Landscape Democracy and the making of a just city

A brief introduction to the intersections of environmental design, political philosophy, and civic engagement

Dr. Deni Ruggeri
Dr. Ellen Fetzer

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LD and the **struggle for Human Rights**

Eleanor Roosevelt holding the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Spanish (U.S. National Archives)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

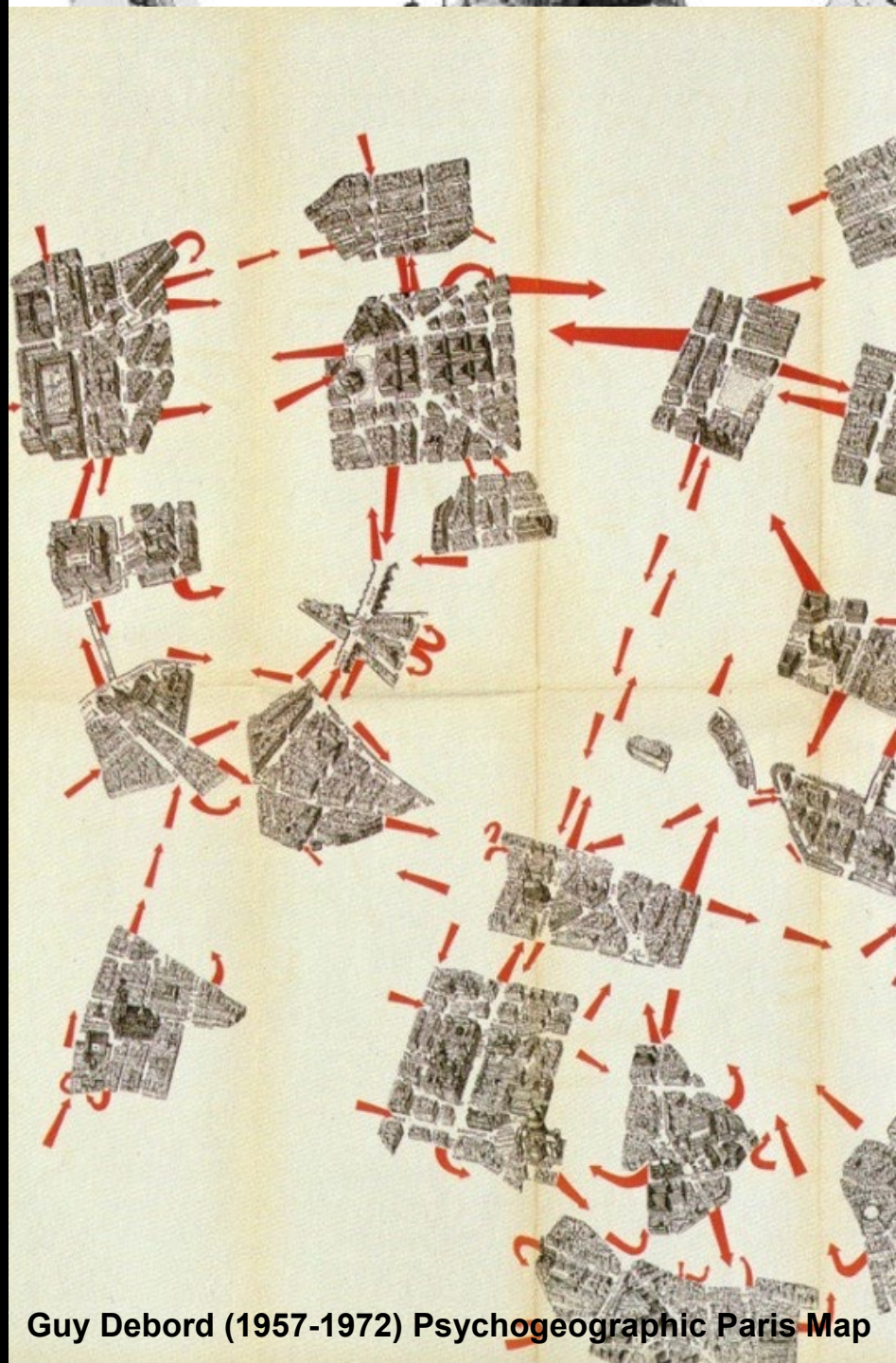
They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood"

Article 1 of the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Right to the city

- Henri Lefebvre (1968) "*Le Droit à la ville*"
- Recognizes an 'estrangement' of many people from the city
- A call to action to reclaim the city as a shared resource
- **"the right to change ourselves by changing the city more after our desires"**
- A never-ending struggle between conflicting visions of society

Georges-Eugène Haussmann’s Paris (1853-1870).



