Danocracy — A Framework for Absolute Democracy

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Foreword

In current times there are constant talks about freedom and democracy and in which ways and on which fronts people should fight for it. What's missing in those statements is the definition of both freedom and democracy.

A few weeks ago, I started thinking about these very definitions and started to outline how I think an actually democratic system that secures democracy and at all times represents the will and the interests of the people would look like. Defining and evaluating reasonable building blocks my search for answers to the initial questions ended up in creating something much bigger.

Without noticing it my idea figured out two very important answers:

1. There hasn't been any system yet that consistently and ruthlessly represented the will of the people. All democratic systems so far had and still have some authoritarian blocks inbuilt, at least in such a way that the security of democracy is not guaranteed.

2. Only now with our modern technology it's possible to implement a system which is truly democratic. Without computer, internet, and even AI technology this would either be a heck of a struggle or not possible at all.

By understanding this my initial idea which was based on traditional thinking evolved into something new. Within two days the first concept was ready - a concept that already made me understand the potential of what would be a system that dwarves any implementation of democracy as of yet.

Expanding this concept over the next few weeks it became more and more realistic. Although it needs to be adapted to any specific use case, it offers just that without influencing either the basic idea or the functionality.

This concept literally gives the power to the people. There are no middlemen, no authorities that can overrule them, no limits of any kind. It's all driven and revolving around the will of the people.

Of course, such a system can only work with a high level of participation. Some or maybe even a lot of people might dislike this at first. However, as you will see this concept offers a great opportunity for the people to both see and feel immediate effects of their decisions, it gives them a great sense of being an essential part of society and actually wielding the power to shape the environment their society lives in. Adding to that they also will see that participating in democratic processes and decision making can be fun.

Furthermore, this concept shifts the whole existence of a modern state from a construct people live in to a construct which is shaped by the people purely as a framework for their society. This removes any authoritarian aspect that might limit or eventually even destroy the democracy.

The following concept is the very result.

1 Structure of the Danocratic State

The Danocratic State's main objective is to guarantee freedom and democracy. In order to achieve this its structure is simple, quick to react and transparent to its core - unlike traditional approaches on democracy which have proven to be slow and both increasingly untransparent and undemocratic. Over the decades they have become messy and entangled in fights between groups and parties. The Danocratic State prevents this from happening by deleting infighting and blocking power-hungry careerists.

At its core is one main parliament, sized to match the population it represents. The number of Members of Parliament (MPs) depends on how many people there are. Here the concept shows its flexibility: If this concept is applied to a whole country, there might one MP for every few hundred thousand citizens. For example, a country of 50 million might have 100 to 200 MPs. If it's applied to a city alone, 50 MPs might be enough, while a huge nation with over a billion people could max out at 500. The goal is to balance fair representation with a system that actually works.

There are no political parties in Danocracy. This keeps MPs free to act on their own, directly answering to the people and therefore to voters, not party bosses or financiers. To ensure some experience and expertise within the parliament, all MPs must have paid taxes or social security for 5 to 15 years to prove their involvement in society. Furthermore, about one-fifth to one-third of MPs need some solid experience of 5 to 10 years in key areas like education, healthcare, engineering, law, business, or tech. The rest can come from any part of the professional world and society, reflecting the real mix of workers, retirees, and everyday folks.

Each MP can run up to 2 terms on any level (e.g. regional, federal) and 4 terms in total with each term lasting 4 years. By this the possibility of professional politicians as seen in most countries of the world is purposefully blocked, since professional politicians often times represent themselves more than the people in order to keep their career going.

After retiring, ex-MPs can join a group of mentors which shares their experience and expertise from their time in office with the current MPs. Since MPs are rotating quite often this mentoring gives the opportunity to not lose any learnings from previous legislative periods while the mentors hold no power anymore.

To prevent any corruption, for up to 10 years after they leave office the finances of former MPs are checked plus, they are banned from any leading position in a company of their field. This sets limits to possible lobbying, bribing and other forms of corruption. Again, MPs are representatives of the people, not of businesses.

The government's day-to-day work is handled by ministries of Defense, Education, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Health, and Infrastructure. Each ministry is run by an MP who rotates every 1 to 3 years, to keep things fresh and prevent bias.

