

DEMOCRACY and GOVERNMENT

By Roy Snelling

At times of crisis in the World, it is well for human beings to take stock. Where have we come from, what are we now, what do we want for the future? A World, including humanity, suffering from tyrannies, insurrections and wars everywhere, democracies being shaken to the core, fanatical religious terrorist atrocities, expanding human populations placing increased demand on the Planet's diminishing resources, animal, bird and insect species in decline due to loss of habitat and pollution, de-forestation, pollution of oceans and the atmosphere, global warming with consequent disastrous changes to weather patterns and now thousands dying due to the dangerous pandemic of the Covid 19 virus. Our sense of security has evaporated. We are now floundering in a sea of uncertainty. Will the human race survive as a species on this Planet?

Before we proceed further it is first necessary to say something about the changing Cosmic energies that enter the Earth at different times and how these affect life on Earth, particularly mankind. The Earth progresses through a Precession of about 25,950 years. This is probably part of a much larger cycle of Cosmic changes. The Precession Cycle is divided into twelve smaller cycles each of 2,150 years, that we call a 'Zodiac Age'. Each Age experiences cosmic energies entering that have their own unique energy signature. So mankind is affected both physically, mentally and emotionally differently with each Age. Now in the natural progression from one Age to another all old structures built up in the preceding Age are broken down and replaced by new structures that are more in harmony with the energy of the New Age. But mankind is currently finding it difficult to let go of the systems that it has built up in the Piscean Age, despite the fact that we are now about twenty years into the new Aquarian Age, free of the old Piscean energies. Structures relating to government, politics, banking and finance, scientific determinism, medicine and religion. We are afraid to let go of the feeling of certainty these things brought, but it requires courage and a leap of faith to embrace the opportunities of the New Age. But this is not all. It is said that every half Precessional Cycle of about 12,975 years much larger and more dramatic changes take place. We are about that distance in time since the terrible destruction of the great civilization of Atlantis. Many of the World's major religions talk about a coming End Time when there will be major destruction and disturbances. Jesus of Nazareth depicts this in rather horrific detail in St. Mathew's Gospel. The events happening in the World today rather bear this out.

Every problem in Life is a hidden opportunity. This unravelling of our sense of certainty gives us a chance to be bold, think laterally outside the box, and think the unthinkable. Perhaps the various forms of democracy, government and economics we have been used to in the Western World are no longer working. What type of life do we humans want for the future for ourselves, and for our children and

grandchildren? We first have to unravel the past and have the courage to start again with a clean slate. And we must start from the basis that all humans of whatever ethnicity are of the same species, and that visual differences between us are just superficial. We all share 99.5% to 99.9% of the same genes. So we are looking at a new future for the whole World-wide human family. So we must ask three questions:

- (a) What exactly is democracy, and,
- (b) Is democracy the most efficient form of government, and,
- (c) What do we need for our ongoing Spiritual Evolution?

The word ‘Democracy’ is derived from the Classical Greek: demos = people, and kratos = to rule. In other words, rule by the people. Abraham Lincoln, at his address given in Gettysburg during the American Civil War, put this succinctly as follows:

“That this Nation, Under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth.”

In other words, the people, or their representatives for whom they have voted, will form a government that will administer to the people’s needs.

The problem that we have in the Western World is that many people seem to equate the term ‘democracy’ with a Western-style multi-party government system pursuing a form of capitalist economics. IT IS NOT! Communism and some forms of fascism could be said to be forms of democracy if there is some form of representation of the people, as well as multi-party systems, however feeble or manipulated. Taken at face value, Abraham Lincoln’s statement does not state what type of democracy or economic system should be followed. Democracy is simply ‘rule by the people’, nothing more.