Guy Debord (1957-1972) Psychogeographic Paris Map

Robert Moses

Jane Jacobs

Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt 2011/2020

Black Lives Matter Plaza (2020)

A short poll on your democracy experience

Democracy

Democracy

noun

de·moc·ra·cy | di-ˈmä-krə-sē

Definition of *democracy*

1a: government by the people *especially*: rule of the majority

1b: **a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation** usually involving periodically held free elections

2: a political unit that has a democratic government

3 *capitalized* : the principles and policies of the Democratic party in the U.S. from emancipation Republicanism to New Deal *Democracy*— C. M. Roberts

4: the common people especially when constituting the source of political authority

5: the absence of hereditary or arbitrary class distinctions or privileges

Democracy is an idea rooted in free debate in public space

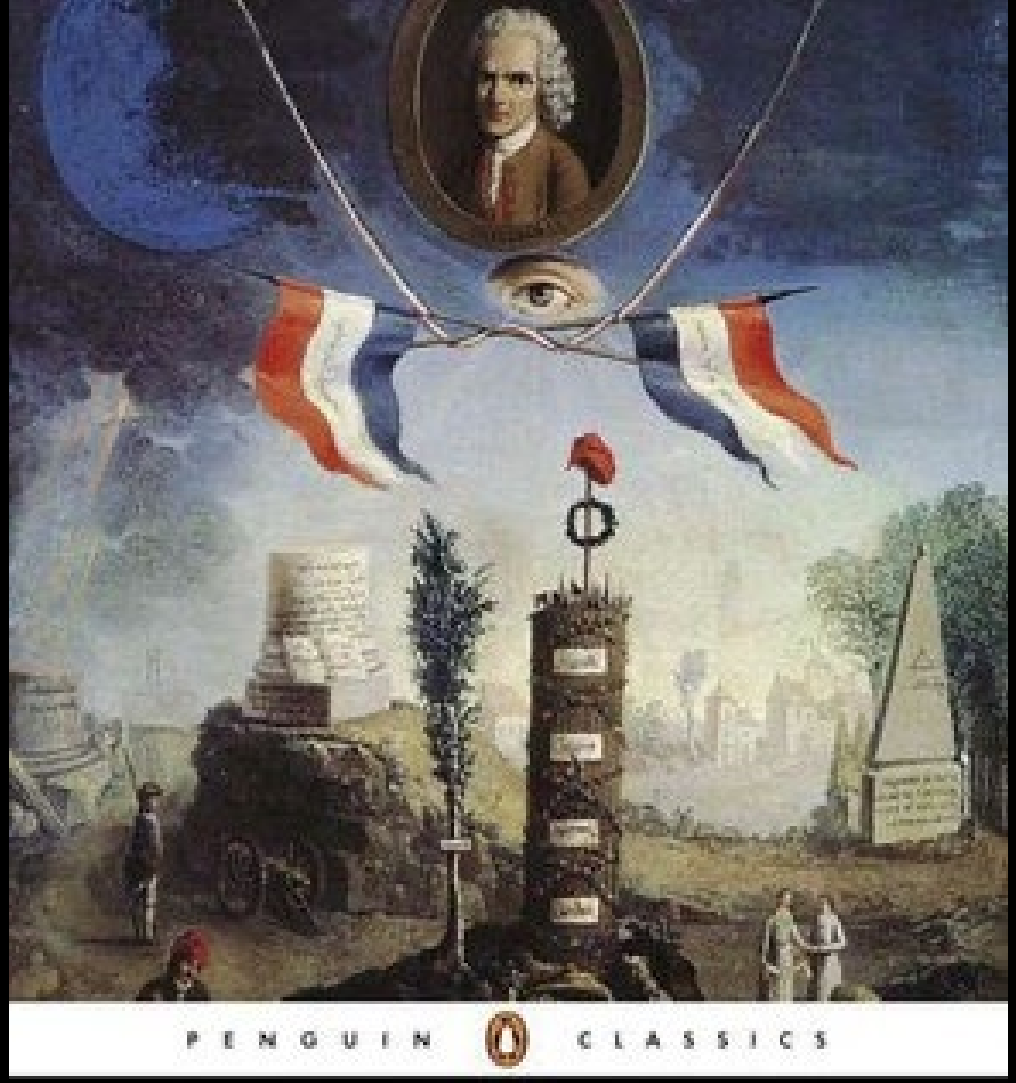
The **public landscape** is the spatial materialisation of democracy

It is a visual reminder of a community’s identities, values, and ambitions

Democracy as reflected in the Greek Agora.

The Öxará River in iceland intercepting the *Thingvellir* (assembly field).

The Allegory of Good and Bad Government by Ambrogio Lorenzetti (1338-1339)



Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1762) Du contrat social; ou Principes du droit politique

