

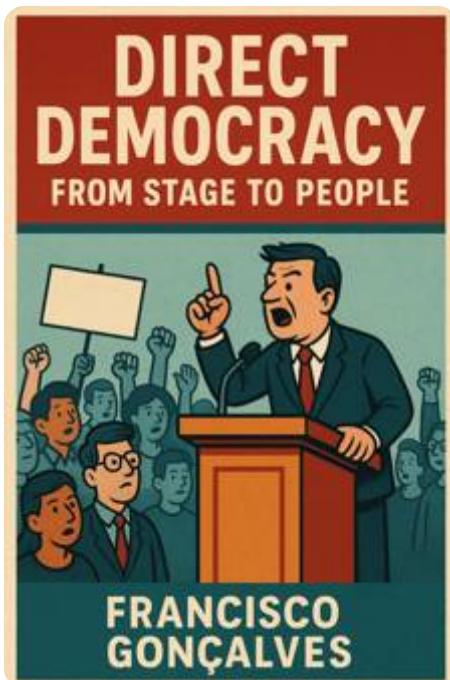
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Book Summary – Direct Democracy: From Stage to People

Publicado em 2025-04-05 20:22:11



Direct Democracy: From Stage to People is a satirical and thought-provoking journey through the absurd theatre of modern representative politics — and a bold call to bring power back to where it belongs: the people.

Francisco Gonçalves blends humour, civic poetry and biting critique to expose the cracks in traditional party systems, the emptiness of electoral promises, and the

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Through 15 vibrant chapters and a poetic epilogue, the reader is invited to explore:

- Why today's democracy feels more like a scripted show than true governance;
- How citizens can reclaim their role not just as voters, but as **co-authors of decisions**;
- What lessons we can draw from ancient Athens, Swiss referenda, and digital tools of the future;
- How memes, AI, and children's assemblies all have something to teach us about freedom.

It's a book that laughs — but never lets go of seriousness. That criticises — but also proposes. That dreams — but with a wrench in hand and instructions for assembly.

For those who believe democracy is more than casting a vote and waiting four years, this book is a spark. A guide. A reminder that the power of the people isn't an idea.

It's a **tool**, ready to be used.

Francisco Gonçalves

Credits for ChatGPT compiling, searching and creating the images (c)

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