



horizons & all this past
long-short unfold
what kin is to each other

what is good about ourselves?
who we truly are

thinking & practice, thinking + practice

our direct decision making
as direct-democracy
anti-racist, ecofeminist
as alternatives to gigantism

I looked around

who gets to make the decisions
that impact our lives

communities where
our imperfections are desired, protected
and potential

deciding for ourselves: the Promise
of direct democracy

“Soon people learned, through trial & error, how to listen.”
Cindy Milstein in “Deciding for Ourselves: The Promise of Direct Democracy.”

wiki: Direct democracy or pure democracy is a form of democracy in which people decide on policy initiatives directly. This differs from the majority of currently established democracies, which are representative democracies.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Direct_democracy

DECIDING FOR OURSELVES - THE PROMISE OF DIRECT DEMOCRACY

“Deciding for Ourselves: The Promise of Direct Democracy represents what we need more of: the collective. Considering the promise of what’s already been offered allows us to both imagine and implement new possibilities. That’s why texts like this one are important. We can’t neglect the significance of our ability to organise, whether that happens in person or on paper. This anthology is about what we can do, and there’s enough perspective here to help us see that we have firm examples of inspiration already around us.”

—William C. Anderson, coauthor of *As Black as Resistance: Finding the Conditions for Liberation*

From: Cindy Milstein. “Deciding for Ourselves: The Promise of Direct Democracy.”

LINKS TO ORGANIZATIONS - Organise!

https://www.are.na/agf-poemproducer/direct-democracy-9h_1xqtnqiw

RECOMMENDED

Cindy Milstein. “Deciding for Ourselves: The Promise of Direct Democracy.”

“Deciding for Ourselves also highlights that direct democracy must be custom-tailored by and for its participants—meaning no two places will look alike—or it can hardly be understood as self-governance;”

<https://www.akpress.org/deciding-for-ourselves-ebook.html>

Dr Modibo Kadalie

Pan-African Social Ecology: A conversation with 'The Final Straw Radio'

<https://podcasts.apple.com/fi/podcast/the-final-straw-radio/id1145532412?i=1000478958740>

David Graeber: Bullshit Jobs, Direct Democracy & the End of Capitalism

<https://novaramedia.com/2019/02/01/david-graeber-bullshit-jobs-direct-democracy-the-end-of-capitalism/>

<https://soundcloud.com/novaramedia/novarafm-david-graeber-bullshit-jobs-direct-democracy-the-end-of-capitalism?ref=twitter>

The Online Forum on Modern Direct Democracy

<https://www.democracy.community/global-forum/online>

Fundamental democratic reform of the European Union for Direct Democracy

<https://www.nowthecitizens.eu/>

Democratic Confederation - a system of democratic self-organization with the features of a confederation based on the principles of autonomy, direct democracy, environmentalism, feminism, multiculturalism, self-defense, self-governance and elements of a sharing economy

<https://archive.org/details/DemocraticConfederalismAudioBook>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_confederalism

ABOUT THE CITIZENS TAKE OVER EUROPE COALITION

<https://citizenstakeover.eu/>

Taiwan

<https://democracy-international.org/taiwan-democracy-train-global-forum-modern-direct-democracy-pre-tour>

Kenya

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/direct-democracy-in-kenya-case-to-be-made/>

Asia Democracy Network

<https://adnasia.org/>

(add more to the ether pad)

<https://etherpad.wikimedia.org/p/directdemocracy>

QUOTES

Dilar Dirik

“In the meantime, balancing the realities of war, diversity of the communities, external attacks, and domestic conflicts as well as sensitivities related to social issues, parallel to the directly democratic practices and educational activities on the ground, a representative federal system was formed over time to allow the region to deal as a coherent unit with outside elements.”

Excerpt From: Cindy Milstein. “Deciding for Ourselves: The Promise of Direct Democracy.”

Dilar Dirik on @twitter @dlrdrck1

https://twitter.com/search?q=%23AWIDForum%20dilar%20dirik&src=typed_query

Modibo Kadalie

“Who gets to make the decisions that impact our lives, along with the life of our communities and the planet? Who has the ultimate power to decide, as our dictionary again offers, “the total complex of relations between people living in a society”? Throughout the history of social organization, there have only been three answers: sovereignty can be held by either the one, the few, or the many. Each of those replies has taken a variety of forms over the millennia, from the brutal tyrannies of the one, such as a despot or dictator, to the purportedly more progressive and humane few, such as aristocrats or elected representatives, to the always-existent common sense of the many determining their own lives for themselves via what contributor Modibo Kadalie describes as forms of “intimate direct democracy.”

“One thing I owe to C. L. R. is that he never called himself a black nationalist. He advocated independent black organization, but that’s not the same thing as nationalism.

The concepts of the nation-state and pan-Africanism have been related to each other, in one way or another, throughout the history of anticolonial struggles. The nation-state and representative government, including all forms of indirect democracy or republicanism, are all in the way of direct democracy, social ecology, and the realization of human social freedom. By now, these models of governance have all been revealed as bankrupt and belonging to the old oppressive politics of an earlier time, even though they linger, casting a long shadow and foul stench in the present p
Excerpt From: Cindy Milstein. “Deciding for Ourselves: The Promise of Direct Democracy.”

