

DEMOCRACY WITHOUT POLITICIANS!!!

As the author of the contemporary military thriller 'It Could Just Happen', where the action moves from the highlands of Scotland to Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, and culminates in a massive terrorist attack in London aimed to destroy the mother of all parliaments along with all the sitting politicians.

Many of my readers have asked me to write a sequel that would illustrate how this story might develop.

As I didn't much like the idea of writing a political novel, I decided instead to produce a series of podcasts 'Democracy without Politicians' – by creating Seven Pillars of Governance.

Edward de Bono was one of the great thinkers of the twentieth century. He coined the phrase 'lateral thinking' and wrote 'Six Thinking Hats' (which I think is a great concept) and I used it to create a different system of effective parallel thinking.

The ancient Greek democratic theory stated that from a proposition that is countered by an opposition, the tension caused will allow the perfect answer to surface.

Well, this certainly doesn't happen in real life.

If my car won't start, you might ask me to raise the bonnet. Having done so, you might see the problem and advise me that a plug lead has become detached. I don't immediately cry out, 'No, it's a problem with the carburettor'.

For in the real world, we solve problems by putting heads together to come up with sensible answers that we all agree on.

Yet what do we see going on within our various democratic parliaments?

The government (the proposers) being jeered scornfully by the opposition (the opposers). Surely, no one party can be right all the time.

I would argue that this is no way to run a country.

To begin with, I do believe that small is beautiful. I would like to see our country devolved not into England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Island but reverting to our original county boundaries. Different people in different places often have very differing needs.

Then within these smaller areas, we could create citizen assemblies. Randomly chosen in the same way that judicial juries are presently chosen albeit if an individual doesn't want to serve, they may opt out.

Any topic that needs to be addressed (for example it might be to find the most effective health service that could be produced). Experts in the field of medicine, doctors, nurses, surgeons, administrators, can all be coopted for their advice. A chairman/woman is chosen to lead the assembly and is tasked with producing a basic proposal

When the assembly is ready to start considering the basic proposal, they each don a white hat (this is just a symbol of unity) and then the chair starts explaining their version of the proposal.

Once the basic proposal has been explained, they move around the table but whilst wearing a white hat each member cannot suggest anything detrimental to the original concept.

After every member has added value to the basic ideas, they all change hats to a black one. Starting with the proposer, he/she voices any down sides that might have worried them whilst they were building the programme. Now everybody is considering anything that might prevent the suggested programme being successful.

They now have a list of all the good aspects of the proposed programme, and they also have a list of all the possible drawbacks.

It's time to change hats again to a yellow one. And as they go around the table once more, they are all considering what could possibly be done to mitigate the problems and enhance all the good aspects of the proposed programme.

I needn't go on, I'm sure that you have got the point by now. It's like having a series of batteries linked together to produce the maximum energy and force.

Totally different from parliamentarians braying at each other like malcontent donkeys.

In the Seven Pillars of Governance, I have suggested some radical ideas that could well be used to start the debate on education for life, law and order, defence, tax and spend, immigration, and climate change.

All this might seem a long way from the contemporary military novel 'It Could Just Happen' but read the book and you will begin to understand.

Please carry on listening and enjoy and feel free to email me with your comments on robert@phoenixfilmandpublishing.com

Thank you for listening.