On top of the Danocratic State there is a President, directly elected by the people. The President has a fully representational role, handling diplomacy but no actual decisions. A President can serve up to 4 terms of 5 years each. This gives the option to have a more constant and stable representative at the top, which is important when it comes to international relationships.

2 Operational Mechanisms

Laws

In a Danocracy keeping things concise is one of the main objectives. If the system gets bloated, it is difficult for anyone to understand its rules. Therefore, the number of laws stays low by setting a strict limit. Depending on the size of the society implementing this framework it can be either very basic with a few dozen or more complex with several hundreds. In any case the maximum shall never be exceeded. If a new law is wanted, another existing one has to be ditched. This keeps things clear and prevents the system from becoming a confusing bureaucratic monster.

In a fixed cycle of 5 to 10 years people are going to review the laws and vote to keep what's working, remove what's not, and adjust what's in-between. This thoughtful clean-up keeps the applied laws in line with what society needs.

Military

When it comes to the military and its deployment, there are strict rules. If there is an attack on the country, the MPs together with the Ministry of Defense can use the military instantly without any delays through referendums. As soon as the deployment of the military lasts for more than 72 hours, it has to be legitimized by a 75% majority of the people. Same goes for any military deployment beyond the country's borders, whether it is to assist other nations and societies or pushing attacking forces back and creating a buffer zone. These rules are to ensure that any use of military forces is in accordance with the people's will. For this strict transparency of any military action must be kept.

Finances

The basic needs are covered by the state: education, energy, healthcare, infrastructure, transportation. To finance those needs, the following taxes are applied:

- income (10 - 25%)
- sales (5 - 10%)
- business profit (5 - 15%)
- extra charges for alcohol, tobacco etc. (15 - 30%)

These tax rates are the same for everyone, set by the people. The state gets a fixed 5% of all the tax money to spend on itself. A small committee consisting of 3 to 5 MPs tracks all spending and files regular reports accessible to the citizens. Wasting money on unnecessary complexity, bureaucracy or consultants is prevented this way. All excess tax money in each calendar year goes into a savings fund which should reach about the same as one year's tax revenue. This fund is either used during crisis or when extra spending is vital or necessary. However, in both cases the people need to vote for the use of the fund and how much of it is going to be spent.

Once the fund reaches its intended size, again it is the people who vote for the use-case of the excess: tax cuts, extra projects like public buildings or parks, saving more in the fund, etc.

The strength of the absolute democracy that Danocracy is, is the volunteer tax. Whenever people want or need something like new schools, streets or railroads, or a new airport or powerplant, people can call for a referendum on said project and its funding. This happens in steps: first, people vote either in favor or against the project. If a majority votes in favor, then in a second round it is decided on how to pay for the project. And there comes the twist:

Such projects easily cost tens of millions, some even billions of Dollars. These costs are not always covered by the usual tax revenue. If there is not enough money in the state's account, people can choose to pay extra. There are two options:

1) All people volunteer to pay e.g. 1% more income tax for a certain number of years until all bills are paid.

2) A number of people volunteer to pay for the project, basically funding it for the sake of the whole society.

If the money is enough before the time is up, tax rates go back to the usual rates. Transparency about the costs is a necessity, of course. In case of exploding costs or massive delays the people have the opportunity to vote whether they want to continue the project or not.

To make volunteer taxes more attractive to people there may be incentives like tax cuts, or they enjoy the status for doing so.

To start a referendum, it may be suggested by the MPs or citizens themselves call for it via a petition. A petition needs to be favored by a certain amount of all citizens (5 - 10%) to turn into a referendum. A well-defined threshold prevents too many referendums that people don't want in the first place while still getting those petitions approved which are important to at least a huge minority while a lot of voters might abstain from voting altogether.

3 Role of AI and Citizen App

This direct approach to absolute democracy needs transparency in information and the possibility for people to make decisions through referendums. Both have to be guaranteed and maintained while enabling quick access and voting for the citizens. Through our technological advances of the past years this has become possible.

Danocracy is literally based on modern technology, namely AI and a Citizen App. All what's mentioned above can become reality only through implementation of those.

How does it work?

