



CSLE - 356M

C. G. - LOI ÉLECTORALE

Y7 GeoCities

in

e.

Please Come!

The Democracy Test

The Official Unveiling of ' The Democracy Tree ' ... A Tree For All Seasons ... ' A ' World's First ... The Prototype is made of Aluminium , Stands '36 'Feet High . The Leaves in the Tree are ' A ' Series of panels Painted in Oils measuring 30"x40"x36 panels and each panel in the tree has the ability to turn independently of all the others yet still part of the tree ...

Date: September 11 , 2006 ...

Time: A . D . - 11:00 A.M.

Place: City Hall ... Parking Lot

RSVP: m_ekdom@yahoo.ca

See you there!

Mark A. Ekdom



Mark A . Ekdom
19 Mountain Street
Granby , Quebec , Canada
J2G 6R9
E-mail : me123424@Hotmail.com

Hello ,

My name is Mark A. Ekdom , I live in Granby , Quebec , Canada . I am ' A ' multi-talented , multi-disciplined individual who is very innovative , creative and also an artist in waiting with ' A ' strong interest and background in international studies and international affairs . I am also ' A ' landed immigrant who has lived in Quebec/Canada for most of my life .

' A ' special note : I have never voted in any municipal , provincial or federal elections for ' A ' number of very special legal and valid reasons ...which have to do with why we are here today

The Commission on electoral reform and the Citizen's committee has a mandate to ' more or less ' Re-evaluate the existing electoral process , accept public input , review all the ' pertinent ' materials and then make it's report/recommendations with regards to changing/modifying the existing electoral law and possibly putting into place ' A ' modified version of the existing/proposed MODEL .

The recent elections at the Municipal level and the results at the federal level show us clearly ... for those that really know how to interpret the data , why it is very important that we take ' A ' closer look at electoral reform and it's importance in making the democratic process more , Open ... Transparent ... Ethical ... Responsible ... Accountable ... Representative ... Sincere , Respectful and Responsive .

One of the major obstacles to Real Democratic Reform at home or abroad is the present ' Quality ' and ' Simplicity ' in the ' language ' , the ' tools ' and the ' outdated ' methods used in ' measuring the performance and the progress and the direction that the whole democratic process is currently taking .

In ' Principle ' everything according to the ' existing ' model is in place and being taken care of in ' political speak ' but as we all know there are still some major challenges that ' Lie ' ahead of us all . How do we ' increase voter participation / education ? How do we clean up the reputation of the world of politics when it is already clear that the majority of the population does not trust the current process and feels ' impotent about what it could really do , to make a difference ? How do we solve the ' Internal Problem ' with-in the Democratic process that none of the parties ... it is so far ' Unanimous ' A-Y- Z ' , none is willing to talk about ' I.T.' in the ' Open ' ?

In theory Democracy is basically ' A ' form amongst many of ' Governance/Administration/Management ' with the ultimate goal of serving ' A ' population who through the electoral process and through Democratic due process , gives this area of ' human affairs ' the Responsibility of conducting affairs in an organized fashion considering the realities of ' A ' changing world , especially since 9/11 .

I would like to make a special note . QUEBEC and all of it's citizen's may or may not realize it , but it is now in a very special POSITION regarding the future of Democracy . This creates an incredible opportunity , to Show the world what we could do together and in the Process make ' A ' place for ourselves in World Affairs and at the same time open up new opportunities and avenues of democratic development , that are waiting to move forward , here at home and also elsewhere .

My extensive research has made me very aware and well informed of the ongoing and important efforts that many people in governments , corporations , organizations , associations , clubs , groups and families around the world and also here at home are all working towards making democracy ' A ' better MODEL of Governance/Administration/Management/ in a world where the importance of working together and interacting with each other more peacefully and democratically , is becoming more important than ever .

Recently there was ' A ' presentation regarding the WTO on the ' Future Of Governance ' and it too points out some of the major issues I am addressing or will address in my presentation .

I have completed ' A ' very special project which I want to submit to the Quebec parliament and the Canadian parliament . First of all I would like to make something very clear to all partieswhat I am proposing has never been done before ...anywhere .

To sum up my ' project ' in a few short words is that I have developed what I believe to be ' A ' new management tool for information reporting and dissemination of important public knowledge through ' A ' new medium , that does not exist anywhere on the planet .

In Quebec in the last municipal elections , nobody at the municipal level proposed anything that comes close to what it is that I am proposing .

In Canada in the recent federal elections , nobody at the federal level proposed anything that comes close to what it is that I am proposing .

