

Improving the World with Maximum Democracy

If you do an internet search on “[Improving the World](#),” you will find excellent ways that individuals working alone can help improve the world (for example, by being kind or by recycling), but you will probably not find any specific solutions to totally remake our society.

To become a popular political writer, you have to be good at describing problems because writers that focus primarily on solutions are considered to be too idealistic--a waste of the readers’ time.

Paradoxically we love utopian songs like John Lennon’s that “imagine there’s no countries,” but articles that propose specific solutions to create an ideal democratic society and world peace are not taken seriously. The reason for this is that most people have lost hope and have become so alienated that all they can do is complain, and they love writers who articulate their dissatisfaction. Instead of being another article that only tells how bad things are, this article also focuses on ways that we can unite together to change the system.

Ideally the best way to collectively improve the world in a nutshell is to make sure that no country has an imperialistic foreign policy, and that every country maximizes democracy and helps its people reach their fullest potential. Ultimately we need a world government of, by, and for the people of the world. With enforced international law, war would be illegal.

Many have become discouraged about the possibility of disempowering the CIA, the military-industrial-congressional complex, and the wealthiest one percent, and as a result they have saturated their lives with movies, restaurants, sports, and electronic gadgets. Furthermore,

they do not have a vision of what the ideal democratic society would look like.

In this article, I offer specific procedures to maximize democracy at every level of government that are fair to both rightists and leftists that can set a precedent for the next seven generations. Native Americans taught that every personal and collective decision must consider how it will affect their descendents seven generations into the future. It would be wise to heed their advice.

We must constantly think about the ideal of what we, others, and the world can become. When we do mindfulness meditation, for example, we learn to perceive and accept things exactly the way they are, but when we revert back to our normal thinking process, we can choose to focus on ideal possibilities. If we cannot accurately identify the problems and visualize the ideal, we will not know the best practical and realistic interventions to make.

Leftist, rightist, and centrist political parties must agree to level the political playing field. Multiple political parties, not just two, must become equally empowered. If the political playing field is leveled, I know it will not guarantee that the majority of people will agree with my beliefs and recommendations, but I am convinced that leveling the political playing field will make this country much better than what it is now. Though I focus mostly on what can be done in the United States, similar ideals and interventions can be applied elsewhere.

Our economists are mostly preoccupied with whether the economy is growing, and many individuals are mostly concerned about whether their stock market portfolio is increasing their profits and wealth. But ecologists have warned that this endless growth and misuse of precious

resources is not a good thing from a global perspective because the planet has a carrying capacity. It is not sustainable for more people to have more material things. Voluntary simplicity is needed because we need to “live simply, so that others can simply live.”

How many times a day do we think about the fact that half of the world’s 7.6 billion people lives on [less than \\$2.50 a day](#)? Does the average American show concern about our 20.24 trillion dollar [national debt](#), which is caused by having annual federal deficits year after year?

According to [War Resisters League](#), 48 percent of our annual federal budget goes toward current and past military spending. According to [Dave Lindorff](#), a columnist for CounterPunch, if you “include Veterans benefits and health care, the huge secret intelligence budget, the budget for the Energy Department, which is mostly for the huge nuclear stockpile, and of course interest on the debt for the funds borrowed to pay for America’s military and its endless wars, [it] adds up to some 1.3 billion a year and rising. That figure represents 54 percent of all discretionary spending in the federal budget.” Democrats and Republicans rarely show interest in cutting our military spending. Our CIA and military often intervene in the affairs of any sovereign country that does not cooperate with the American way of doing business, resorting to sabotage, assassinations, or whatever it takes.

Foreign policy expert William Blum wrote an article in 2013 entitled “[Overthrowing Other People's Governments: The Master List](#),” in which he lists over 50 instances of the United States overthrowing, or attempting to overthrow, a foreign government since World War II.

Andre Vltchek has written in his latest book *Exposing the Lies of the Empire* that “The majority of Europeans and North Americans appear to be thoroughly apathetic toward the state of the world...The difference between what U.S. citizens think their rulers are doing in the world and

what their rulers are actually doing is one of the greatest propaganda feats in modern history...While the American Empire constantly brags about 'democracy,' it is running the most totalitarian regime ever known to mankind."

The wealthiest one percent of Americans has control over Congress, which doesn't represent most of us. [The top one-tenth of 1 percent](#) owns almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent. To stay in office year after year, our lawmakers in our national legislature do the bidding of the super rich because the super rich have the most money to finance their campaigns.

The United States, through its decadent capitalism, neoliberal foreign policy and imperialism bent on controlling the world, and racism from the founding fathers up to the present—is the greatest threat to world peace and the destruction of the planet. Where is the outrage? Where is the righteous anger? Where is the rebellion? What happened to the nonviolent Peace Movement that was so powerful during the Vietnam War? It's nowhere to be found because everything is a lie and we're all living in a Matrix, brainwashed by the dominant culture that spews its life-destroying message through television, schools and churches, and a corrupt government controlled by the CIA. Readers are encouraged to watch (parts 1 & 2) of the documentary ["Money, Happiness, and Eternal Life--Greed."](#)

So where do we even begin to remake our society and how do we change human hearts? If simultaneously maximizing democracy and the learning and wisdom of all individuals is the ideal, there are specific things that must be done to achieve this.

