

Comment by Michael C H Jones

All those who are activists - people who have strong beliefs and try to implement their ideas in one form or another - dream of Methods or how to achieve their objectives by plans and programmes which do not necessarily have to have measurement criteria for the possible outcomes if any.

A better world by some description is usually the motivation, and as we all know religion alone has provided an assortment of theologies to the personal nirvana. Often just trying is all that matters or "I am my own witness".

In 1978 when I was working for the then Australian multinational transport company TNT my division tried to develop an International Marketing Information System (IMIS) as a means of both targeting and monitoring potential corporate clients globally for the range of our services namely road, rail, sea, air, warehousing, insurance etc. I dealt with the then responsible Executive Director but ran into the insurmountable barrier that TNT was an IBM Shop and its key man was known as Mr "Luncheons Logan" - he could stop anything over lunch.. Despite being "railroaded" I was able to sufficiently progress the pilot project to verify that it was possible - a goer - and when it was torpedoed by higher authorities continued privately. It was one of the spurs to my father and I establishing/registering Indaspac Pty Limited - Corporate Consultants on International Affairs in the late 1970s and subsequently by 1982 Social Democratic Promotions International (SDPI) - working both sides of the fence as they say. With the advent of the Hawke electoral victories and governments during the 1980s there was lots of work.

Experience was gained on how to do things, what worked and what didn't, and this was the real world not university courses. Hence together with previous work experience from the 1960s with Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), which involved many more issues than the national campaign against Conscription/Vietnam War, two further business operations were registered - Cornelius Hetherington Communications, focusing on developing personal and organisational methods, and IRF Enterprises - Lifestyle Estates to help people spend their money in interesting ways. These were all wound up around 1996 following the demise of the Keating federal government. But the knowledge was never lost and programmes subsequently implemented throughout the world.

My point is that technologies have now caught up with aspirations. The objectives that could not be realised 40, 20 and even 10 years ago are almost in reach for the NGO. No longer do you have to capture a national company or trade union to have a base in terms of resources and people to participate in change. Working for 20/30 years in a political party with blind allegiance to a particular faction - until of course you become PM - is no longer mandatory as the power/authority arising from the capture of the state apparatus is increasingly compromised by the rise of global institutions. The Australian academic John Keane talks about the evolution of democracy from Assembly to Representative to Monitory - Participatory Democracy unfortunately still gets the short straw.

I can help organise the democratic and libertarian resistance worldwide from my property at Belrose, my office at North Sydney, my beach house at Umina or my holiday home in Graynola Northern Tuscany - and do - provided of course that I am good enough or delegate the details to all sorts of individuals and NGO in wherever. The Right to Interfere has passed from theory to practice in a matter of months, it is expeditiously being exercised everywhere simultaneously in all countries and it is just the degrees that vary. Fundamental distrust by the peoples of the world in governments, and particularly the characters/temperaments of those who spend their entire lives in those debilitating processes, no longer need lead to frustration and luddite behaviours. The opportunity to participate and make a difference has well and truly arrived.

Can the PRC perfect the 'fire wall'? Can the US patent it and charge? What do traditional governments have to do to protect their powers/authorities against rampant technologies enabling free thinking peoples with strong reliefs to bring about democratic and libertarian change?