AI

The AI has vast knowledge, same as all currently known AIs on the markets. However, this one is specialized in advising both MPs and citizens on questions about politics, policies, economics, projects etc. Its database is expanded with all the data of every decision and argument that's been made or used within the State. It also uses all other public records to cross-check and always be up-to-date.

By using all this vast data and knowledge the AI can predict outcomes of certain decisions like the amount of welfare money lost by lowering income taxes by 2%. This helps every voter to get a great overview of probable pros and cons of their decisions during referendums. To enhance the quality of data, people can add their experiences with consequences of previous decisions in a wiki which is added to the AI's database. This way people can share information like "Tariff Y cost my shop €50,000."

Important to note is the fact that the role of AI is purely advisory, no decision will be made by it. It is simply a tool to support the system, not to run it.

Advice could be either about past decisions or programs as well as possibilities for the future. This way the people can check on what went well and what didn't and learn for decisions to come. The AI could support with advice about what might prevent crisis or how to get out of one, how to adjust tax rates and what influence that would have on other parts of both the economy and the people.

Here are some examples of questions and answers.

1) Question: "What did tariffs do in 2023?"

Answers: "A 10% steel tariff created 50,000 jobs, but cut trade by €2 billion. 60% of voters approved."

2) Question: "How did we deal with Country X in 2020?"

Answer: "A trade deal gained €5 billion, but risked €1 billion in security. 55% passed it, later reversed."

3) Question: "How do we add 100,000 jobs?"

Answer: "Cut business tax by 5% - costs €3 billion, adds 80,000 jobs. Or build a €20 billion rail - adds 120,000."

4) Question: "What if we raise sales tax by 3%?"

Answer: "Tax revenue would raise by €4 billion - could fix the roads, but overall prices would increase by 2%. People were against it in 2018."

5) Question: "How did country Y fight the financial crisis in 2008?"

Answer: "The government paid €500 billion to save the banks. 10% of the jobs were lost anyway. People had no vote."

Citizen App

The Citizen App is the main hub for all the citizens. They get all the information here: MPs speeches and decisions, news from parliament and ministries, access to the AI and wiki - and most importantly, access to elections and referendums like the multi-staged votes on volunteer taxes.

The accessible information also contains all news and records of all the boards as well as the financial tracking of both state projects, and MPs' income until 10 years after them leaving office. All of this makes it impossible for anyone to delete anything as it happens quite often in cases of corruption in current systems.

Since Democracy needs the participation of the people, voter fatigue must be fought. Danocracy thrives especially when the citizens keep themselves informed at least on a weekly basis. A high number of referendums however can sharply decrease people's interest or motivation.

This problem is faced with a multitude of functions.

1) Citizens earn badges when they stay informed and vote regularly, or commit to volunteer taxes as mentioned above. This gamification keeps regular democratic participation interesting beyond the factual freedom it gives the people.

2) The Citizen App offers a choice of how information is conveyed. It can show all news and reports in full or e.g. give weekly or even monthly summaries.

3) It is possible to choose a trustee who votes in your name in regional referendums. Anyone can become such a trustee, but only for up to 3 other citizens, otherwise those trustees would become too influential. Citizens can revoke their choices of a trustee at any time. On top of that they can rate their trustee, regarding the quality of their communication and whether they vote in their interests or not.

Not only does the power lay in the citizens hands (quite literally in form of their smartphones), the whole system is run by them. They control every bit of information, they can follow their representatives' actions and the usage of tax money, they can vote and even start petitions for projects and changes - all of it happens from this central tool.

For those people who do not have any smartphone to run the Citizen App on the state must provide kiosks in public spaces like administration buildings. Every citizen must be guaranteed access to the system. Volunteers can offer to help people like senior citizens to navigate through the information and functionality.

To guarantee neutrality and to minimize any possible bias of the AI and prevent data leakage or influence on information and elections over the Citizen App, both must be run and funded by the state itself. Using a service provider, especially profit orientated companies, puts the whole system under severe risk. All the power must lay in the people's hands. And it does:

The source code of the AI is open source, so everyone has a chance to check it. For security reasons the source code of the Citizen App stays closed from public eyes.

A rotating board of 5 to 10 citizens and tech-specialists will watch the performance and any changes to the source codes, which also makes sure that the people stay in control of the Citizen App's functionality. They write regular reports and have the opportunity to add recommendations for changes which, of course, have to be approved by the citizens. Again, everything can be checked by the citizens via the Citizen App.

