

Dr. Wassil NOWICKY, Vienna, Austria

WHAT IS RUINING DEMOCRACY?

Power structures must be changed more often so that they do not become corrupt



In recent years Ukraine has had several real opportunities to free itself from a totally corrupt and criminal power and to set the country on the path of progress and democracy. And these opportunities have never been so real as in recent years.

The special feature of the current time is that not only the poorest in society have felt that one cannot live LIKE THIS but also those in society who belong among the category of the prosperous, i.e. the representatives of the middle and upper class who have their own businesses and money but who fear that they could lose their fortunes tomorrow on account of the prevailing system. The state, or the power that is associated with this concept and should serve as a guarantee of legality has in fact turned into a guarantee of illegality. As a result people have lost their right to work, education, health care, a life in conditions fit for human beings and even their right to freedom of expression. People have understood that the cause of this poverty is the power itself and not any objective reasons which it repeatedly invokes. One should also consider that Ukraine is a sufficiently educated country. It therefore does not matter that the authorities are attempting to manipulate people's awareness via the press and television –

there is a sufficiently large proportion of people who can understand the political information by giving it their own interpretation. It can therefore be stated without exaggeration that the whole of Ukraine is now expecting changes.

The president is quite often the protégé or the creature of a clique which, hiding behind his image, actually rules the country and, in critical situations, in order to save themselves and their money, is willing to betray their «patron» in order to hide themselves behind the new representative of the state so as to be able to carry on their work. This means the power does not ultimately have to change its form but rather its nature. It must be demanded that the government takes full responsibility under the law – as was done in Korea when the president was forced to appear in court. Irrespective of who is president and from which political grouping he came to power, it should be possible to make him legally accountable so that he could even be summoned to court for a traffic violation. (Incidentally, this is what happened to a member of the royal family in England.)

I am not sure whether there is any truth in the statement that the Ukrainian people would even vote for a donkey, so to speak. I remember 1991 when

memories of totalitarianism were still fresh and the spirit of freedom, the idea of the nation and the efforts to create a totally new state were overflowing in the minds of Ukrainians. At the time Ukraine had the chance for the first really democratic elections to be held. Afterwards the old skilled personnel unfortunately remained in power. For them democracy and human rights were concepts with which they had previously struggled professionally with all possible means. However, the results of this election were to a certain extent part of an objective process. Firstly, the West preferred not to regard Ukraine as an equal partner – for many of its «traders» it was far more profitable to have a kind of «banana republic» in hand where they could sell outmoded products and other remainders. An important role was also played by the fact that in the early 1990s in Ukraine no strong power had yet appeared which could resist the system of the time. International experience has shown that the continual presence of a power which can oppose the authorities on all levels is a reliable guarantor of democracy. Such a power did not exist back then. Does it exist today?

There are now dozens of political parties in Ukraine. And this situation

has been created intentionally so that voters cannot orientate themselves in the political environment. There is in fact one single powerful government party, a many-headed and many-named dragon, so to speak – and this party has been in power for more than two decades. The opposition parties are small but they still fight an unremitting war amongst themselves for predominance. And the many-headed «dragon» looks on attentively so that this struggle flares up with new vehemence and in the minds of Ukrainians the thought unconsciously takes root that Ukrainians are an inferior nation. It then turns out that there are officially dozens of parties but in fact that same faction remains in power. Such a power monopoly consciously goes on the offensive to prevent advancement through market reforms and an unimaginable evil is created under the name «corruption». The medicine against this «tumour» is well-known – a frequent change of government. It should be mentioned here that the Roman Empire was at its most powerful when power changed every two years in accordance with the law at the time.

The division of power into two factions of approximately the same strength (e.g. Conservative and Labour in Great Britain and Democrat and Republican in USA) is among the most frequent international practice for the effectiveness of a political system. However, even this model is not perfect because each party just waits its turn to come to power. The parties feel no competition and do not have to prove that it is their policies that are most conducive to the interests of the people. The ideal situation for Ukraine would be to have three political teams in the first division (to use football terminology) which would gradually develop into three parties. The first of them – elected by the people – would then be in power while the other two closely monitored its actions and would criticise even the slightest deviations from its electoral promises. Every three years the people would decide in a proper (and not manipulated) election which party's policies best served their interests. It should not be allowed that one party remains in power for longer than three years otherwise, as mentioned above, it sinks into corruption and largess. We now have a clear example of this in Ukraine.

