

On Sophocracy ¹

(May 2024)

One could think that the current raucous, cacophonous, vulgar, continuously revolutionary biennial or quadrennial Electoral Circus hasn't shown much success in establishing and preserving a peaceful, amicable, stable, intelligent, and courteous Republic.

In another age, author T.E. Lawrence wrote in chapter XXXVI of his *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* (1922) a remark which illustrates the reason for the Arabian potentates of lore to favor the British rather than the French during the First World War:

"Ancient and artificial societies like this of the Sherifs and feudal chieftains of Arabia found a sense of honourable security when dealing with us [the United Kingdom] in such proof that the highest place in our state was not a prize for merit or ambition."

The fundamental reason for the sore state of the Republic could very well be that those running for office seem to be afflicted by some utterly narcissistic, pathologically disproportionate personal ambition, which should in fact pre-disqualify them from office.

As for elective aptitudes, there is currently no requirement for any sort of certification or verification of qualities such as humility, intelligence, wisdom, benevolence, broadmindedness, or good manners. Whereas no one is allowed to cut hair in a barber shop, who has not been certified by the State, the main prerequisites to ascend the Road to the Presidency are to command huge amounts of money, enjoy good reproductive attractiveness, and possess outstanding propagandistic skills. Such qualities are indeed a necessity when scrambling for the summit, but are far from adequate for actually holding office.

On the other hand, it can also be observed that while in some fourteen countries of the world voting is compulsory and strictly enforced, running for office is purely voluntary. Likewise, while in some fifty-eight countries of the world young men and women are

¹ From Greek σοφός, prudent, wise, and κράτος, force, as opposed to *Elithiocracy*, from Greek ἡλίθιος: foolish, senseless (could be confused with *Elitocracy*, which however would be a barbarism).

compulsorily conscripted in the armed forces for between one and eleven years, purportedly to serve their countries, there is no obligation for older wiser citizens to serve in office, although they are required by law to serve on Jury Duty when so commanded.

A system of ***Sophocracy*** (see note 1 above) is hereby proposed in lieu of the current system of *Democracy*, in which the wiser, more knowledgeable, less personally ambitious, more benevolent, and more polite of our Elders ² would be required by law to serve in the highest office, provided their qualities have been proven in an absolutely impartial process.

It is proposed that the qualities of potential Presidents and other high office holders be searched automatically by modern computational tools which shall browse through the billions of pages posted on the internet each and every day, in a process dubbed *Autonomous Intelligence (A.I.)*.

A database shall be continuously updated, which will preserve the anonymity of those preselected. When time comes, those at the top of the database shall be contacted, still anonymously, and shall be required to go through a series of anonymous interviews in which they will need to prove that they are absolutely undesirous to take the position.

The process will be quite thorny, by definition, but, on the other hand, if everyone were willing to vote or to enroll in the armed forces, voting and conscription in such nations that are concerned would not be compulsory.

Finally, the most humble, most intelligent, most selfless, most benevolent, wisest, most polite, and least willing to take the position will be ascended to the Presidency.

The same process shall be adopted by all nations and the world will finally become one of Peace, Harmony, Stability, Intelligence, and Gallantry.

Some alternative occupation will need to be procured for the now unemployed politicians, generals, weapon manufacturers, and all those who Take Themselves So Seriously.

² By necessity such individuals would have had to go through a long life accumulating the required qualities. Greenhorns shall be excused. .