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION

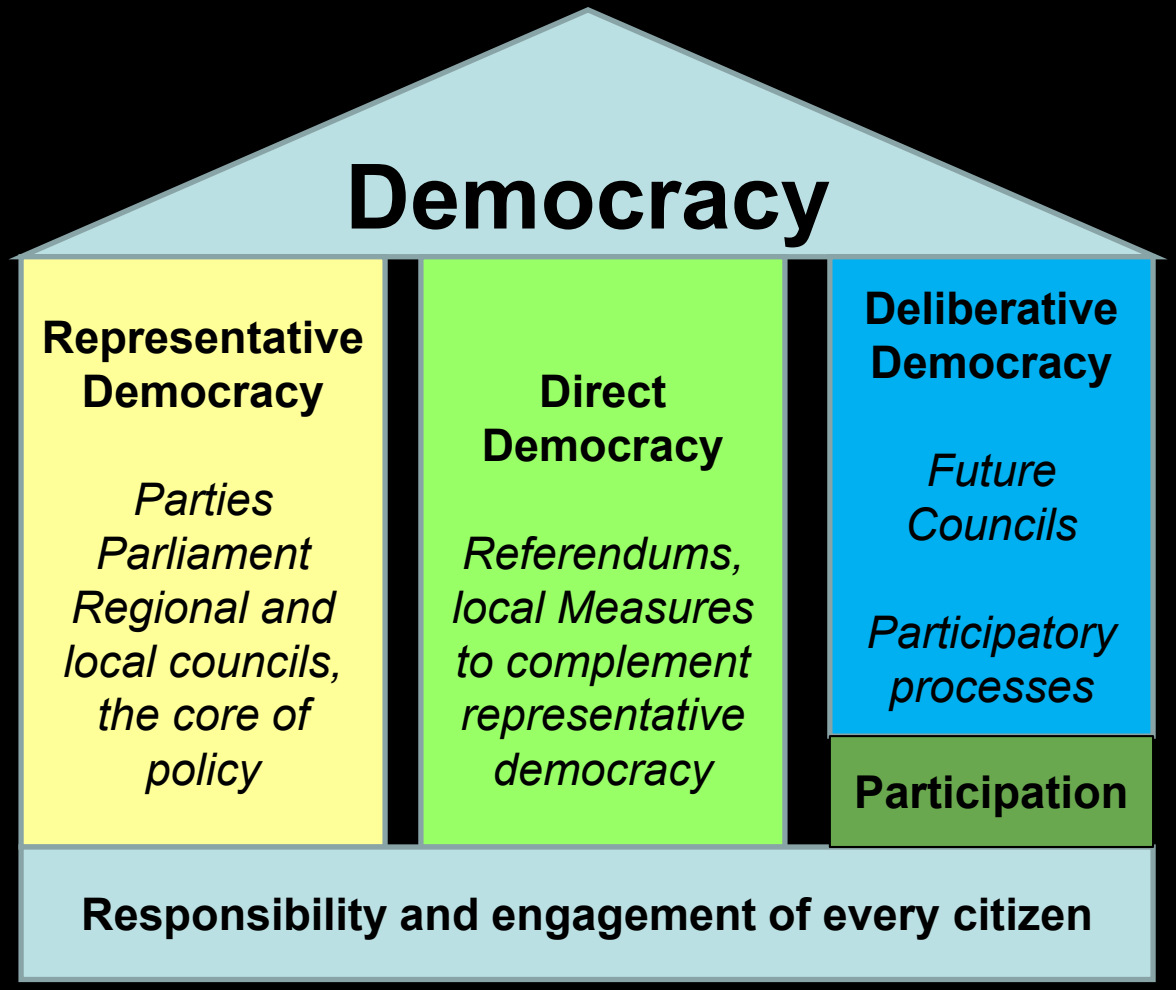
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

WE hold these Truths to be self -evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness..

The Declaration of Independence - July 4, 1776

Reidar Aulie (1950) “The labor movement's history” Rådhus Oslo, Norway



Three columns model of contemporary democracy
Christian Felber (2010) *The economy of the common good*, 109

representative democracy

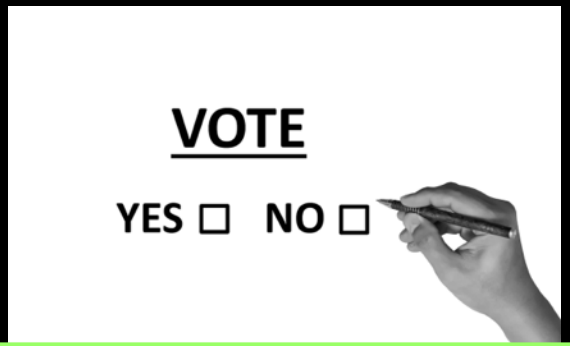
Source: pixabay

Representative democracy

Citizens delegate decisions for a defined period of time to representatives. Representation at the national, state/region/province, and local levels.

Advantages?	Disadvantages?

direct democracy



Direct democracy

Citizens decide directly via referendums, propositions, and local ballot measures.

Mostly at the city level, but regional and national level

Advantages?	Disadvantages?