Let us now trace the origins of ‘rule by the people’. In many tribal societies in the historic past the members of a tribe would elect one of their number to become leader for the following year, usually on the date of some religious festival. This worked as long as the numbers in the tribe were not too large. Sometimes though a particular tribal leader with a strong will would brow-beat the members of the tribe to vote for him every year. Eventually the leader’s son and their male descendants would ‘assume’ that leadership in perpetuity whence we have the beginnings of hereditary monarchy. Where such leader was installed in their office in a ceremony of the (assumed) blessing of the Gods or God, the tribal leader cum king would henceforth presume to rule by ‘Divine Right’. Such rule could be either benevolent or oppressive, depending upon the character of the King. In pre-Christian Northern Europe the Germanic tribes would hold regular meetings. By the time of King Ina of the Saxon Kingdom of Wessex many tribes had consolidate into one unit whereby one the tribal leaders would have been appointed as

'paramount' chief, which had morphed into the status of 'King'. By the time of King Alfred the tribal chiefs would have evolved into 'Eorls' or Earls. But now, whereas in the past the people would have voted for their leader the Earls would now be appointed by the king. But this still needed the consent of the people who would hold local meetings called 'moots'. But the King also had to submit himself for approval to meetings of Earls called 'wittans'. In East Anglia, Central and Northern England, and the Lowlands of Scotland, these meetings were called 'Things' as they were in Scandinavia. (The Angles who invaded Southern Scotland and much of England were themselves Scandinavian in origin).

The first historical record we have of democracy in the ancient World is the experiment in Athens. Developed in the 6th Century BCE for the polis of Athens and its hinterland, Attica, It was copied by other Greek City States but they are not well documented as was the Athenian model. Participation was however limited to adult male citizens of Greek, Athenian blood. Slaves, women, those without property and citizens of ancestral origin that was foreign, were excluded. The Athenian model survived with two oligarchic interruptions until the Peloponnesian War with Sparta. The longest serving of the democratic leaders was Pericles. The representatives of the assembled people were voted into office to serve on one of three bodies, The Assembly, The Council and The Courts. Between them they managed all the affairs of State. Each year the leading citizens of Athens would assemble at the Forum and some of their number would stand up and make a speech to convince the Assembly to vote them into office for the forthcoming year. But take note that there were no political parties involved as we know them today. This experiment collapsed when the last democratically elected leader, Pericles, refused to stand down when the next annual forum met. He then became what the Greeks called 'The Tyrant'. But Athens was then struck by a plague that merchants probably brought back from the Black Sea. Pericles died in this plague. The democratic experiment was never revived as Sparta invaded Athens and took control of the Government.

For much of European history nations have been ruled by kings and occasionally by Queens. There was early on an assumption of absolute power. But from the 12th Century onwards there were attempts to rein-in the excessive powers of monarchs. Kings would set up councils to give advice to the King, with some councillors having specific functions, such as a Royal Treasurer. Members of the Council would normally be from the higher aristocracy (barons, earls, lords). At this point in history common folk were not involved in government at this level. One of the councillors could also be the leading religious cleric of the Country. But up until the Reformation this could sometimes be a headache for a king as the religious councillor would see the Pope (in the West) or Patriarch (in the East) as the supreme authority and not the King. An excessive use of Royal power could sometimes lead to a rebellion of the king's leading aristocrats. This happened in England in 1215 when many of the Barons rebelled against King John. They raised an army to march upon the King, who was forced to sign a contract with them limiting his powers and defining his duties, and those of the Barons (the Magna Carter). It was thought

to be the first step towards real democracy in England, although it would be a long time before there was a full suffrage of all adults.