To show you that I know what I am talking about , I know ahead of time what the results of the next Quebec elections will be ... Nobody at the provincial level will even come close to proposing what it is that I am ready to present before the Quebec Government and the whole democratic process .

All Parties have been informed of my activities at the Federal level , the Provincial level and in my own community , Granby , Quebec , Canada .

Yours Respectfully
Mark A. Ekdom
lundi, 6 mars 2006

Mark A. Ekdom ...
19 Mountain Street ...
Granby , Quebec , Canada
J2G 6R9 ...

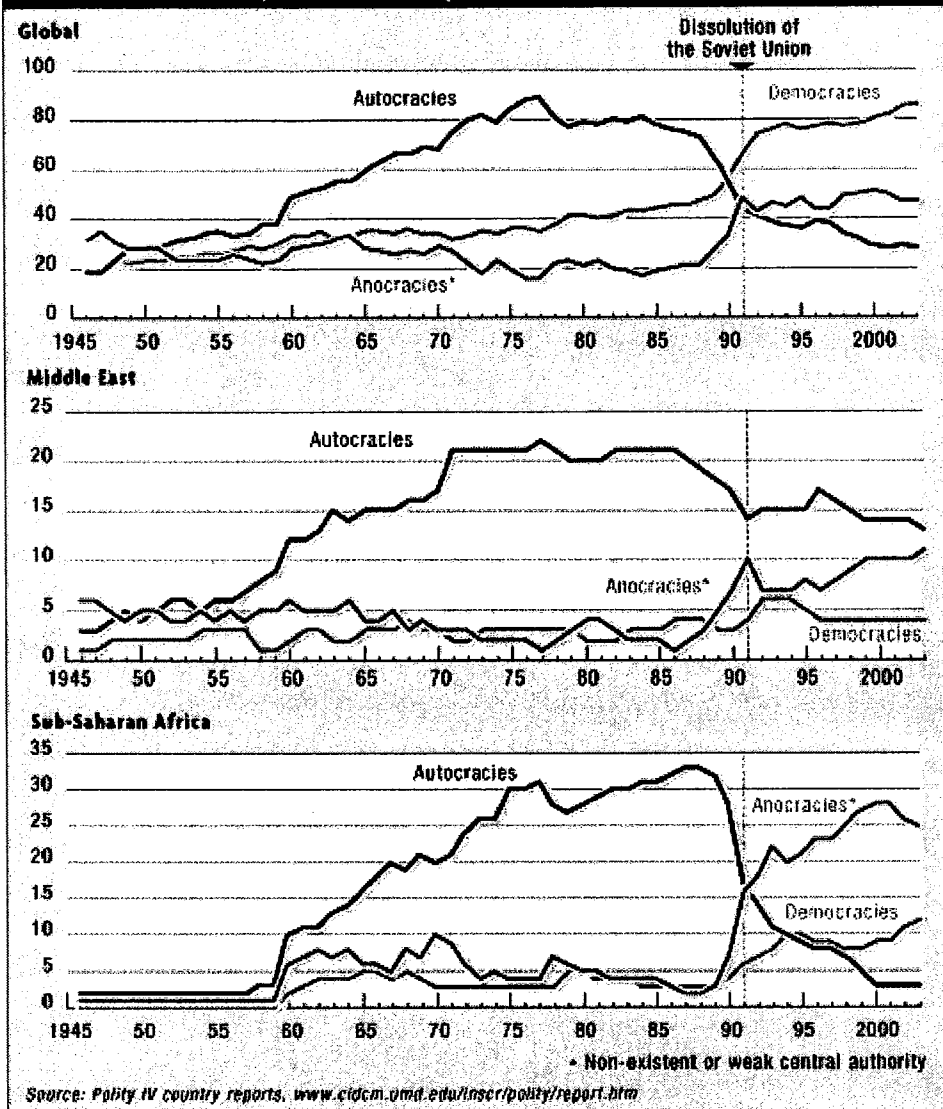
The World 's Biggest ...
Puzzle ...
' A ' ...

Paradigm (s) ...
In ' D' istress ...
'9/11 ... 9 - 1 - 1 ...
Dem o cracy ...
' 101 ' ...

The Democracy Test ...
Granby , Quebec , Canada ...

I.S.I.S. ...
P.R.I.S.M. ...
M.I.S.T. ...
P.E.P.P. ...
P.I.E. ...
Me 123424 ...