As a retired teacher who has worked in private, religious, and mostly public schools at the elementary, middle, and high school levels—I naturally would start with the public schools as a way to improve society. I do not support the current hierarchical organization of the public schools. Nor do I encourage private or religious school vouchers or public charter schools, although a few charter schools outperform regular public schools because they can be highly selective in choosing their students. It seems like 99 percent of all schools (public, private, and religious) instill a “support the troops,” “America is exceptional,” and “capitalism and materialism are good” mentality or worldview. If I were a new parent today I would home school or find a group of like-minded parents to create a free, cooperative school.

The top-down hierarchy and bureaucracy of public schools is why so many teachers are experiencing stress and unhappiness and why students are not inspired to become free-thinking intellectuals.

I propose that we do something that has never been tried before: Let’s radically decentralize public elementary schools (possibly middle and high schools later) by encouraging the residents who live within the boundary of a particular elementary school district to choose their own school board members who would then implement an educational philosophy and school curriculum that reflects the views of the neighborhood, using public funds.

This self-determination of neighborhoods could promote a long lost sense of neighborhood togetherness, and it would promote independent thinking in parents about the things that really matter. Instead of just believing that bureaucrats and “experts” know what is best for our children, parents must be encouraged to educate

themselves. The best thing in the world a child can have is a parent with a good mind and a good heart.

Good parents must take the responsibility to learn everything their children must learn, even if it includes calculus and physics, to help their children with homework. In today's world, residents and parents in the neighborhood could get much information and many innovative ideas from the internet. We don't have to live in a monoculture. There can be more diversity at local levels on many issues. Our schools, educational system, and parenting practices have failed if our children grow up to love material things more than ideas and words.

Today when people say they have "found their tribe," they mean they have found a social group or organization that shares their deepest values, a group that they can identify with or resonate with. Instead of searching the world to find our tribe, we could simply change our educational system in a way that encourages neighborhoods and local communities to become intentional communities or tribes.

Since our public schools have not been changed yet in this significant way, until then I will not object to having private school vouchers and public charter schools with all their flaws. Their existence does provide more choice for parents and teachers. However, these types of schools do not promote the self-determination of neighborhoods, but then our current public schools do not enable that either--with their top-down, bureaucratic, hierarchical state and township control of neighborhood schools.

If enough people can agree on how to fix the political system, then subverting the powers-that-be may not seem like such an insurmountable task. Merely abolishing the *Citizens United* ruling of 2010--which gave even more power to corporations to finance election

campaigns--does not do enough. We must take all money out of politics and equally empower the 7 largest national political parties, not just the current two parties. The 7 largest national political parties could include the Republican Party, the Libertarian Party, the Constitution Party, the Democratic Party, the Green Party, the Socialist Party, and the Communist Party. To some of us, our two parties are essentially one party with two right wings.

Ultimately we need to use a system of Proportional Representation to elect members of the House of Representatives. This means that voters would vote for a particular political party, so if the Libertarian Party, for example, captures 15 percent of the vote, it will have 15 percent representation in the national legislature. The U.S. Senate should be eliminated altogether! Why should California and Wyoming have the same number of U.S. senators when California's population is 70 times greater? Eliminating the Electoral College System for electing US Presidents while supporting [Ranked Choice Voting](#) and [workplace democracy](#) would be additional ways to maximize democracy.

Moreover, state governments could rewrite their state constitutions so that they are organized from the bottom-up, not the top-down: from the neighborhood block club to the voting precinct level to the township up to the city council or county up to the state level. Each level of legislative government could make, not just legislative decisions, but it could also make executive and judicial branch appointments. Elected legislators at each level would vote among themselves to send a legislator to the next level above it. This method is better than our current system in which Americans vote a straight ticket for many officers from two parties for candidates whom they know nothing about.

Today's corporate capitalistic system makes sure that socialist ideas and parties are never taken seriously in the mainstream media, in schools, and in churches. However, if any of the revolutionary socialist parties ever gained control one way or another, they too would probably not give a free voice to ideas from the Libertarian Party, the Constitution Party, the Republican Party, and the Democratic Party. Out of fairness, we must give an equal voice to all of the 7 largest national political parties, and we can give a voice to any minor national political party that captures one percent of the vote. This is something that both Leftists and Rightists must agree on to broaden the political spectrum in a democratic society.

Being a world citizen or an internationalist is more compassionate and wise than being a nationalist. A democratic world government, if it is democratically built from the bottom-up, would be much better than a world controlled by an Empire. If a democratic world government is democratically assembled, it could also be democratically disassembled if that is the will of the majority of citizens from every country. If we "think globally and act locally," we will understand that it is not sustainable to have a large discrepancy between the rich and the poor within countries and among countries.