“For me, direct democracy is an evolving social vision. My ideas, just like anyone else’s, are always developing. In the 1960s and early 1970s, I saw myself as someone who understood race

and class, and the dynamics of each, and I was toying with the question of labor and its role in society. The most perplexing question for me, however, was the role of the state. My only political vision at that point in my life was that of a socialist nation-state ruled by the working class, which is what most Marxists desired at that time.”

“ So my vision of direct democracy and social ecology evolved in a symbiotic relationship with one another. A directly democratic vision of social progress involves a social ecology and direct democracy where people are engaged in a process of healing with the earth, as both have been scarred by capitalism. Of course, there was certainly ecological destruction prior to capitalism, but there’s really nothing like capitalism when it comes to ecological degradation and catastrophe. The scale is so massive that it’s almost hard to comprehend.

“... as a decentralized, local antistate movement where black and/or indigenous people live and struggle; a nonexclusive movement including all local organizers who are engaged in autonomous self-organization and the creation of directly democratic institutions that can respect all oppressed people.”

“anarchist Carlos Taibo calls the “direct democracy of equals” serves not only as a viable and ethical alternative for states or other forms of social domination; it gives us the breathing room to “seek to act as if we were free because, in so doing, we begin to be so.”¹⁰”

“Beyond the visual and auditory transformation of everyday life, making for wholly new sociability, people embraced the “sensual pleasure [of] direct democracy, like when the sun set this evening over the triangular neighborhood park during our assembly just as we were all marveling at the pleasure of this new form of gathering, discussing, and deciding for ourselves.”

Excerpt From: **Cindy Milstein**. “Deciding for Ourselves: The Promise of Direct Democracy.”

When Öcalan met Bookchin: The Kurdish Freedom Movement and the Political Theory of Democratic Confederalism

The Spatial Dimensions of Political Community and Democratic Confederation

A key influence in Democratic Confederalism has been the influence of classical social life. Models of direct democracy and the ethical substance of Hellenic life have provided both Bookchin and Öcalan with a fertile contrast to the geopolitical imagination of statism and capitalist modernity.
<https://archive.org/details/WhencalanMetBookchin>

Angela Davis on Direct Democracy

<https://twitter.com/FuruKyouka/status/1282827252514750464>

David Graeber on a Fair Future Economy May 15, 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YynqVvgZYI&app=desktop>

Murray Bookchin in the ecology of freedom

Decentralization commonly means logistical alternatives to gigantism, not the human scale that would make an intimate and direct democracy possible.

2020 **Noam Chomsky** - Moral underpinnings of Anarchism

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__2K-zfnJzI

BOOKS

Cindy Milstein: “Deciding for Ourselves: The Promise of Direct Democracy.”

David Graeber: Bullshit Jobs, Direct Democracy & the End of Capitalism

Verso Books selection <https://www.versobooks.com/search?q=direct+democracy>
AK Press selection: <https://www.akpress.org/catalogsearch/result/?q=direct+democracy>
Duke Press <https://read.dukeupress.edu/search-results?page=1&q=direct%20democracy>

Imagining the Commune - Democratic confederalist approaches to law and conflict resolution
<https://gupea.ub.gu.se/handle/2077/64110>

Democratic Innovations in Central and Eastern Europe
<https://www.routledge.com/Democratic-Innovations-in-Central-and-Eastern-Europe-1st-Edition/Gherghina-Ekman-Podolian/p/book/9780367421670>

Handbook of Direct Democracy in Central & Eastern Europe after 89 by Maria Marczevska-Rytko
<https://shop.budrich-academic.de/product/handbook-of-direct-democracy-in-central-and-eastern-europe-after-1989/?lang=en>

TALKS

Online Forum on Modern Direct Democracy
<https://www.democracy.community/stories/recordings-and-presentations>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/DemocracyNetwork/videos>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjbaPap-je0&list=PLcDV35yuFJCL9gS2W8UFRjo3Pcflog3Nr>

Copenhagen Democracy Summit - Ensuring Women's Rights during a Pandemic
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5yoTnnrpOs>

Black Leaders Discussion feat. Angela Davis, Kwame Ture & Fannie Lou Hamer 1973
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MojDoeloUTc>

Understanding the Rojava Revolution I Elif Sarican 2019
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOGd30eFuql>

ARTICLES

Reason, creativity and freedom: the communalist model by Eleanor Finley
<https://roarmag.org/essays/communalism-bookchin-direct-democracy/>

Radical Democracy: The First Line Against Fascism by Dilar Dirik
<https://roarmag.org/magazine/dilar-dirik-kurdish-anti-fascism/>

several articles in "direct democracy"
<https://roarmag.org/?s=%22direct+democracy%22>

Bookchin, M. 2015. In The next revolution: Popular assemblies and the promise of direct democracy, ed. D. Bookchin and B. Taylor. London: Verso.

Democracy Is Possible in Syria. My Friend Knew How. on Mehmet Aksoy by David Graeber
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/16/opinion/syria-isis-kurds.html>

Murray Bookchin: The Next Revolution forward by Ursula Le Guin
Popular Assemblies and the Promise of Direct Democracy
<https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/murray-bookchin-ursula-k-le-guin-the-next-revolution>