The rise of democracy: number of regimes



The Problem

- Closer integration of the countries of the world—globalization—has given risen to a greater need for collective action
- Economic globalization has outpaced political globalization
 - Just beginning to develop an international rule of law
 - Much of the ‘law’ that has developed—for instance, the WTO rules governing international trade—are grossly unfair
 - Benefit the developed countries, partly at the expense of the developing countries

Problems with Global Governance

Global Governance without Global Government

- Ad hoc, piecemeal
 - Global warming
 - Global environmental problem with potential immense economic consequences
 - International scientific consensus
 - Largest polluter refuses to alter its behavior
- Imperfect and limited institutions
 - Undemocratic governance
 - Single country, for instance, has effective veto at the IMF
 - Votes are allocated on the basis of economic power
 - Not even based on current economic standing
 - ‘Smokestack syndrome’
 - Only the finance ministers and central bank governors that have a direct say
 - Marked contrast within western democracies

Democratic Deficit

The underlying lack of democracy gets reflected both in procedures and outcomes

- Undermines the legitimacy of the global public institutions

Procedures:

- Lack of transparency
- Absence of regulations that democracies typically impose to prevent conflicts of interest

Outcomes

- Unfair trade agreements
 - Asymmetric trade agreements
 - Continued huge subsidies for agriculture
 - Unbalanced intellectual property provisions of the Uruguay Round
 - Depriving the poorest countries of the world of access to life saving drugs for diseases like AIDS
- Global financial instability
 - Failures in East Asia, Russia, Latin America
 - Pushed capital market liberalization
 - Enhanced instability
 - But not growth

Failure to Address Key Problems

- Huge instability in exchange rates
- Festering problems with the global reserve system
- In spite of the seeming advances in the ability of the market to transfer risk, the developing countries still must bear the brunt of exchange rate and interest rate risks in their loans
- The absence of a mechanism to handle sovereign defaults

Institutional Problems

- Problems not just with *formal* institutions
- Growing awareness of the inadequacies of the informal institutions
 - Why, when the leaders of the world get together to discuss future economic reforms, is not China, or India, or Brazil, or representatives of poorer countries, not at the table?

Some Forces for Change

- Basic questions:
 - Why would those in power give up that power?
 - Powerful within a country have not been the strongest advocates of the rule of law
 - They do better in closed door proceedings, where they can use their economic muscle to get what they want
 - America, the sole remaining superpower, advocates a policy of unilateralism. It does not want to have its hands tied by any international rule of law. It walks away from the global agreement on global warming, or the international criminal court
 - What are the underlying forces for change?

Some Forces for Change

- Answers
 - Self-interested motives for change
 - Commitment to *democratic principles* among electorates in advanced industrial countries

Why Change is Needed

- Even the most powerful need cooperation with others
- They cannot force cooperation
- Increasingly unwilling to provide assistance
- Increasing recognition of the need for the rule of law
 - Dangers of a lack of checks and balances
 - Especially when there is an evident lack of *internal controls*
- The 'bargaining equilibrium' requires important concessions

Leveraging Limited Power

- Using existing agreements
 - Cotton
 - Applying shrimp-turtle case to global warming

Legitimacy of Global Political Institutions and American Leadership

Issues of legitimacy of political institutions and decisions become most intense when the decisions are seen to fail

- Trade liberalization did not bring the benefits promised
 - Many countries saw their incomes actually falling
- In Iraq, leaders have been seen to lie or mislead
 - Thousands of lives have been lost
 - American unilateralism has not made the world safer
 - Many have already suffered as a result of the increased instability to which American actions have given rise, and more are likely to suffer in the future.

Confidence in the Credibility of the Statements of Leaders

- Why should it be believed that the United States is committed to creating a fair trading system?
- Why should it be believed that its policies in other spheres represent anything other than ideology or its interests or special interests within America?

Problems especially severe when positions seem
hypocritical

Hypocrisy and Inconsistency

- The understanding of the Uruguay Round was that agricultural subsidies would not increase and actually be cut
 - Export subsidies were...
 - But overall subsidies were increased
 - America doubled its subsidies, claiming that technical loopholes that it had put in meant that it was entitled to do so
 - But even those claims exacerbate the skepticism
 - America went so far as to claim that cotton subsidies were not trade distorting
 - When they plainly were (and the WTO panel found so)

Other Examples

Differences in positions on

- Budget deficits
- Mandate of the central bank
- Social security

Democratic Forces for Change

Democratic deficit

- Voting rights
- Representation
- Lack of democratic accountability
 - Those who are dissatisfied with IMF or WTO agreements have limited recourse

Gets reflected in actions, procedures, and outcomes

- Choice of the head of the IMF

Governance Fundamental Problem

- Helps explain problems
 - Lack of concern for equity
 - Policies that reflect special interests and particular ideologies
 - Seeming lack of concern for public perceptions
- Special interests often try to get in international arena what they could not get domestically
 - Takings provision in Chapter 11
 - Unbalanced intellectual property not reflecting concerns of users, scientific community, others
 - Restrictions on generic drugs

