

Rotterdam (dia 4)

"A evolução socio-  
-cultural na Europa

- Fundação Gerd B. Schulerer

novos desafios.





# After democracy, what? 1

→ Socio-cultural ~~dev~~ evolution in Europe:  
Introduction ~~new~~ <sup>new</sup> issues + challenges

Democracy still remains an ideal. Looking at the plenary session of the GA of the UN <sup>2 weeks ago</sup> ~~yesterday~~, I read each name and asked myself: - are human rights respected?

- are the peoples represented here really free?

- are they able to shape their society + their destinies, to choose their own life style?

- is there the diversity of views which expresses the mutual respect for the freedom of opinion?

- is political pluralism accepted?

This is just the "surface" of democracy. At a more profound level ~~we~~ <sup>I could</sup> ask: →





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— are the representatives of the people really chosen even in "free" elections? or are they the outcome of marketing? the medium which replaces the message?

— when the electors vote, what are they doing in our information society: are they choosing <sup>the</sup> way in which society should be organized + public affairs conducted or are they, as it were, "buying" a product? ~~sold by the many forms of~~

— when democratic institutions are functioning, are they at the service of basic human rights - food / shelter / education / ~~work~~ - or are they just perpetuating themselves?

Many of these questions are raised in 2  
the most diversified meetings + platforms.

Nobody has clear-cut answers. There is  
~~a tremendous leap in the way~~  
We are concerned with the shortcomings  
of democracy in some countries as well  
as we are concerned with its total  
absence in many others.

It is my conviction, in fact, ~~my~~  
basic assumption that the new  
challenges have to be met by the  
long-established democracies.  
New ideas, new tasks, new institut-  
ions are needed. As they will  
emerge they will bring about a  
~~new~~ <sup>modern</sup> change + more <sup>human +</sup> realistic goals  
to democracy. Such change will  
enable the still non-democratic  
regimes to make a leap in a new  
era. My basic assumption ~~is~~ ~~consists~~  
is then clear: the more the long-  
-established democracies ~~is~~ meet  
the challenges of today's world



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and the  
the ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> ~~int~~ <sup>int</sup> ~~ual~~ <sup>ual</sup> systems at all levels  
are changed + the more rapidly  
democratic regimes may be  
created or restored in ~~many~~  
~~countries~~ <sup>those</sup> ~~those~~ countries where  
they are so badly needed.

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2. Another internal factor comes from the ~~of~~ <sup>extra-parliamentary</sup> ~~marginally~~ <sup>forces</sup> existing in the established democracies. They can be counted by the thousands in the European countries.

They cannot anymore be considered marginal. In fact, in some cases, they have focussed with anticipation on issues which are now central for the world.

It is necessary to define the new issues, to acknowledge the visibility of <sup>new actors</sup> and to give political space + expression to such realities.

By encompassing, in an institutionalized way, such new forms, democracies will reinforce their foundation. They will become at all levels people's power in a organized way.





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3. Democracies haven't been able to deal with in-in.

Their power is immense: the fall & rise of personalities, ideas, institutions are, to a large extent, dependent on them.

As in the XIX century it was necessary to regulate the relation economic power / political power,

so in the XX century it becomes every day a greater urgency to regulate & clarify the relation power of the media / political power (otherwise "politico-journalistic promiscuity")





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4. Democracies cannot ignore the fact that ~~the~~ political power today has to encompass the management of complexity.

Public affairs are not anymore autonomous sectors but interdependent sub-systems. The internal linkages function too as part of broader systems.

Whenever this awareness is lacking, a process of over-simplification transforms the many sides of complexity into its caricature: ideologies as ready-made answers. And ideologies divide, reduce.

Another way of ~~skipping~~ <sup>avoiding</sup> ~~running away~~ from complexity is the magic answer to ~~the~~ absurd situations. Fundamentalism ~~by passes~~ ~~to~~ can only be explained by the process of by-passing complex situations + issues.





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# V. Challenges of the internal process A of democracy

1. Social/economic/cultural rights have acquired strength + juridical status identical to those of civic + political rights.

The two internal Pacts and the same preamble:  
all rights are interdependent.

We see in the newly democratic states that if the social/econ./cult. rights are not fulfilled the civic + political rights are threatened + democracy in danger again. (e.g. Pres. Alfonsín proposing recently ~~and~~ an extension of the pact done with all political forces to the econ. + social field)

Moreover, in an <sup>world</sup> interdependent economy each country needs a clear articulation of the priorities in the satisfaction of basic rights to deal seriously with ~~other~~ internal ~~credit~~ monetary





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institutions.

The depth given to such questions will make a short-cut to the question of the <sup>dominant</sup> ~~the~~ ideology. It will oblige political democracy to function, that is, to exist for a purpose, to establish societal goals, to put human beings at the center of their <sup>political</sup> decisions.



## VI. The external challenges to democracy

1. It is clear from what I have said earlier in regard to my own country, that I see the economic system in need of a basic change.

Work towards free trade, pluralism of strong currencies, access to credit is something which is imperative.



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