4 Economic and Social Framework

Danocracy's economy is built to be simple, flexible, and run within a framework set by the people instead of elites.

Business tax ranges between 5 - 15% with incentives like tax cuts of 1 - 3% being offered for initiatives that create new jobs or boost economic growth. Regulations are kept minimal - like with laws - to support start-ups and innovation. Bureaucratic overhead is to be avoided as it slows down progress and raises costs. On the other hand, violations such as labor exploitation or damaging the environment for profit are met with strict penalties. These penalties range from fines up to forfeiture of the business. CEOs responsible for severe breaches can be banned from leading positions altogether.

This ensures ethical standards in businesses while still keeping a maximum of freedom for the economy to keep up with new developments. An optional labor association enhances the workers' positions. The association is financed by dues ranging between 1 - 2% of the members' income. It is run by 5 - 15 elected representatives with everything being tracked and shown in the Citizen App.

Self-employed people who only work by themselves are safe from business tax, since that would lead to double taxation and reduce the possibility of their business to be profitable. Instead, they only pay income tax on their earnings.

This framework works for all parts of society - entrepreneurs, artists, workers who prefer stability. The Citizen App once again works as the equalizer, giving everyone the same information and opportunity. Employees are represented by the labor association with the option to participate themselves. Freelancers and entrepreneurs don't have to fight their way through endless forms and papers. The start of their ventures is as simple as it gets. And for those running companies there are clear, minimal, but strict guidelines which answer any question about how things should be done. This simultaneously makes life for companies easy so the CEOs can focus on growing business. On top of that volunteers can fund projects that benefit everyone, changes of the running framework can be suggested via petitions.

All the while all the information about taxes (how much each business pays, how it's invested, and how successful the investments are), about the actions of CEOs and companies as a whole, requests by workers and the citizens in general - all of this is accessible by everyone centralized in the Citizen App.

Progress and growth are possible with fairness and transparency instead of exploitation and lobbying. People can be in power while freedom in business is on the highest possible level. Not only the state, but also the economy is run by the people for the people.

5 Digital Currency (DC)- optional

Danocracy - with its technology driven approach - opens the doors to all currently fashionable innovations and digital/crypto currencies are no exception. Since a DC brings in new opportunities, but is not necessary for Danocracy to work, for now it stays optional. However, some examples on how to implement it and what benefits it could give should not go unnoticed.

The state-run DC works without banks as middlemen involved - again avoiding overhead. It enhances economic efficiency and transparency, and is connected to the Citizen App. Outside the App it cannot be used at all which saves it from people speculating on its value. Instead, the value of the DC is directly linked to the national currency. For starters the amount of it shouldn't exceed 1% of the GDP. It can be extended according to the citizens vote once it settled in.

Citizens can earn some DC through active participation in the system, a maximum of an equivalent to $50 per month should be sufficient, but of course is flexible as everything in Danocracy. This way technology is not only the platform, but also a motivator for the people to keep it running. DC can be exchanged with the local currency or used for purchases from businesses which allow the usage. Such payments are fast and secure as experienced with existing crypto currencies. This benefit might be rewarded by sellers offering discounts for these payments.

Businesses don't earn DC, they can buy it. For businesses it brings a multitude of benefits and possibilities. For instance, in B2B trades payments via DC are much faster than transferring money via bank. This improves the overall speed of the economy. On top of that businesses might save some money the same way as end customers - sellers might offer discounts too when using DC. In B2C trades businesses are not allowed to force how to pay, so it's people's choice whether to use it or not.

To reduce the amount of taxpayers' money for running the DC, there are two options for fees which can also coexist:

1) Purchasing fee of 0,1 - 0.5%.

2) Transaction fee of 0,1 - 0.5%.

This plan offers a great opportunity to test and fully implement a crypto currency in a secure way. Once up and running the project can finance itself through the fees while the pros and cons can be checked. Then it's the people's choice to either go forward with it or to stop the project without any repercussion.

6 Flexibility and Adaptability

Nowadays we have a multitude of different ideologies for both political systems as well as ethical values. Ideologies are very dogmatic and their followers usually are not willing to adapt their course to given realities.