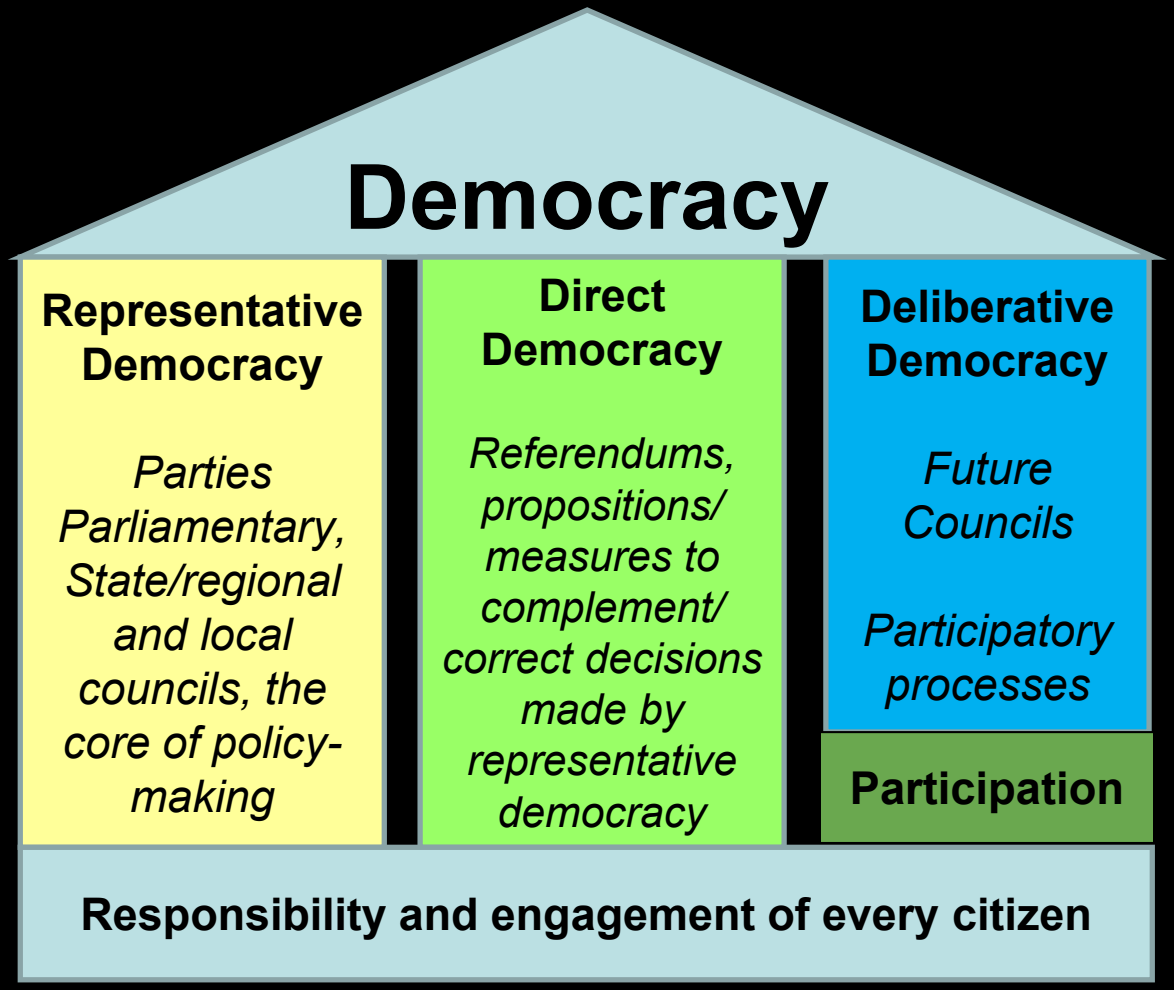
Deliberative democracy

Source: pixabay

Deliberative democracy

Decisions are made upon deliberation of all possible viewpoints
Decisions are made on the basis Of debate and argumentation, not by vote.
This requires information, active listening, reflexive value construction

Advantages?	Disadvantages?



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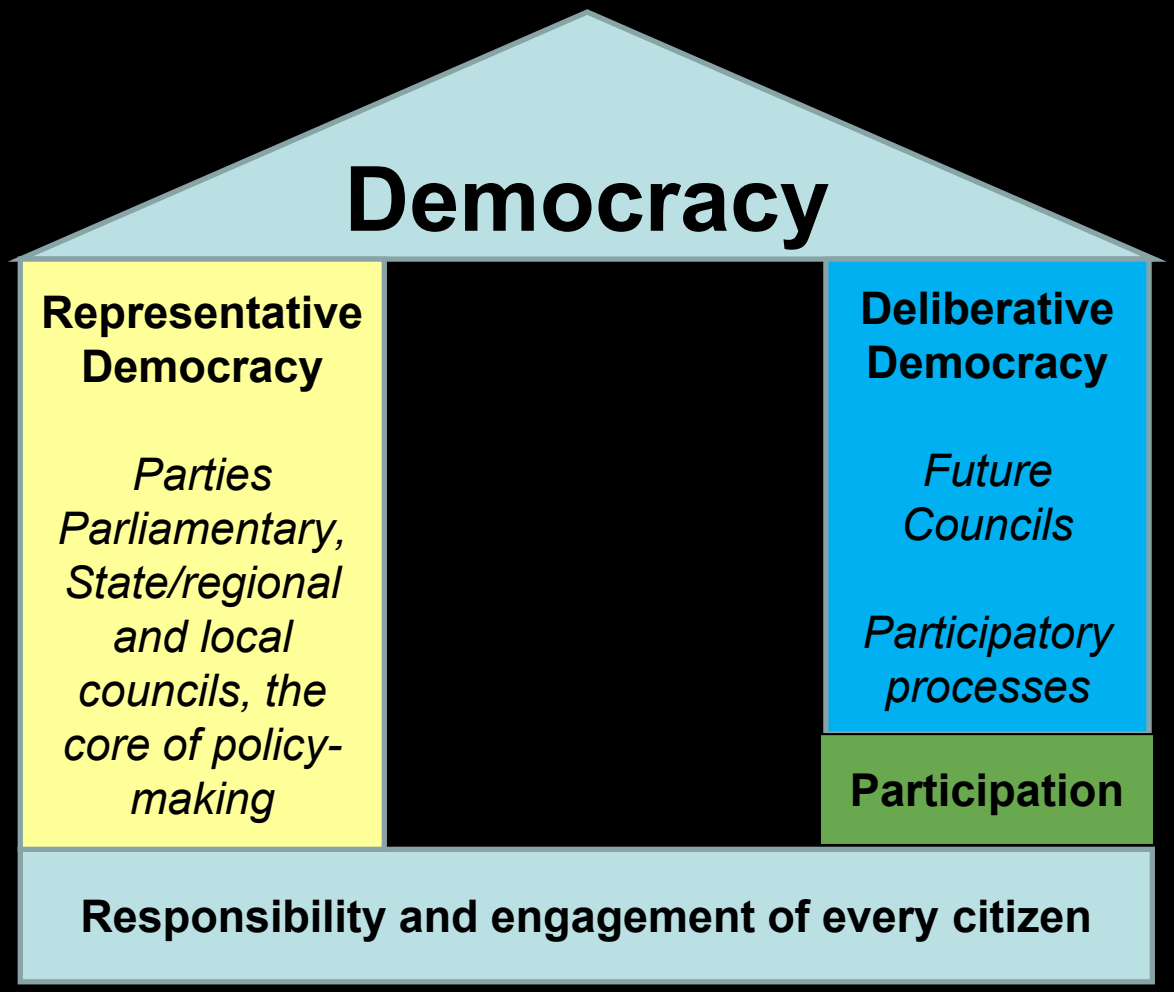