I am in favour of parliamentary periods being precisely limited. The term «member of parliament» should not become a profession and should not be made up of those people who, on

account of their long involvement in the power structures, have become separated from the people and no longer understand that their work in parliament should be for the benefit of all citizens.

This means that it is not enough merely to change the physical face of power. Ukraine should seek and find a political model for itself in which no government and no political party could ignore the law or the principles of democracy. And we should begin thinking of that today.

What is ruining democracy?

The world does not exist under conditions of democracy but under conditions of democratic republics. The difference between a democracy and a democratic republic consists of the fact that in the framework of a real democracy the power is in the hands of all the people, while in democratic republics it is in the hands of a certain group of people. We see and feel this very clearly in our everyday lives.

The current organisation of political power which should, by legal means guarantee equality of opportunity and the development of every individual and the state, is not meeting the expectations of civil society.

The term «social constitutional state» was constitutionally defined and safeguarded at the end of the Second World War looking for new ways of economic and social development in which human rights and freedoms were a priority and the basis of national politics throughout the world.

The concept of «social constitutional state» at the time includes the concept of fighting all forms of suppression or limitation of human rights, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

The concept of the social constitutional state identified the transition to a new process of development within a state and the formation of a civil society as the basic elements of a democratic state intended to guarantee social justice and protection.

In a social constitutional state the law should be the supreme force, the basic principle and the basis for the stability of social life. The law cannot be replaced by any kind of executive orders – otherwise the law is worthless and serves only to deceive people.

The articles of the Ukrainian constitution are in accordance with the basic principles of legislation of almost all democratic countries.

In fact: Article 3: «The human being, his or her life and health, honour

and dignity, inviolability and security are recognised in Ukraine as the highest social value. Human rights and freedoms and their guarantees determine the essence and orientation of the activity of the State. The State is answerable to the individual for its activity. To affirm and ensure human rights and freedoms is the main duty of the State.»

Article 8: «In Ukraine, the principle of the rule of law is recognised and effective.»

Article 21: «All people are free and equal in their dignity and their rights. Human rights and freedoms are inalienable and inviolable.»

Article 22: «Constitutional rights and freedoms are guaranteed and shall not be abolished. The content and scope of existing rights and freedoms shall not be diminished in the adoption of new laws or in the amendment of laws that are in force.»

Article 24: «Citizens have equal constitutional rights and freedoms and are equal before the law. There shall be no privileges or restrictions based on race, colour of skin, political, religious and other beliefs, sex, ethnic and social origin, property status, place of residence, linguistic or other characteristics.»

Unfortunately the abuse, neglect and breach of the law on the part of civil servants and citizens is one of the most important social themes in discussions as well as one of the causes of corruption throughout the world.

The reason lies in human psychology. History has often confirmed and warned us: power changes people. Caligula, for example, after becoming Emperor, made his horse a citizen of Rome, and then made it a senator and later included it on a list of candidates for the office of consul.

The dishonourable behaviour of some of today's politicians can be explained in several ways. People who come to power are often those who have a «skeleton in the cupboard». And because in democratic republics the state is governed by a group of people such «candidates» can easily be manipulated. A certain role is also played in this by the subjective character traits of politicians: «Perhaps you don't know WHO I have now become?!»

The biographies and the behaviour of the Russian president Vladimir Putin and the former president of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich are a kind of confirmation of this.

Relatives of Russians live in Ukraine and in Russia live relatives of Ukrainians. There are also many mixed marriages between Russians and

Ukrainians and both peoples want to live in peace. In the meantime Vladimir Putin wants these two nations to clash and even produce a third world war in order to be able to reestablish the borders of the former Soviet Union. Today the Crimea, tomorrow Estonia, Georgia, Kazakstan and so on.

One involuntarily thinks of the imminent start of a third world war. Some young people appear in the Crimea with pro Russian slogans, all in the same factory-produced clothes. They shout, «We are Russians, the Crimea belongs to Russia.» It later emerged that they were disguised Russian soldiers.