Tempering Capitalism

- Inside countries, democratic processes have tempered capitalism
 - Recognizing market failures
 - And ensuring modicum of social justice and solidarity

Tempering Capitalism

- In the international arena, this tempering is often limited
 - Partly because of lack of democratic accountability
 - But partly because social conscience— notions of social justice and solidarity—often get greatly circumscribed at national borders

Growing Concern About Democratic Deficit

Provides basis for optimism concerning reform

- Undermines political legitimacy
- Violates basic commitment to democratic processes
- The “undemocratic international governance” may undermine democratic processes at home
- Dominant role played by special interests and ideologies reflects a deficiency in domestic democratic processes

Final Force for Change

- Change in mindset which globalization itself is bringing about
 - Improvements in communication and the lowering of transportation costs have brought with them an increasing familiarity with those in other countries
 - Growing recognition that we live in a single planet and that we are increasingly interdependent

Reforms

1. *Changes in the Governance of the World Bank and the IMF*
 - Changes in voting structure
 - And representation
 - Improvements in transparency
 - And advances in conflict of interest rules
 - *Informal* procedural and *Institutional* changes
 - Give developing countries more effective voice
 - Creation of a think tank to help developing countries formulate positions more effectively reflecting their interests

Reforms

2. *Changes in the Governance of the WTO*
 - More transparency
 - The elimination of the green room processes
 - The creation of more representative processes for decision making
 - The creation of an independent body
 - To evaluate alternative proposals their impact on developing countries
 - To assess whether bilateral and regional trade agreements are more trade diverting than trade creation
 - To determine *before dumping or countervailing duties are imposed* whether there is a prima facie case.

Reforms

3. *Moving from the G-8 to the G-24*
4. *A Strengthened Economic and Social Council*
 - Development is too important—and too complex—to be left just to finance ministers
 - Monterey consensus
 - Example—sovereign debt restructuring
 - No country would delegate legislation to creditors

Reforms

- 5. *Financing for Global Public Goods*
 - Increasing global integration has made global public goods take on increasing importance
 - Today, we rely mostly on moral suasion
 - Moral suasion has been only partially effective
 - The advanced industrial countries have agreed to provide .7% of their GDP for funding assistance to developing countries, and a few European countries have exceeded that target, but the world's richest country has fallen woefully short

Financing for Global Public Goods

- Revenues from the management of global natural resources
 - Seabed
 - Global fisheries
 - Antarctica
 - Greenhouse gases

Financing for Global Public Goods

- Revenues from the issuance of “SDR’s”
 - Current reserve system woefully deficient
 - Inefficiencies
 - Deflationary bias
 - Works only because of unbridled U.S. consumption
 - Instability
 - As U.S. debts mount, will world continue to be willing to hold them
 - Trade deficits like hot potato
 - Sum of trade surpluses must equal sum of trade deficits
 - If some countries insist on having surpluses, others *must* have deficits
 - But trade deficits increase likelihood of crisis
 - Inequity
 - U.S. benefits from low interest rate loans from poor countries
 - Richest country in the world

Financing for Global Public Goods

- Taxation of global externalities
 - Arms sales to developing countries
 - Pollution
 - Destabilizing cross border financial flows

Reforms

6. *Management of Global Natural Resources and the Environment*
7. *Production and Protection of Global Knowledge*
 - Knowledge one of more important global public goods
 - TRIPs recognized this
 - TRIPs shows flaws in currency global governance
 - Did not reflect a balance of concerns
 - Reflected those of America's drug and media industries
 - Should be financed in an equitable manner
 - May not entail imposing effectively high taxes on the poorest countries and people

Reforms

8. *A Global Legal Infrastructure*

- One of the most important functions of government *within countries* is to provide a legal infrastructure
 - The enforcement of contracts
 - The protection of competition
 - Bankruptcy
- Increasingly, economic relations go across borders
 - In the United States a century ago, most of the legal infrastructure was provided by states
 - In spite of similarities, differences gave rise to multiplicity of problems
 - Gave rise to efforts to harmonize
 - As globalization proceeds, a similar process needs to occur across countries
 - Should not be based on the lowest common denominator
 - Some duplication, overlap may be desirable
 - The overlap in securities legislation and enforcement in the United States proved extremely important

Concluding Comments

- Question is not so much whether there will be change, but will it come fast enough
- Globalization is not an inevitable process
- Unless changes are made, the disillusionment with globalization that is already palpable will spread