Form Pacifica Now

By Lester Donald Earnest
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Summary: Advocates the secession of California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington to form a new nation called Pacifica with a truly democratic government, the first of its kind in 2,500 years.

In all honesty, this proposal has not yet attracted enough supporters to be taken seriously, but I believe it is a sound idea even though making it happen would be a major challenge.

Assessment of our presidential election.

The sign at left, has recently appeared on a street in London.

Possible Collaboration. After proposing and discussing my somewhat radical plan for a couple of weeks I am pleased to learn that others are thinking of similar ideas, though they are not going as far as advocating creation of a true democracy as I am.

- The Calexit movement organized by Southern Californians started collecting signatures to create a 2018 ballot initiative that would force a 2019 special election to secede just California. However the chief organizer, Louis Marinelli, turned out to be a Russian agent who has now abandoned this project and moved back to Russia.

- A New York Times article about The Other White People talks about "linking of the nation's most populous state with Oregon, Washington and British Columbia to form a Cascadia by the sea" but does not identify the source of that proposal.

An interesting Alternet.org article titled "It Is Time to Consider Progressive Secession: A Vision of Principled Nation States Where Humanistic Values Predominate" reviews the plausible legality of secession.

I too had thought about trying to bring in British Columbia but decided to keep it simpler for now since negotiating with a single fascist country to give up territory will be difficult enough. Even more of Canada might fit into this scheme and we might also try to bring in Baja California, which has a lot of potential recreational sites that Mexico has been unable to develop so far, but I believe we must keep it simple for now. As also noted earlier, I hope that others will endorse and augment this proposal with ideas and actions that turn it into reality.

Crooked Election. I was pleased to see that Hillary Clinton received the most votes for President. However, as her opponent pointed out earlier, the election was rigged -- that was one of the few claims that he got right. The ridiculous Electoral College

specified in the U.S. Constitution was set up to give extra voting power to states with small populations and has not been fixed because it enables politicians to manipulate vote counting, which is something they love to do. This is just one of many major defects in the Constitution, which was originally designed to give power to rich white men and has continued to do that for well over two hundred years.

The current situation was predicted by journalist H.L. Mencken in the July 26, 1920 edition of the Baltimore Evening Sun, where he said:

"As democracy is perfected, the office of president represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron."

Mencken actually got part of that wrong: democracy has never existed in the U.S., as I will explain.

The incoming U.S. President is an avowed fascist who is *Putin's pal with pussy paws.* In view of his agenda, over time his government will likely again legalize discrimination against "colored people" as well as Jews and Muslims. To avoid that I propose a breakaway.

There are five adjacent states in which sane people make up a substantial majority, namely California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, so I propose that they form a new war-free true democracy. in view of their location and peaceful goals I propose that it be called Pacifica. It would be best if this can be done through peaceful negotiation but if it ends in civil war, so be it. I would rather go up or down fighting than live in a Trumped-up fascist society.

The bogus election of Trump is actually a minor symptom of a much deeper problem, one with roots going back millions of years. The fact is that all modern humans live in fantasy worlds that we inherited from our ancient hunter-gatherer ancestors, whose viewpoints do not work in the modern world. Soon see an article titled ***Piracy Works, But Not Well.***

Do humans think straight? The short answer is "No." Consider the fact that many people have supported the Roman Emperors, Genghis Khan, Joseph Stalin, Adolph Hitler, Vladimir Putin, Donald Trump and the like. That is because piracy – taking the assets of others – has been a fundamental part of the human lifestyle from its beginning.

A true democracy was formed in Greece over two thousand years ago but it did not last long and all governments before and since have been run by pirates. Many people like to pretend that USA is a democracy but in order to do that they must overlook the fact that its Constitution initially endorsed slavery, gave no power to women, put all governmental power in the hands of rich white men and has continued to do that.

The Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the Constitution supposedly ended slavery by 1865 but it continued in parts of the South and in California, where native people were kept in slavery. This was enforced by the State of California, which paid $1 bounties for scalps of Indians who had escaped, whether men, women, or children. Slavery continues in the modern U.S. using immigration laws to control people brought in from other countries to serve in prostitution or other underpaid work.

The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote in 1920 and I am proud that my maternal grandmother helped make that happen. However, women have continued to be discriminated against in many ways, such as being paid at lower rates than men doing the same work and being inhibited from using birth control or abortion. While the latter inhibitions have been legally curtailed in the U.S. they keep showing up in the political arena and are likely to be revived under the new fascist government. Never mind that they are mainly based on the marketing program of the Catholic Church, which aims to increase their constituency by maximizing birth rates.

While some partial improvements have been made in the U.S. Constitution, members of Congress and other politicians are systematically and legally bribed using "campaign contributions" to control what they do and the only ones able to do that are the modern rich white males, so it continues. This dominant group is now often called "Wall Streeters" but there are also many other pirates around.