Moreover, by promoting [veganism](#), we can feed more people, help restore ecological balance, become more healthy, and stop being cruel to other sentient beings. The [Cannabis-Marijuana-Hemp](#) plant is the most versatile plant on earth. It should be legalized for its industrial, medical, and nutritional benefits. For adults, it should be legalized for recreational uses. By keeping it illegal, we may be encouraging people to drink more alcohol. No one has ever died from just smoking marijuana.

State governments can be organized from the bottom-up. In the United States, the national legislature can become unicameral (as the U.S. Senate is abolished) and organized by proportional representation. Every national political party that captures at least one percent of the vote can have a voice before an election, but the national legislature can be restricted to having representatives from just the 7 largest national political parties. Furthermore, when our nation is receptive to having a constitutional convention to create a new national constitution, choosing delegates from the 7 largest national political parties is the most fair and safe way of doing it.

Thomas Jefferson thought we should have a new constitution about every 17 years. If the Articles of Confederation was the first constitution, and our current one the second, the next constitution would be the third. I have written my own constitution called the "Third Constitution of the United States," and I have made 25 recommendations for the United States. See my online book called [Let's Remake Society](#) .

For those of us who still believe in electoral politics, there is a systematic and democratic way to make the above changes that I have recommended, or to make changes even better than what I have recommended: We have to pass a Twenty-Eighth Amendment that totally revamps Article V of our current Constitution so that it will be easier to pass future amendments and to have a constitutional convention when people realize that it can be held in a very safe, fair, and systematic way.

Article V allows the states--independent of the federal Congress--to propose and ratify amendments to the U.S. Constitution, but Article V does not tell how to have a Constitutional Convention in order to create

a new constitution. If current Republicans and Democrats of the 50 states eventually have an Amendment Convention, they will not be fair to rightist and leftist third parties, which is why it is necessary to overhaul Article V in its current form.

My total renovation of Article V would make it possible to have 100 delegates from the 7 largest national political parties meet for three months to work on a new national constitution. If at least 51 percent of the Constitutional Convention delegates agree on the new constitution, and 51 percent of the American voters ratify it in a referendum, we could have a new Constitution that is long overdue.

In fact, at every presidential election, if 51 percent of Americans want a new constitution, it will start a 24-month process and timeline to possibly implement a new constitution, 24 months later, if it is approved by a 51 percent majority of constitutional convention delegates and ultimately by 51 percent of the American people in a referendum.

After the third constitution is created--using the 7 largest national political parties and the input from minor national political parties that capture at least one percent of the vote--then the fourth constitution can also be created the same way, possibly about 17 years later as Thomas Jefferson recommended. In this way, we can set a precedent for the next seven generations.

The ecological balance of the planet is now seriously imperiled because of the way we live. With enlightened self and planetary awareness, we can renounce these false values and destructive practices and show others, by our example, a better way to be in the world.

With better ideas about spiritual growth, politics, and government, we can become better persons and create better neighborhoods and

communities. Ultimately we can create a better world and a healthy planet; however, the needed changes may not occur in our lifetime. But let's act now and be proactive so that the improvements occur before some nuclear catastrophe happens, or before the ecological destruction of the planet is beyond repair, or before many of the other global problems create even more suffering and heartache for billions of people.

With compassion, cooperation, and ingenuity, we can solve many of the world's problems. Here is one more idea to consider in this already very long article. In the 4-minute video called "[Open-sourced Blueprints for Civilization](#)" by Marcin Jakubowski, the 50 most important machines for modern life are in the process of being published in a Civilization Starter Kit DVD. This can lower the barriers to farming, building, and manufacturing so that masses amount of human potential can be unleashed in underdeveloped countries.

It would be ideal if existing rightist and leftist third parties agreed that getting a new Constitutional Amendment passed that revamps Article V is the best plan of action, as I have specifically described in my "Let's Remake Society" online book. But it may be that a new organization needs to be formed just to popularize the idea of leveling the political playing field by empowering the 7 largest national political parties. It is important that we have a vision of what the ideal democratic society can be. If an ideal or vision can give hope to enough people, it can change the world.

Roger Copple is 67 years old. He retired in 2010 from teaching general elementary, mostly 3rd grade, and also middle and high school special education in Indianapolis. He is especially interested in political theory, world history, and U.S. foreign policy. After being preoccupied with

Christianity, the Bhagavad Gita, Yoga, and Buddhist meditation almost all of his life--Roger now believes that stopping U S. imperialism is the most spiritual and ethical thing he can do. He is a vegan for health, ethical, and environmental reasons.

Roger grew up in the subculture of the United Pentecostal Church and remembers going to church four times a week and fearing that he might go to Hell because the Rapture of the Church was imminent, and he was not "saved" with the necessary evidence of "speaking in tongues." His parents have always voted Republican. Roger's biological father passed away in 1986, and Roger remembers how his father believed that if JFK had become President, he would compel everyone to become a Roman Catholic. Roger currently lives in the Tampa Bay area, and his fiance is from Ukraine. Roger is very glad that he began questioning all religious and political authority when he started college. Roger's website: www.NowSaveTheWorld.com