By the time of the Reformation the king's councils had often enlarged with more powers and were becoming pseudo-parliaments. They were becoming semi-independent of the sovereign. But the king could often overrule these parliaments so that 'ultimate' power still resided in him. In the late Middle Ages one saw a rise of an expanding Merchant Class independent of the Aristocracy. A fledgling 'Middle Class'. The ruling monarchs started to grant 'Royal Charters' to the larger cities and towns so that they could, to a large extent, rule themselves. So the merchants and their guilds set up corporation councils to run their municipalities. They were then made responsible for collecting taxes, some of which were to help administer the boroughs, pave and maintain major roads, and in times of war to raise and maintain an armed militia. A proportion of the taxes raised would have to be forwarded to the King's Chancellor. It was in the Monarch's interests to encourage this Merchant Class as it would become an important source of revenue. The more goods and services produced the more income, hence more taxes paid. Up until the Reformation Parliaments were accruing more powers to themselves, with an increasing tendency to act independently from the Monarch. Although in most cases the King or Queen would have the ultimate power of sanction or overturning of Parliament's decisions. The above processes were of course taking place at different rates and times in different parts of Europe. And many sovereigns in Europe still assumed to themselves the right to rule by 'Divine-Right', although whether 'God' sanctioned such is another matter. But a number of rebellions and Civil Wars broke out across Europe that either transferred most of the Sovereign's powers to their Parliaments, where the elected representatives of the leading political party would form a government with a 'Prime Minister', who was sometimes also the Chancellor (Kanzler). Sometimes the king and his immediate family would be removed from power completely. In the English Civil War in the early 17th Century King Charles I was captured, put on trial, and executed. But some of these rebellions involved a strong doctrinal religious element. Such as where King Charles I of Britain was accused of straying from adherence from the faith of the independent English Church into Roman Catholicism. The same happened in Prague, but in reverse. Bohemia during the 16th Century had seen an increasing adherence to the Protestant Faith; At one time even the King became a Protestant and supported such. But in 1619 King Phillip III of Spain supported the Catholics in Bohemia against the Protestants. And in 1623 The Holy Roman Emperor asserted his authority as High King of all lands in the Holy Roman Empire, including Bohemia, and forbade Protestant worship. In 1775 the European settlers in the North American states (Except Canada) rebelled against the British Government of King George III for imposing swinging taxes on them to pay for British activities elsewhere in its Empire. This resulted in a war between the colonists and the British Army, which the colonists, with the help of a French regiment, won. The French were probably still smarting at the loss of Quebec in 1759. The victors then declared a Republic free from British rule. In 1795 a revolution in France removed the reigning monarch, King Louis VI, Imprisoned him and the Queen, Marie Antoinette, and then guillotined both. After which a Republic was declared. But with the

intervening Bonaparte rulers it was not until 1871 that the Republic became permanent. In 1917 a revolution in Russia led to the removal of Tsar Nicholas II from power and a Republic was declared, the Royal family being held under house-arrest at their country residence. A liberal government was installed, but this was subsequently forcibly removed by Bolsheviks who thought that it did not represent the interests of the ordinary people of Russia and was too Middle-Class. A Marxist-Communist government was installed, which then arranged for the whole of the Royal Family to be executed, with their bodies being buried secretly in unmarked graves in the middle of a forest. In 1918/19 the Germans, having lost the fight in WWI, forced their Kaiser to abdicate and live in exile in the Netherlands. A Republic was then established.

From the late Middle Ages power in Europe, particularly in Northern Europe, was increasingly shifting into the Merchant Classes. Banks were being set up, some of the first by the banking concerns of the Medici Family in Florence. This eventually led to the setting up of a Central Bank in many countries which was often linked to a government's economic policies. The need for the injection of large funds for the expansion of commercial and industrial corporations, avoiding the high interest rates charged by banks, led to the establishment of Stock Exchanges, where firms could sell shares in their company.

In Europe it was some years before the lower classes, farm labourers, craftsmen and general labourers would gain common suffrage. For a number of years there was a property threshold, particularly in Britain, so that only those owning property above a certain capital value could vote in elections. This meant that many in the emergent Middle Class merchant families could vote for representatives to Parliament for the first time. In Britain it was not until the middle of the 19th. Century that there was universal suffrage for all men over the age of majority. Despite the demonstrations of the Suffragette Movement in the latter part of the 19th Century and the years leading up to World War I women were considered to be beholden to their husbands, who were their masters. Upon marriage any assets and property that a woman had then became her husband's. It was not until 1928 that women in the UK were given the same voting rights as men. During the 18th Century the Merchant Classes were becoming fed up with political life being dominated by the aristocracy and land-owning classes so a 'Liberal' Party, called at the time 'Whigs', was set up to represent their interests. So the Aristocrats and Land-owning classes had to set up their opposition to such which was called the 'Tories', the precursor to the Conservative Party. Hence in Britain we had the beginning of Party-Politics, where the two parties would compete with each other at National, County and local elections to have their own representative elected to represent the people. Sometimes bribery or dirty tricks were used to discredit the opposition. But by the middle of the 19th. Century there was a growing concern among certain intellectuals in Europe that even the emerging Liberal Parties still did not represent the interests of the Working Classes, who were still disenfranchised. This led to a Europe-wide Socialist Revolution in 1848 when riots and demonstrations, often led by university students, broke out in many cities. In Prussia the King had to be removed from Berlin by the Army for his own safety. It was at that time that

