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Cyberdemocracy
Change of Democratic Paradigm in the 21st Century

By
Andrzej Kaczmarczyk

We are witnesses and participants of the birth of e-civilization characterized by skills to manufacture e-tools and use them in the cyberspace, similarly as skills to manufacture stone tools - and use them in the physical space - characterized the Neolithic civilization.

Cyberdemocracy will develop on the soil of e-civilization. In the book, some tools and procedures essential for the cyberdemocracy – the cyberspace (being the most complex artifact created by humanity so far), electronic voting, cybernetic support – are discussed without hard technicalities but with basic explanations. Moreover, history and present condition of the Information Society as a political idea and program, and of direct democracy as the cornerstone of cyberdemocracy are presented. Then a vision of cyberdemocracy is portrayed.

I think that my vision of cyberdemocracy, i.e. of the future political organization of democracy in the form of a hyperstructure of cyber-communities immersed in the cyberspace, with specific characteristics of legislative, executive and judicial powers, defense and fiscal functions, nations' development and cybernetic support, is a new and original concept. In addition, I consider inventive my selection of political, historical, philosophical and technical arguments, confirmed by reliable sources, supporting that vision.

The book can be interesting for wide audience of people interested in politics - e-democracy and direct democracy especially – and can be helpful for students and researchers exploring this field also.

Author is available to be contacted by media for interviews and comments and can be reached through The Key Publicity: Heather Smith (media@thekeypublish.com) Andrzej Kaczmarczyk (kaczmarczyka@yahoo.com) Tel: 416-935-1790

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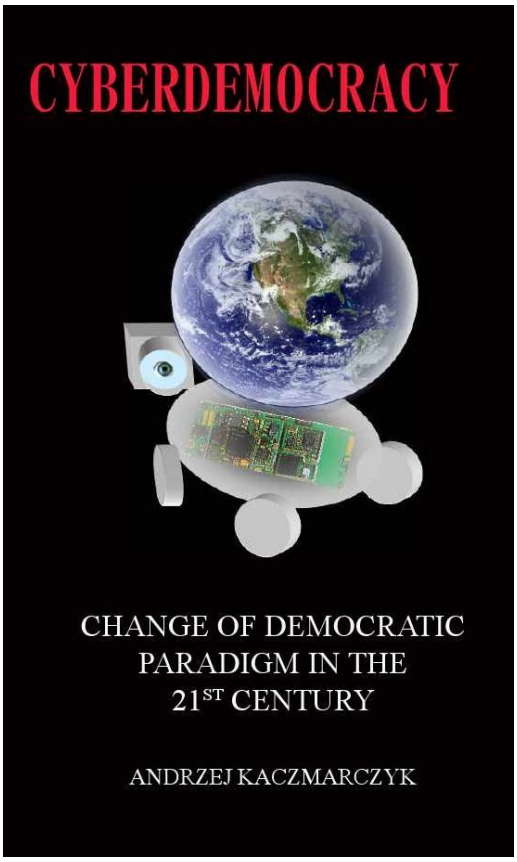

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Synopsis

Our present pattern of democracy "was invented in the days of the horse and cart, and perfected during the steam age". Can it serve duly postmodern society being born in the 21st century? What would the next model of democracy be? How can it be deduced from trends of change in many areas of human activity, caused by use of artifacts of cyber-civilization?

Cyberdemocracy: Change of Democratic Paradigm in the 21st Century is dedicated to answer these questions – invites to an intellectual journey far ahead, with the rear-view mirror of history engaged. Summary & conclusion following each chapter enables an "instant" grasp of its main points, no-hurry lecture reveals details, local colors and anecdotes.

About the Author

Andrzej Kaczmarczyk, Ph.D., Warsaw University of Technology, has extensive research in the field of applied cybernetics - automation, robotics, and informatics. He is the author of *Technology Around You*, *Industrial Robots of Eighties*, and co-author of *Elements of Modern Technology and Robots*, and *Factory of the Future*. He has been engaged in forecasting work, as well as in popularization of science and technology in Poland. For years he has cultivated great interests in use of technology for democracy development. He collaborated with the Initiative & Referendum Institute Europe and with the CyberVote project. Dr. Kaczmarczyk is currently with the Institute of Mathematical Machines, Warsaw and his research interests are in computer modeling and simulation.

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Author Q & A

Q. What inspired you to write Cyberdemocracy?
A. My interest in - and activities related to - direct democracy, combined with my professional knowledge and experience in the field of cybernetics.

Q. What surprised you most while researching information for this book?
A. Dramatic acceleration of development of the cyberspace and cyber-technologies, combined with increase in proliferation of electronic information. I finished first chapter of my book in 2003, and then, being in the middle of writing next chapters, I had repeatedly to delete some out-of-date items and to introduce new ones.

Q. What were the challenges (research, literary, and logistical) in bringing this book to life?
A. I think the most significant challenge was the above – to be up to acceleration of ubiquitous changes.

Q. What are the most important points that you would like readers to have gained and appreciate after reading your book?
A. Unfitting of present democratic paradigm into e-civilization and globalized world of different cultures! Established democracy's fundamental scenery consists of a set of national institutions with their territorial divisions, inhabited by political class playing political games, and of the public of democracy followers-consumers outside. This scenery should be contrasted with networked democratic system of global nature, respecting differences of cultures and nationalities, populated by people using intelligent e-tools, and possible to be build by distributed architects already in this century. Such system will be able to head toward general political intellect of humanity.

Q. Why is this book unique?
A. This book, related to political matters, is written by an author having his background in hard sciences and technology. Not popular may be the author's conviction that more and more such background will be useful in going about political systems, and that probably new discipline arises: political systems engineering. Also my personal historical experience can add a bit of uniqueness. I was brought up by parents of democratic formation obtained in pre-war Poland, I spent my childhood under German occupation, then I lived under communist rules, and for more than 20 years I live in anew democratic Poland, in the European Union finally - so I have different filters at my disposal to examine democracy.

Q. What is your response to those who are surprised by your findings?
A. There is very handy Russian saying to answer this question: "*Pashyviom, uvidim*" - it means: "Continuing our life we will see".

Q. What is the most controversial issue in relation to the use of online societies?
A. I do not perceive any controversial issues – however the online society phenomenon itself can be controversial for some people, because "is against human nature", similarly as flying in the air formerly was.

Q. How did you organize the book?
A. The book is organized into seven chapters. The first six of them present "as are" issues essential for the future cyberdemocracy, i.e. current state and development trends of the Information Society, the cyberspace, electronic democracy with its key tool in the form of electronic voting, direct democracy as cyberdemocracy's important component, and additional factors which can help the cyberdemocracy to cross the gate of history. The final chapter presents a vision of the "would be" cyberdemocracy, derived from those previous considerations.

Q. What advice would you offer your readers so they can make the best of the information provided to them in the book?
A. Please, take advantage from easy to absorb book's structure. Each chapter includes its summary and conclusion, and all these summaries together form a digest of the book. Reading summaries of chapters enables an "instant" grasp of their main points; no-hurry lecture reveals details, local colors and anecdotes.