions. Continued Western economic dominance and related corruption, plagues many citizens in the emerging states.

**1969 CE** - Arpanet, the forerunner of the Internet, goes live.

**1970 CE** – 7'000 multinational firms operate worldwide.

**1973 CE** - Two researchers devise the protocol, to allow for the development of the single-network Arpanet into the multi-network Internet.

**1980 CE** - The particle research station CERN, devises rules to start the World Wide Web that allow easy travel around the Internet.

**1981 CE** - IBM's first personal home computer becomes available.

**1988 CE** - TAT-8, the first Fiber-Optic Trans-Atlantic telephone cable is laid on the ocean floor.

**1990 CE** - 20 nations are connected to the World Wide Web.

**1992 CE** - The gap between the average income in the richest and poorest country has more than doubled in 50 years to 72:1.

**1993 CE** – 37'000 multinational firms operate worldwide.

**1994 CE** - 342 years after the first Europeans colonized South Africa, the African majority under the guidance of Nelson Mandela, succeeds in forcing the minority apartheid government out of office. Universal suffrage and equal rights are extended to all citizens.

**1995 CE** – Democratic principles and representational governments take over in several new nations that used to be part of the Soviet Union.

**1996 CE** - 45 million people use the Internet. Roughly 30 million of those live in North America, 9 million in Europe, and 6 million in the Asia/Pacific region.

**1999 CE** - East Timor gains its independence from Indonesia through an internationally sponsored referendum and becomes the newest sovereign state.

**1999 CE** – 192 sovereign states exist. There are an additional 60 related and disputed territories making the number of political entities a total of 252.

**1999 CE** - More than 200 political entities are connected to the World Wide Web. The number of Internet users worldwide has reached 150 million. It took the telephone 75 years to reach as many users as the World Wide Web has connected in four years.

**2000 CE** – Electoral democracies represent more than 120 of the 192 existing sovereign states and includes between 65%-75% of the world's population.

**2000 CE** –A vast class of second-class citizens in the global South live under severe restrictions of movement as well as a lack of technology, financial resources, health care and opportunities.

**2000 CE** - 63,000 multinational firms operate worldwide, without a formal code or binding business rules to abide by.

**2000 CE** - Multiple satellite systems allow for full worldwide telephone and data connectivity.

**2001 CE** – International terrorism has the predictable effect of provoking more conflict. The response, in the form of military action, fuels the continuing spiral of violence.

**2002 CE** - 605.6 million people or 10% of the world population is connected to the Internet. 190.91 million users are located in Europe, 187.24 million in the Asia/Pacific region, 182.67 in North America, 33.35 million in South and Central America, 6.31 million in Africa and 5.12 million in the Middle East.

**2003 CE** – Many countries provide for democratic processes and basic rights within their own national borders. These rights are trampled on in the international arena as rich and powerful nations expand their narrow interests with military might. The extent of worldwide human suffering increases alarmingly.

**2004 CE** – The wheels are set in motion to hold the first global human referendum. The world vote extends universal suffrage to all men and women on the planet with the aim of defining a clear path, backed by a popular mandate, on how to resolve the vital issues of health, access and security for all.

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### 3.5. WHO RUNS THE WORLD

Does anybody make conscious choices that determine the daily dealings of the entire planet?

Several individuals do indeed make far-reaching, life and death decisions without getting their own hands dirty. It can be argued that this handful of people can pull all major strings, in the realm of armed international conflict and the threat thereof. The financial reigns also lie in a few fingers. Decisions in boardrooms affect the well-being of an increasingly large section of the world population. It is hard to determining if political leaders or business executives wield more power. Simply knowing where one begins and the other ends has become difficult.

If we take all the 252 political leaders of all sovereign nations and territories on the planet and add the business leaders of the top 500 richest companies, we arrive at 752 decision-makers, elected or not.

These individuals rely upon and are influenced by an inner circle of five advisors, partners, cabinet members, opposition leaders or generals each. That adds 3760 more folks into the command flow.

There are perhaps an additional 100 religious leaders with influence over a sizeable group of people, another 100 leaders of international institution, organizations and unions participate on the global scene and fewer than 100 heads of criminal organizations have any significant sway.

A total of 4812 people dominate the world's decision-making process. Less than 5000 people determine what you eat, where you can move to, what your child learns in school, how much you earn, what you see on television and how many bombs drop on your head.

5000 people are less than 0.000000077% of the world population.

99.999999923% of us are effectively shut out of the decision making process.