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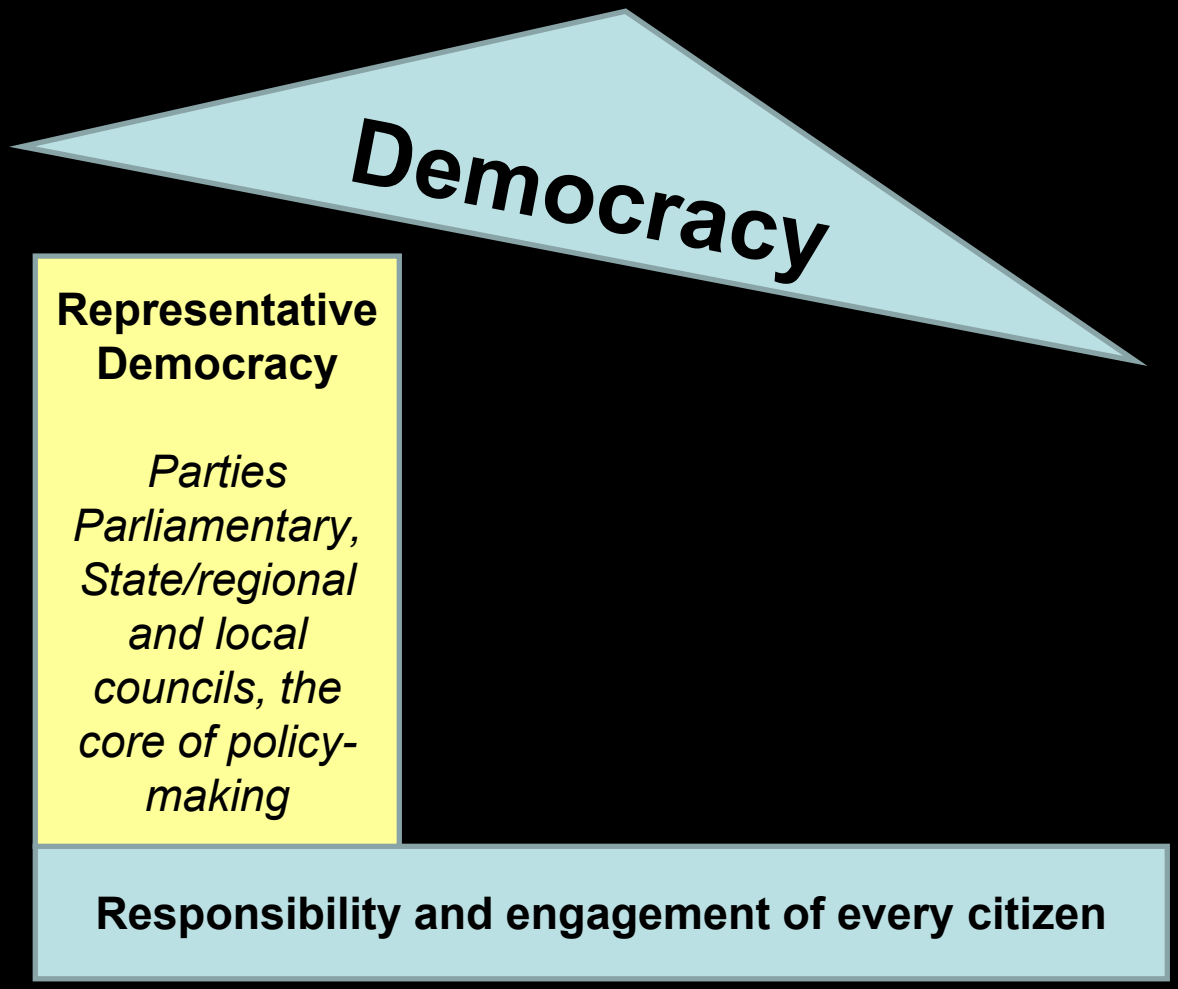

