

Essentials of *Democratic* Political Management Strategies

The Rule of Law

All around the world, the government entities ruling countries adhere to allegedly ‘approved’ principles (strategies, methods) to deal with the practical challenges their duties entail. These practices are called *political management*. Regardless of the differences they show, these forms of governments (monarchies, military dictatorships, democracies etc.) and the diverse methods they use (including a combination of methods) can be investigated and compared regarding the practical effects they have to reliably evaluate the quality of actual political performance. Nowadays, a variety of objective scientific research results and techniques are available to support this endeavour. All these evaluation methods are useful and indispensable, as government entities will tend to manipulate public opinion using all their influence and power to achieve their political goals.

Democratic practices are the exception. This becomes clear when reflecting the core of *democracy*: Democracy signifies the following of rules based on communication and cooperation. Military, despotic or dictatorial subordination of, or superiority over, human beings has no place here. Instead, there are cooperative partnerships abiding by the rules of fairness and equality for all. Thus justice is ensured in the same way as parlour games and competitive team sports. Everyone involved, including the onlookers and appointed referees, should be familiar with these rules and make sure they are obeyed. In Great Britain these practices are called *the rule of law*. They are practiced all over the world in the framework of traffic regulations.

The *rule of law* should be applied within parliamentary bodies and aim at making the best decisions in challenging situations. These decisions must satisfy *common welfare*, i.e. the needs of all human beings as well as their livelihood. They must also protect natural resources and sustain and cultivate the environment and nature (ecology).

This way of understanding *democracy* led to the foundation of the United Nations and to the formulation of the Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It shaped the unwritten constitution of Great Britain and the Commonwealth of Nations, and the Grundgesetz of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949. In clear and unmistakable words, these documents expressed the rules political bodies must obey to fulfil their duties towards humanity. Basically, it only requires common sense to adhere to these rules appropriately.

Then why are they still hardly followed? Do our judges and politicians lack common sense? Are we missing the political will to sincerely promote peaceful global cooperation? Do our elected representatives and members of the government lack political and ethical education and schooling? Have they not sufficiently studied the fundamental works created in the Age of Enlightenment such as *The Social Contract or Principles of Political Right* by Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith (1723-1790), the *Categorical Imperative* and *Perpetual Peace* by Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), the *Education of Mankind* by Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (1729-1781) and *On the Aesthetic Education of Man*, written by the German lawyer and poet Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805)?

Or is it because commercial enterprises sponsor wars, earning abundant sums of money by supplying weapons and financial tools simultaneously to both sides, cheering them as they carry on? If that is the case, we need rules and laws for economic action, i.e. an economic system that provides citizens and politicians with enough freedom to act. Political management can contribute here.