Danocracy goes far beyond any ideology. This concept is nothing but a highly flexible and adaptable framework for any society which wants to implement democracy - power in the hands of the people - in its purest sense. Any given obstacles like culture, mentality, economic situation etc. can be taken into account and the framework then moves flawlessly around them.

Therefore, every single part of this concept may or may not be implemented, rates for taxes or government budget, number of MPs or laws can be chosen, and of course everything can be changed later on - all according to both reality and the will of the people.

This opens up the possibility for Danocracy to be implemented not only in well-funded countries, but also in states or even towns alone. Everything can be dynamically changed to given budgets and populations as well as legal competence for the case that it's not a nation-wide implementation. It also gives room to the option to only take parts of the whole concept, be it for testing before the implementation of further parts or because the given society simply does not want more. Although this concept is built whole, it wouldn't be a mistake to look into the option of partial implementation. In the end the most important part is for the society to make it their own by adapting everything so it matches their needs.

Again, with all of the above this concept introduces something fresh and new. Of course, every political system has been something at some point, but most of them are outlived by reality of modern times. This concept on the other hand will withstand the test of time, because no matter how societies and technologies change and evolve in the future, anything can be added and removed from it. Instead of forcing the whole structure, Danocracy can be seen as a mere invitation to explore all possibilities without limits.

7 The Vision

Danocracy offers a new and revolutionary approach on democracy and governing in particular. No other approach has ever offered a real and absolute democracy where the power indeed lies in the hands of the people. Especially in current times with all the friction in many societies this concept is a golden opportunity to define democracy, freedom, and liberty once and for all, and to stop fights between ideologies by bringing all people to the table.

Once societal conflicts are cleared that far that everything is solved through open debates and democratic votes, the focus can shift to what society actually needs and what can be funded with the given budget. Anything your very own society might lack for now could become reality:

- How much money does the administration apparatus get?

Overspending is prevented as well as an untamable bureaucratic monster. This way both the work of the administration as well as their spending is always controlled by you.

- Does healthcare come with costs for patients?

In some countries healthcare is already 100% for free. If it's not in your country, it might just be lobbies standing in the way. Danocracy removes those completely. Together with money saved elsewhere, wise taxation, and stimulation of economic growth free healthcare is yours.

- Is education for free or should there be fees?

Same as with healthcare, except the lobbies here are rather politically interested than economically. Let's remove them, too!

- And who controls the curriculum?

Schools and universities sadly enough are often used to implement some agenda or doctrine in young people's minds. In current systems it's difficult to fight that fact and go for change. Not with Danocracy: Just like political parties, agendas and ideologies are a thing of the past.

- How much do people pay for energy and water - or do we pay with our tax money?

Some rich countries give both for free to their citizens, for example in Qatar. Of course, this highly depends on the economic situation and the possibilities each country has. But looking at Western countries where energy companies are purely profit-driven, citizens often pay huge sums just for their basic needs. This can be easily prevented, if the people make the call.

- What to do with tax surplus?   Invest in a fund? Give back to the people? Pay for some nice but not necessary project like making public parks a bit nicer?

Usually when countries lack money, they don't save some elsewhere but go for higher taxation. On the other hand, if they have a surplus, they usually spend it in a dumb way. Again, not with Danocracy. It's all your choice!

- International conflicts are glooming and the question is how does your country react?

There won't be any call for war introduced by some elites. It's the choice of the people!

For a lot of people all of this will seem to be absolutely unrealistic, because their minds are still stuck in the systems which are completely run down after 80+ years. Although something similar to Danocracy does not exist anywhere, there's proof that some of its building blocks definitely work.

Technology: Countries like China, Dubai, Estonia or Oman are already using cutting edge technology in many ways.

- Estonia has removed paper work long ago, which makes the administration for both state and citizens much smoother and easier. People don't need to wait in line inside a run-down building which renovation was due 20 years ago as it is in many countries. You need something? You can go for it now.

- Dubai has its DubaiNow app via which the people can access over 250 different services, from basic administration stuff like bills and car registration over healthcare, education, and housing services. Both the number and variety of services still keeps growing.

