

# Introduction



①

Democracy is an ideal which has been growing since ~~old ages~~ ~~but~~ many centuries but which is still far from taking shape in most societies on this planet.

This ideal stems from the acknowledgment that men + women are conscious of their destinies, that they have ~~a~~ the status of freedom and that such a status should enable them to organize their life together and to create the necessary institutions.



We have often considered (3)  
those countries as non-democratic.  
However, their very specific situation rather asks for a deeper elaboration + research on democratic institutions + expressions which so far we have been unable to devise.

It is my conviction - and to some extent, the basic assumption of my lecture tonight - that the new challenges the long established democracies have to face in order to remain truly democratic will bring about a new shape + goals for democracy which will enable the still non-democratic regimes to make a leap in the new era.



Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

This is a parallel assumption<sup>(4)</sup> to the question of social + economic develop/. Nobody can realistically expect today that every country (from the NIC's to the LDC's) will follow in a sustainable way the same path the highly industrialized countries had to follow. A short-cut is necessary. It is made possible by the blending of traditional technologies with high-tech (Umberto Colombo)



The same "short-cut" can happen in establishing new democracies.



A democracy is, at the same time (3), a concept + a living experience. Those concerned by this approach are both the experts on political sciences and the citizens in their organized forms of social + political intervention.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro



Instead of making a general survey of the evolution of democracy <sup>and</sup> of the performance of political institutions and of the rôle played by ~~it~~ in ~~either~~ each of these fields, I will follow a more subjective approach.

A year ago I was deeply involved in what has been one of the longest campaigns for presidential office in European countries. I run for office, the elections took place on the 26th of Jan. and I lost.

My main intellectual concern since then has been the attempt to probe into the mechanisms + behaviours which led to my defeat.

My attitude is the opposite of trying to find a scape-goat. I don't believe that any historical event can be reduced to a simple ~~total~~ causality. There are always



at work many factors which, some  
times by hazardous circumstances,  
lead to a ~~given~~ <sup>concrete</sup> situation. In the case  
of the Portuguese presidential elections,  
there are, of course, personal factors;  
~~etc.~~ I would be the last personal to  
minimize their effects. But, beyond  
what can be named as the assets  
& shortcomings of a candidate,  
there are <sup>misperceptions,</sup> trends, phenomena which  
transcend a particular case.

I want to address myself to  
such facts as they point out to a  
whole field of research + action  
in which as much cooperation  
as possible is needed.