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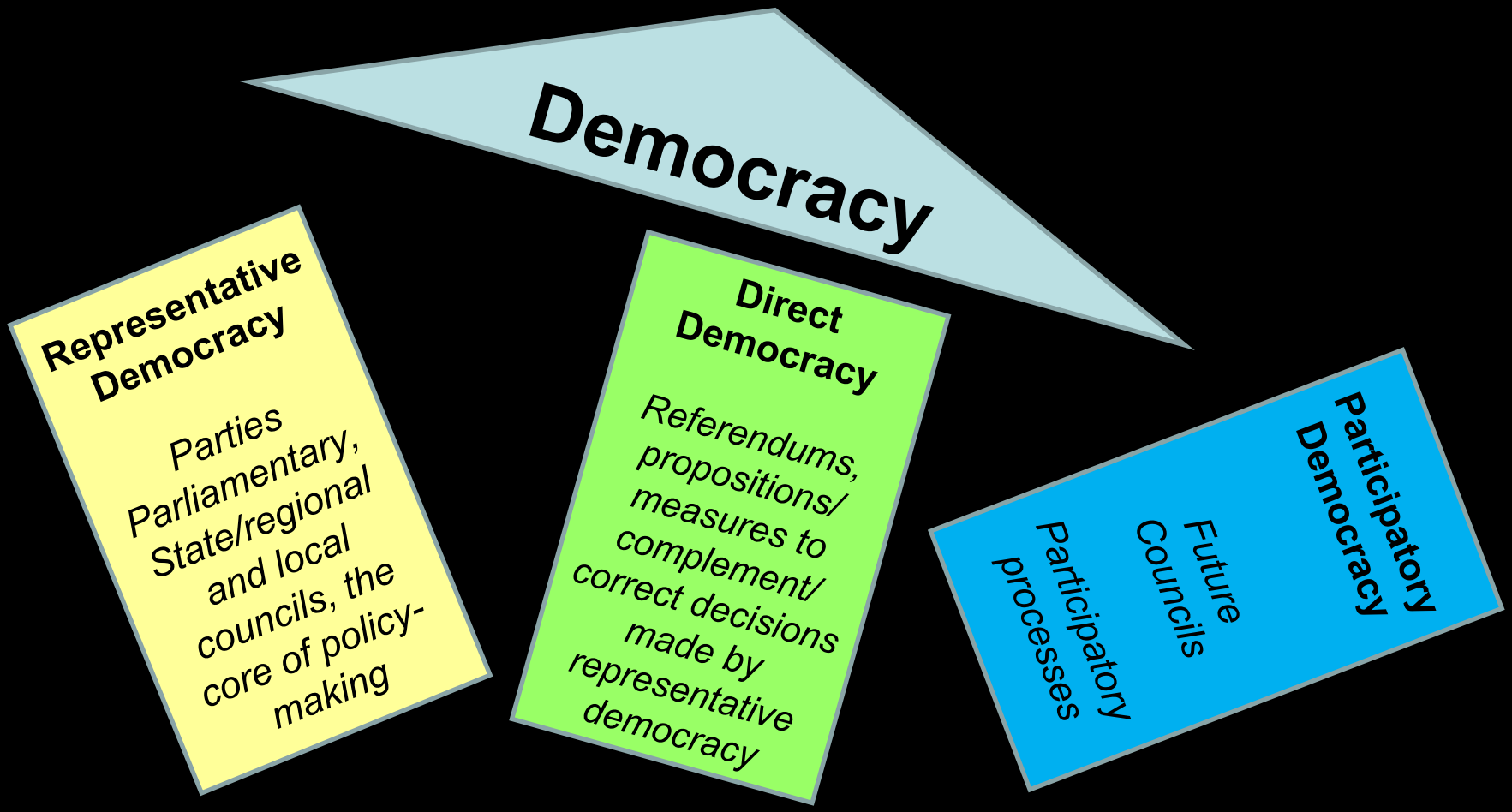

