

5/29/03

Alan,

Thanks for the essay on democracy/oligarchy. I'm not sure what the author concluded other than that real democracy is next to impossible. I think he too quickly rejects direct democracy:

"...in large communities, this direct democracy would be impossible, even with the best voting techniques and technology, because every day there are hundreds of decisions that governing bodies face without the input of the "common people." The sheer volume of the decisions required to keep a governing system together is so enormous that it is not viable to take into account the opinions of each and every citizen of that government."

I don't agree. Every voter does not have to vote on every issue. Decisions could be made by a majority of those who are interested enough in that particular issue to vote. Don't the Swiss have direct democracy? They seem to be doing well.

Steve