It is well-known that Russian was the obligatory language throughout the Soviet Union in which a total of 16 republics were united. There are people of various nationalities in every modern state.

On 1 December 1991 a referendum was held in Ukraine to determine what future Ukrainians wanted. The results of this referendum showed that 95% of people of various nationalities who

were part of the Soviet Union at the time voted for their independence from Moscow. Russians and Russian politicians were shocked but due to this Ukraine obtained a secure basis for establishing independence.

Nowadays there is not a single country that is inhabited by representatives of a single nationality. Rather, according to Putin's logic, Berlin should become a Turkish city since there are more Turks in Berlin than in the Turkish capital Ankara. And there are more similar examples.

When people do not come to a country as tourists but in search of work and opportunities for a better life they should of course assimilate themselves and not demand annexation by the country they previously left.

For politicians it is often far more important to remain in power than to work for the benefit of the people. A good example of the absurd behaviour of some German politicians: to remain in power they called for dual citizenship for Turks (the reason being that more than 6 millions Turks live in

Germany) – while in the process forgetting the Iranians, Egyptians, Moroccans, Nigerians and people of other nationalities.

It does not enter the minds of such politicians that initiatives like this debase the human dignity of the Germans as the native population. In the case of war the Turks could return to Turkey and the Germans would have to risk their lives defending the independence of their country.

Ukraine is in place 144 on the world corruption list, which includes a total of 177 countries – and in last place in Europe. Ukraine is stably situated in a «risk group» alongside such countries as Cameroon, Iran, Nigeria, The Central African Republic and Papua New Guinea. However, there is the great danger of slipping lower down the list next year if the issue of the rule of law in the Ukrainian state is not dealt with. Corruption has now not only deluged those in power and the government but also justice, education and medicine.

The aim of this article is to direct the attention of society towards the necessity of eradicating the destructive illness called «corruption». Perhaps my thoughts can be helpful to those people who want to see Ukraine on the political world map as a legitimate, constitutional state.

It is known that the countries with the lowest levels of corruption are those with the highest standards of living. Most of these countries have no appreciable natural resources except human energy and self-sacrificing work. Human energy is the greatest social resource, more valuable than gold or money. It is the task of the state to exploit this resource correctly and organise the exchange of energy between citizens in the best possible way.

The freezing of human energy leads to the demoralisation of society, which is why every country should take care to provide appropriate jobs and proper employment for its citizens in order to avoid the damaging effects of unemployment.

A practical example: my neighbour came home annoyed and totally despondent. It turned out that staff had been laid off and my neighbour had been made redundant. For two months he felt too embarrassed and shy to sign on for unemployment benefit. But when circumstances forced him to have to swallow his pride he took the state benefits and decided to continue living on them. The fact of «doing nothing» demoralised my neighbour so much



that he even got the taste for it and no longer wanted to work.

Such examples have a direct connection to people who hold high state office for longer than three years. Around this time they move on to the next stage when their energy and enthusiasm have significantly diminished. And it is precisely during this time that a tendency towards corruption arises. Many people have such a tendency but it mostly affects those who have power over the distribution of resources which do not actually belong to them but which they administer. Abuse of power is inherent to everyone who is placed in authority. This does not mean that Ukrainian officials are less honest than Swedes or Danes. The problem is that the political-economic system of a corrupt country is totally defective.

The overthrow of the corrupt, dictatorial form of government of Viktor Yanukovich on 22 February 2014 showed that united Ukrainians can work well together and build their future in cooperation.

However, unfortunately today only a shift of elites has taken place while problems of the greatest importance remain which must be solved without delay. The criminal system of corruption and cronyism must be eliminated and inefficient bureaucracy removed to blaze a trail for professionals who have the interests of the country at heart.

450 members of parliament do nothing new, their energy is not properly used and activity is mostly limited to wasting money.

Each civil servant means five fewer jobs in the private sector. The private sector is a promising source of personnel for the state administration. Intelligent development of the private sector encourages healthy competition among talented professionals.

Enough has been written in the media and in books on modern history and economy about methods of combatting corruption and positive experiences in Sweden, Georgia and Singapore can be used as models.

Singapore is a country that conquered corruption within only around forty years. Lee Kuan Yew, who won the elections with his party and was elected to the post of prime minister, became a symbol of the fight against corruption. He created the following slogan: «If you want to fight corruption, you should be willing to ensnare your friends and relatives.»