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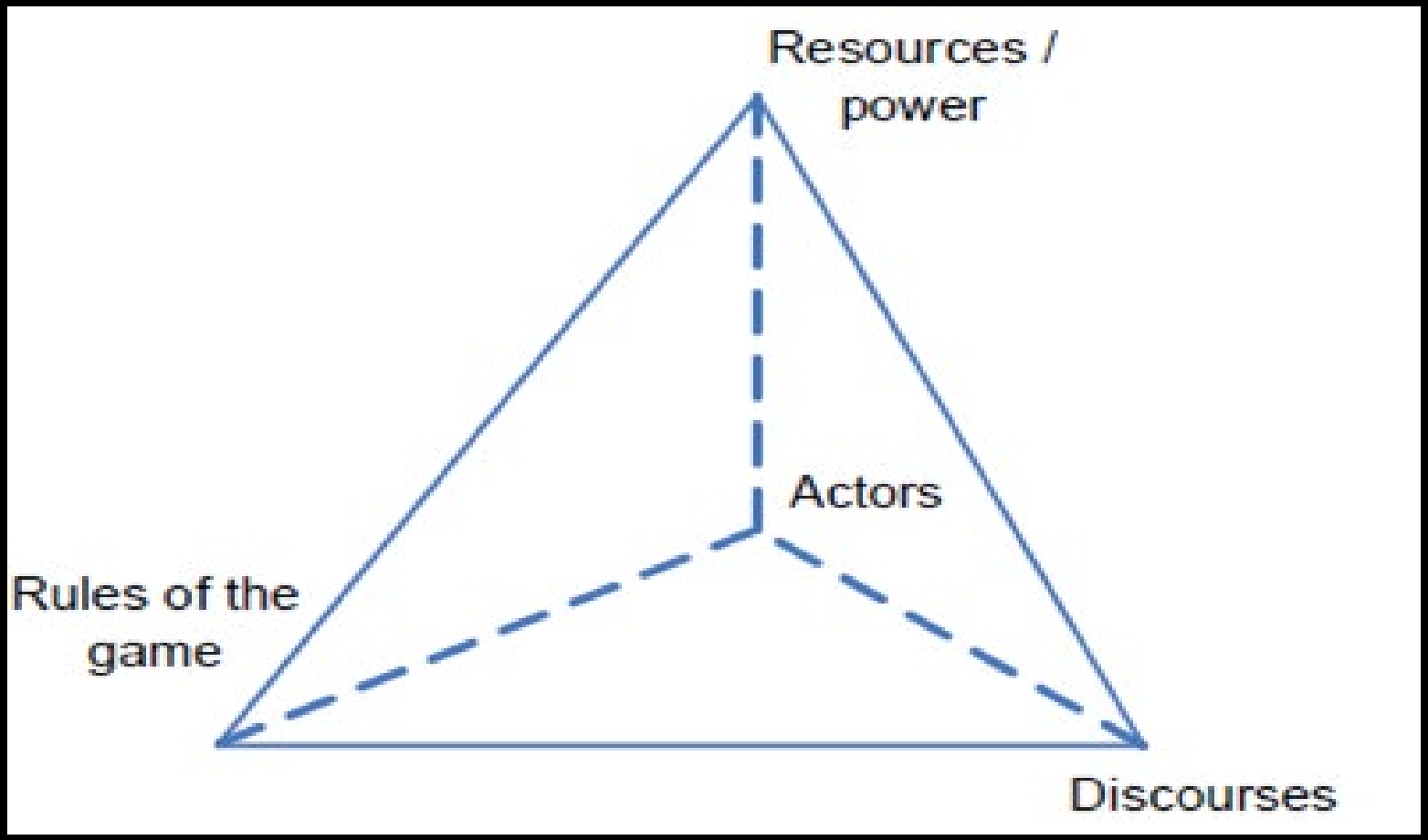
Landscape democracy as policy arrangement



Policy arrangement visualized as a tetrahedron from Duncan Liefferink (2006).

Constitutional ideals of democracy, human rights, equality and freedom have a tangible spatial dimension in the landscapes of our communities, which are **activated** and rendered **operational** through their collective **practices and experiences.**

Chernobyl. The absence of civic life and the failure of democracy left this landscape void of meaning

Landscape

A dutch “landschap’, originally defined as a self-reliant unit of civic

“Osmington Village,” oil on canvas by John Constable, 1816-17. Image courtesy Clark Art Institute/ Yale Center for British Art

André le Nôtre (late 1600s” the Gardens of Versailles, France

The Merced River flowing through Yosemite Valley

Sacred Landscape in the Whitaker Neighborhood, Eugene, Oregon

Waterbirds in flight over a tidal wetland on the U.S. Pacific coast. (Public domain.)

tangible & intangible landscapes

- The landscape is both the physical entity and the values, meanings, and stories people have imbued it with
- Landscape meaning is **socially constructed**
- Landscape is also the everyday practices and rituals that revolve around the landscape
  - **Democratic, participatory practices?**

“…people from different walks of life encounter one another and so acquire enough of a sense of a shared life that we can meaningfully think of one another as citizens in a common venture”

Michael Sandel, Political Philosopher, Harvard University (2009)

The initiator: Council of Europe

Council of Europe (CoE)

- Strasbourg, France
- an inter-governmental organization founded in 1949
- 47 member states

Council of Europe objectives

to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the many problems facing European society today.

European Landscape Convention

- Adopted in Florence (Italy) on October 20, 2000
- came into force March 1, 2004
- to date (Jan 2021) ratified by 40 countries
- Norway was the first country to ratify on 23 November 2001
- Germany?