I first became aware of the widespread corruption in our government the 1950s when, after serving 3.5 years in the Navy as an Aviation Electronics Officer, I was hired by MIT to help design the SAGE air defense system, which included the first computer network. SAGE had 23 main computer centers spread across North America and used data from hundreds of radars. It was the first system to use interactive computing, packet data communications and packet radios. I designed the weapons guidance and control systems for both manned interceptors and ground-to-air missiles and, while doing that, discovered that this technological marvel was the biggest fraud on taxpayers of the 20th Century, a fact that has been kept classified and hidden from the public by the Wall Streeters while they continue similar frauds today -- see "*SAGE like Forrest Gump"* at https://web.stanford.edu/~learnest/nets/gump.html.

Human piracy will soon die and may take us with it. Because piracy has been an integral part of human lives from the beginning, it is naturally accepted my most people. All governments in the modern world are run by pirates, though we pretend otherwise.

If all human pirates are allowed to continue, then either we will all die soon in a nuclear conflagration or our descendants will succumb to the sixth mass extinction of life on Earth;

If we move quickly to alter human thinking by using some combination of education and genetic engineering to induce more rational thinking about governments, there is a chance that we can organize a truly democratic society that treats people equally and well before the next crash.

As pointed out by Buckminster Fuller in his 1980 book *Critical Path*, human productivity was already great enough by then to provide everyone with good housing, food, medical care and education provided that we cut out the pirates who are running our government and stealing the assets of others. However, he did not use the "pirate" label.

Meanwhile we should continue to develop machines that help, even though they put people out of menial jobs, there will be more than enough productivity to meet human needs with only part of the population working for modest financial rewards. We also should discourage further increases in human populations, which inevitably lower the overall quality of life. If we do take the pirates out of control they will continue to enjoy a good life but with much less power.

Can a truly democratic society survive? The answer is "Yes" if men can adjust to a less aggressive and more cooperative lifestyle, which will require a lot of education and, perhaps, genetic engineering to reduce their aggressiveness. Timeliness is very important because if this is not done soon, the sixth mass extinction will likely take us all out.

In order for this to work it will be necessary to shift to a very different economic system that might be labeled "communist.," which is the way our ancient ancestors lived for millions of years. Note that modern Communists (with an upper case "C") are all pirates. Unlike ancient times, money will play a part in making things work but will not be used to dominate and control others and the government will play a much stronger part in making things work. Thus anarchists will hate this system, like always.

Ancient tribes and modern hunter-gatherers generally organize(d) themselves through informal negotiations rather that formal voting but everyone in a given tribe generally helps all others in such things as food gathering and preparation as well as child rearing. In the modern world I suggest that those activities be done on a family basis rather than by tribe.

The government would oversee all businesses and ensure that everyone has a decent life. Medical care and education would be free and everyone would be given enough money by the government to get decent housing and food. Those who work

would be paid a moderate amount of additional money, allowing a still better lifestyle, but nothing elaborate.

The financial community would be put out of business – no big banks, venture capitalists or hedge funds. Funding of advancing technologies would be done by the government based on recommendations of volunteer panels, whose members would be selected based on their technical knowledge in the areas under consideration. The panelists would be paid nothing for their service but would be reimbursed for travel and other expenses involve in their volunteer work. These panels would also review progress on projects they had initiated and would terminate or redirect projects as needed.

All patents would be eliminated. The existing commercial establishment pretends that patents are essential for the advancement of technology but just the opposite is true – patents inhibit technological progress. Consider recent major developments:

- The invention of general purpose interactive computing, which has revolutionized that field and made networking possible, was initiated by a [short memo](#) written by John McCarthy at MIT. The MIT community then soon developed several versions of that idea, all done in open source mode and shared with whoever was interested, and that breakthrough soon spread around the world.
- The development of the Internet was all done in open source mode with no patents. Commercial organizations tried to develop their own proprietary networks concurrently but they were unable to compete with the open source developments and their networks have since largely disappeared.

In other words, open source development works much more efficiently than proprietary development. However commercial interests now lie a lot about their contributions to networking, pretending to have made major contributions, and are doing their best to exploit and control this technology developed by others. They are using the political system to block network neutrality and get local monopolies so that they can overcharge customers.

There will be a much smaller need for lawyers in the open society and all business schools in universities should be terminated because they have mainly been teaching piracy. They should be replaced with development schools teaching the following subjects:

- Instead of teaching marketing, which is aimed at stimulating human fantasies to make them willing to pay more for a product, push optimization of product usefulness taking into account the underlying science and technology;
- Teach how to organize and motivate people to develop and manufacture quality products without using financial motivations.

There also will need to be other adjustments to make a truly democratic society work.

It appears to me that the best way to develop and improve a truly democratic society will be to give it a shot. Forming Pacifica would be a good target.