- Oman hast digitalized 80% of its services, so it's closing in on Estonia. They run their e-government services in their own National Data Center, keeping private companies fully out of it. On top of that the government has repeatedly asked its citizens on how to improve things (e.g. in 2021 about in which sector to create new jobs) or how to spend the country's vast surplus (Vision 2040 - a nearly all-encompassing strategy to prepare the country for the future). They've used their e-government app for the polls.

- China went all-in on modern technology. It's a nearly cash-less society with basically everything run via apps. The most modern cities of China make use of it everywhere they can and probably are the most modern cities of the world. If anyone wants to see what technology is capable off, that's where you can figure it out.

That all is a great start, but in comparison to Danocracy there're still downsides.

- Estonia for instance only offers services. People, however, are not asked for any policy change or projects, because it's still a top-down political system.

- Via DubaiNow even donations are possible, which is great, but again Danocracy goes beyond that with its volunteer tax system.

- Oman has a great approach overall. Not only does the country use technology to reduce overhead, they also started to involve the people in decision making for important long-term projects. Just as Dubai Oman's official political system is a monarchy, but so is that of the UK although it comes with a parliament. The polls in Oman however could be a hint for what's to come: A monarchy with some great Danocratic elements.

- Many people despise China, but their implementation of technology is one of the most advanced, period. China's got some election system for citizens to elect representatives on a local level, which is often ignored by media, especially in the West. Besides this there still is a lot of room for involving people much more in the decision-making process on a regional level at least. Also, the use of technology to implement a social credit system can be criticized. But the Westerners who are the loudest in that are on their way to implement just the same over in Europe.

People's voice: As mentioned above, some countries also involve their citizens when it comes to making decisions, however that is not the case for all of them. But even one country, which is famous for its direct democracy, is falling way behind Danocracy's approach:

Switzerland is probably the most prominent country when it comes to direct democracy. The most impressive fact about it is that they implemented their approach nearly 140 years ago, even including the option to start initiatives with a threshold of 100k votes.

Switzerland's direct democracy is nice and sounds good at its core, but with just 4+ votes per year, participation rates of about 40%, still using paper ballots, and lately a parliament that starts ignoring people's decision it's absolutely not ready for the future. In fact, it is already failing now.

So, while there are already more than just hints of the power of modern technology in running states, it is the lack of involving the people that is the most striking - and Danocracy tackles that.

Of course, people's involvement can turn out as bad. But that's only in theory. For example, if people get to vote about taxes some might argue that the majority just removes taxes for average and below incomes while pushing them to 99% for the rich. Or maybe they believe people would declare everything for free like healthcare, education, energy, and food, while adding a universal basic income, ruining the state in the process. But what those critics really say is "I believe that people are too stupid to make such decisions." The consequences? "We NEED elites to run everything." I don't believe that!

Yes, there will be some people which are as ignorant as in the examples. But what's their number in total? 5%? 10%? Even at 49.9% they couldn't possibly ruin the country. Furthermore, the usage of AI technology will prevent people from making the worst decisions. Yes, people sometimes need to take some risk, but the biggest blunders will be caught beforehand by both AI and experts. This only leaves one argument against Danocracy which is for those who are in power to stay in power. There is no other.

Of course, Danocracy does not mean that all your personal wishes for society and your country come true, but it gives you a voice in every single decision. Let that sink in, because that is the shift in perception of power this whole concept is all about: This system, by implementing modern technology, actually hands the power to the people. There's no more middlemen or careerists telling you lies to get your vote. This is you representing yourself as part of a society of actual equals - a never-before-seen possibility that can become reality anytime.

You can be part of a society that shapes their lives according to their needs and interests. No needless war will be fought, no money wasted, no projects failing without learning from the experience, no corruption is ruling your country - all thanks to one reason: The people run the show.

And this show can run anywhere. Because of its unlimited flexibility, this concept can be used and implemented by any country or society. What it can become is totally up to the people. The limit is only set by everyone's imagination and will. If you wish for a system with less participation, Danocracy is not for you. But don't complain about the government wasting your tax money or making decisions against your interests. If you wish for the most transparency and control possible - or in short, if you want actual freedom - this is exactly what you should check out.

No matter whether you like this concept or not, thanks to everyone reading and sharing!

Let's overcome our fights over inanities and work together for progress, transparency, and peace.

It's possible for us, the people, because the majority holds the power.

Choose Danocracy and the Power is Yours!