a German Jew from Berlin who was living in London wrote his critique of the Capitalist economic system, entitled *DAS KAPITAL*. This was followed by a joint work with Friedrich Engels that proposed a new political system of a One-Party Socialist State whose representatives were elected by common suffrage by the working classes. The work was entitled *DIE KOMMUNIST MANIFESTO*. And then labour unions started to be formed in a number of countries in Europe, including Britain, to protect workers from excessive abuse from their employers. Quaker families were setting up manufacturing concerns where the management of these concerns was much more humane than the average capital motivated private company. They made a genuine effort to care for their employees along Christian principles. Most of the founding families of the Quaker concerns tended to support the emerging Liberal or Labour / Socialist Parties. Mutual Provident Societies were also being set up which were owned by their employees. Two examples were the John Lewis Partnership and the Co-operative movement, from which the Co-operative Bank emerged. During the 19th. Century in Britain one saw the emergence of labour or socialist parties, sometimes with the support of the Co-operative movement. These morphed into what was to become the British Labour Party. A Party that was committed to working in a multi-party Democracy rather than a one-party state.

By the turn of the 20th. to 21st. Centuries a number of countries in Western Europe still retained their Royal Families. But as constitutional monarchies their powers had been drastically curtailed, so the real executive power rested with the democratically elected government. The Sovereign's duties were restricted to signing Acts of Parliament into Law, appointing a new prime minister or president, and serving certain other public functions such as visiting disaster zones, launching new ships and opening new major local public works. The sovereign would always be aware that if they attempted to exceed their powers the National Parliament could pass legislation to disestablish the Monarchy and replace it with a Republic. There has been a Republican movement in the UK for many years, but the Royal Family has such a strong emotional appeal to the people that its abolition is not likely to happen in the near future, despite the number of gaffs made by various members of the Royal Family in recent years.

So how secure is the democratic process? There are various ways in which it can be found wanting, abused or undermined:

(a) In most modern democratic societies the democratic process would include all those adults, male and female, on or above the age of majority for that country who are of sound mind and are not serving a long prison sentence for a serious crime. In the UK this would include many young people who have had limited experience of life and might not be particularly political savvy. But it would include many older more mature folk who are more World-wise and politically savvy. It could also include many people, who at one end have no qualifications at all, whereas at the other end people with University degrees and possibly also doctorates. At one end there will be folk of working age doing manual work with relatively low levels of responsibility, and at the other those in professional jobs or top management positions in business with high levels of responsibility. It has been suggested that this is unbalanced and

could lead to uniformed voting intentions. It would be better if older World-wise people, and those with good qualifications and high levels of responsibility had a higher vote weighting than others.

(b) Where the party in power in government is near the end of its elected term manipulates the electorate by threats of violence unless they vote for it, bribery, or press releases that spread lies and misinformation about its opponents.

(c) Where an executive president or prime minister refuses to leave office after having lost an election, thereby morphing into a dictatorship.

(d) Where the Military forcibly remove a democratically elected president or prime minister from office, close down parliament and establish a military dictatorship.

(e) In the UK, and to some extent in other Western countries, a right-wing Conservative Party relies heavily upon donations from big business. When in power they will then find that some of those businesses will 'lean' on the government, or its ministers, to get it to amend, repeal, withdraw, or forward new, legislation so that it becomes favourable to that business but against the interests of the general population. Conversely, a Labour government could amend or repeal laws that are unfavourable towards those Trade Unions who are the government's donors, or enact new legislation to their advantage. Such loss of control over the Unions could lead to undemocratic voting methods within the unions, victimisation of those who don't vote with the majority, and wildcat strikes. All of which could damage the economy.