Any government wishing to implement the principles of good governance needs to give due emphasis to landscape in its national and international policies

Maguelonne Déjant - Pons
Head of the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division
Council of Europe 2006

European Landscape Convention's "Landscape" definition:

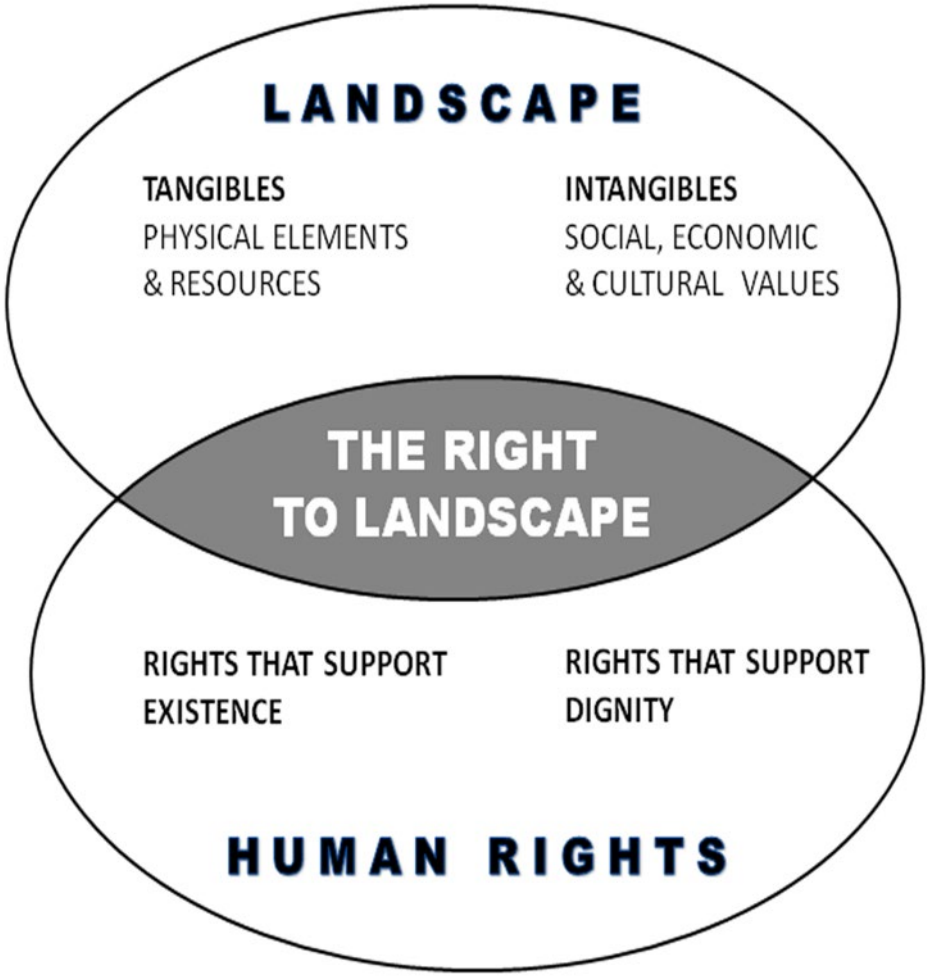
"an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors."

"LANDSCAPE is a key element of individual and social well-being and ... its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone."

Preamble to the European Landscape Convention

stewardship

The "Right-to-landscape”


LANDSCAPE
TANGIBLES
PHYSICAL ELEMENTS
& RESOURCES
INTANGIBLES
SOCIAL, ECONOMIC
& CULTURAL VALUES
THE RIGHT
TO LANDSCAPE
RIGHTS THAT SUPPORT
EXISTENCE
RIGHTS THAT SUPPORT
DIGNITY
HUMAN RIGHTS

LANDSCAPE as CULTURAL REALM

HEALTH & PHYSICAL WELLBEING

clean air and water, food security, nature in cities, natural heritage

PSYCHOLOGICAL & SPIRITUAL WELLBEING

sacred sites, scenery, aesthetic fulfillment, sense of belonging and identity, cultural heritage

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & POLITICAL WELLBEING

social justice, equal livelihood opportunities, freedom of expression

THE RIGHT TO LANDSCAPE

individuals, communities, nations, the economically disadvantaged, the politically powerless, indigenous people, the marginalized

SAFEGAURDING NATURAL PROCESSES SECURING ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

terrestrial, marine, riparian, eco-diversity

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

soil, water, air, biodiversity

LANDSCAPE as NATURAL SETTING

Landscape Democracy

From R2L to Landscape Democracy

- Landscape democracy builds on the right to landscape

- **L**andscape **D**emocracy as the ultimate goal/idealized condition

  +

- **l**andscape **d**emocracy as practices of participation, inclusion, and reparation

“Defining Landscape Democracy” Conference June 2015, Oscarsborg, Norway

Egoz, S., Jørgensen, K., & Ruggeri, D. (Eds.). (2018). *Defining landscape democracy: A path to spatial justice*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Landscape democracy is both the ambition, the shared goal, and the process leading to it, the daily, collective practice of democratic principles, values, ethics, and actions.

to be continued...

Readings session 2

Kühne, Olaf (2015): Landscape Concepts
in Kühne, Bruns et al: Landscape Culture - Culturing Landscapes

Hester, Randolph (2006): Design for Ecological Democracy

Egoz, Jørgensen & Ruggeri (2018)
Defining Landscape Democracy: A Path to Spatial Justice

Access and assignment template for April 20:
https://ledwiki.hfwu.de/index.php?title=LED_Online_Seminar_Assignments_2021

See you in our lounge

https://www.wonder.me/r?id=2qz98w_-et48s
Ideally via Google Chrome or Edge