

## *The New Politics* *bedtime for democracy - and so what?*

*“NASA is the 4th largest space agency in the USA. CIA, NSA, and USAF have larger space budgets.” - Xenia Jardin*

It is extremely unlikely that any democratically elected political candidate can discipline the “black world” of the secret weapons, space and intelligence programs effectively. The secrecy around these budgets prevents us, the voters, from making informed decisions about who’s policies we trust in these matters. In fact, *curiously*, political parties do not discuss their policies regarding the black world at all.

It is highly likely that a plebiscite on nuclear disarmament would result in a “yes” vote in several nuclear democracies, but no electable political party exists which offers voters this option. There is a disjunction between what people want and the options offered to them by their democracies. We cannot vote the black world out of existence *because they will not let us*. The COINTELPRO is with us still, in a way.

This then partitions the world into three neat compartments: *hell*, which is the black world of intelligence and awful weapons, *earth* which is the domain ruled by our elected masters, and *heaven* which is the area of our lives in which we have no masters at all, and are free to do as we will. *Most alternative politics rest on the fantasy of overthrowing hell.*

The *stick* function of government has been in *hell* at least since the nuclear bomb was invented. The *carrot* function, investment in *common goods*, has been governed by *earth*, our elected leaders. But *hell* constrains our choice at the polls to acceptable parties and candidates. We’re stuck.

*There is no solving this problem within current democratic political frameworks, and accepting this fact is a step towards real freedom.*

What can we do to improve the world we live in with the *real* freedom we have? Our votes do not control the *stick*, and therefore the government *carrot* is not really under our control either. *If it is in earth, it is at least acceptable to hell.*

Our *real* area of political freedom is not our forced choice at the polls. Rather, it lies in *heaven* - in exercising the freedom we *really* have - to remake the world. Consider the *open source software* movement, or *wikipedia*. Voluntary cooperation created what governments and political parties would not have: free operating systems and education.

*Creating, not voting, is real political freedom. The democratic process cannot deliver the change we wish to see in the world. We must be it!*

The new politics consists of creating *common goods* by free association. Vote for the lesser evil at the polls, but make real change by creating a new world together. I’m working on poverty, you’re working on environment, they’re working on education. *Democracy is dead, long live freedom.*