Before we think about reforming the above democratic process we first need to go back to First Principles. What type of government would serve the best interests of the people? Would it be some form of democracy or another formulation. The Greek philosopher of the Classical Period, Plato, when examining this very problem in his work *THE REPUBLIC* proposed the appointment of a council of Wise Men. We could expand that today to read 'Wise Men and Women'. It would have been a form of oligarchy where there was no common suffrage. Unless something of the democratic process was reduced to the form of an advisory council, but where the Supreme Council of Wise Guardians were the executive with absolute power. But what do we mean by 'wise'?

In Western Society today practically the whole of Western Academia, plus its various branches of the physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and other disciplines, are based on a Humanist Philosophy, which is a form of moral atheism. Included in the above would be the discipline of psychology which sees all human thinking, feeling and awareness as functions of the physical brain. So what we would consider as 'wisdom', within the above construct, would be a balanced way of thinking based on the lessons of this life, correcting mistakes and misunderstandings, healing errors that have led to inharmony in body and mind, recalibrating and moving forward.

But in several studies that have been carried out over the past two decades of the belief-systems of adults in the Western World have consistently shown that more than 51% of those questioned still believe in some form of spiritual dimension in Life, which is antagonistic to the basic premise of Academia. Those people might be followers of one of the Worlds main religions, particularly Christianity in the West. Or actively involved in some other form of New Age Spirituality. Or practicing some form of alternative (so-called 'complementary') therapy where a belief in the presence of a spiritual power is essential. Or membership of a Mystical or Esoteric Society. Or perhaps some personal spiritual or psychic experience, such as an 'out-of-body' experience. What this means is that in the West we have a fractured, schizophrenic society where people's personal belief systems are not in line with the dictats of Academia that governs much of our lives.

Western Science is based upon a precept of a Universe consisting of atomic matter of the 'Standard Model' , that traces its rational from Newtonian Physics, that obeys certain laws of Nature. Such a Universe and its material base operates within a defined energy frequency band, from about 4 hertz (sense of touch) with long wavelengths, through the Electro-Magnetic Spectrum up to several million hertz (X-Rays, Gamma Rays) with extremely short wavelengths. A Material Plane as evidenced by observation through the five physical senses as extended by very delicate scientific instruments. And an analysis of such observations through the use of Inductive Reasoning. But I would propose that the Universe was created on several frequency bands, each one of a higher vibration rate than the one below. These higher bands operate with much finer matter, or 'Soul Essence', than the atomic matter known to Western Science. The band with the lowest range of vibrations and longest wavelengths is that known to Science. So what it means to be human operates on some of these higher frequencies. Therefore our thinking, feeling and consciousness are not functions of the physical brain; they use the brain as an instrument through which to communicate with the physical World. This then suggests that when the physical body dies it loses its inner motivating life-force which withdraws to the level of that person's higher functions which have survived so-called 'death'. It is not death but a transition. There are many religions and mystical philosophies that explain that these higher functions, that form a higher level of extra-brain personality, will be re-born into a new physical body. But not just once, but again and again. perhaps hundreds of times. Until, that is, the inner consciousness knows that it has no more lessons to gain from physical life. So it withdraws completely from the physical plane to continue it's journey on the higher frequency bands. Some of these conscious beings who have been evolving further on the higher frequency planes a long time ago have formed a Council of Ascended Masters. Sometimes referred to as the Great White Lodge. It sometimes happens that these exulted beings make contact with a person in incarnation who has become a highly evolved spiritual being, with perhaps only one or two more Earth-Lives to go, before finally ascending to join the ranks of the discarnate masters. These persons can come under the direct tutelage of a Master, the aim of which is to install in that person a commitment to the service of ones fellow beings still in incarnation on this Earth, struggling with the vicissitudes of this physical life. Such people would make ideal candidates for the Platonic Council of

Wise Men and Women. Their rule over others would be under the direct guidance of the Masters who know the Cosmic Plan for this Universe. In such a society everyone would know that they are working for the Greater Good. Mankind would then be back in symbiotic relationship with Gaia, and all her other creatures. Our Brothers and Sisters from other Planetary Systems in the Galaxy would then want to make contact with us again, as they had in the Golden Age of Atlan.

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