One of the first tasks to occupy Lee Kuan Yew's team was to increase people's level of trust and respect for the state. The anti-corruption campaign consisted of the following elements: the

creation of a strong independent service for fighting corruption; the withdrawal of immunity for civil servants and their families; a ten-fold increase in fines for corrupt activity and in some cases even prison sentences; a radical increase in civil servants' salaries and the creation of independent, objective mass media which publicised the facts on corruption.

Within forty years his policy led to the small state of Singapore making a giant leap from being a third world country to a well developed industrial state with a high standard of living.

Each minister in the government requires a university education and a Ph.D in the field for which he is responsible.

Here is my own example. Austria was a country of love: thousands of people who escaped from communist regimes found refuge here and had the opportunity of travelling to the United States, Australia, Canada and other countries to begin a new life.

Soviet citizens imagined that the law was the greatest power and strength in the West. After arriving in the West I saw that the reality here is far from an idyll. Nowadays Austria is even called the «country of thieves» (<http://www.weltbild.at/3/16571806-1/buch/land-der-diebe.html>).

After a new Minister of Justice was elected in the Republic of Austria who wanted to convince her citizens of the benefits of lobbying, I asked her what lobbying and corruption have in common. She found no answer.

In answer to an appeal to help Austrian child cancer sufferers, at the end of March 2011 I wrote to the Austrian Minister of Health with the following proposal (<http://ukrin.com/docs/brief-bundesministerium-gesundheit-24.03.11.pdf>): either a monetary donation for child cancer patients or I would provide an anti-cancer preparation I had developed for 11 child cancer sufferers free of charge (around 200 children per year die of cancer in Austria). With this letter to the Minister of Health I enclosed case histories of young patients who had been diagnosed with various forms of cancer in Austrian hospitals and who had already exhausted all known forms of treatment without positive results (<http://www.ukrin.com/>).

In order to make it impossible for me to treat the child cancer patients all the available ampoules of my anti-cancer preparation UKRAIN were illegally confiscated. Subsequently my family and my company NOWICKY PHARMA were forced to endure great tyranny and illegality, infringement of inter-

nationally recognised basic rights and enormous disregard for human rights (<http://ukrin.com/en/node/289>).

On the basis of totally unfounded accusations from two civil servants at the Austrian Ministry of Health saying that UKRAIN had no effect, I was imprisoned for three months and my family was labelled a «criminal organisation». And all this could happen despite the fact that my anti-cancer preparation UKRAIN had been officially approved for clinical studies in Austria since 1993 (http://ukrin.com/docs/Arrouas_1993.pdf). Under Austrian law the civil servants responsible should have called upon the assistance of competent medical experts or at least have asked me to make a statement instead of being able to lock me up and call my family and my company a «criminal organisation».

This all happened because Austrian civil servants exist in an environment of corruption. Because the Austrian Minister of Health is not a specialist in the medical field (he does not even have a degree) he has allowed himself to be influenced by interested corrupt circles (and continues to do so).

The fact that the anti-cancer preparation UKRAIN is not registered in Austria is a terrible crime. Without having noticed, the Minister of Health has become an accomplice in the planned murder of cancer patients. I repeat, every government minister should have a university education and a Ph.D. in the field that he is to head – it would then be more difficult to manipulate him.

On close observation of the activities of those in power throughout the world one comes to the following conclusion: each person who is in power should not hold their post for more than three years.

And this is logical and obvious: during the first year the surroundings are explored, as a rule active work takes place in the second year and in the third year the disappearance of initiative and effective work for the general benefit of the people can be noticed along with the beginning of corrupt activity for personal benefit.

Even when somebody comes to power with ideal motives and achieves this with a revolutionary method, certain ideas in manifestos can often not be realised to their full extent.

People can be divided into two groups: destructive and creative personalities. Looking back on history it can be seen that destructive people make revolutions but when they come to power they are no improvement. Their aims turn into a destructive factor that finds no coordination in dialogue within

society and are therefore ineffective. It is always easier to destroy than to build.

How damaging it is to hold a post for more than three years can be seen from the example of Adolf Hitler. When I was held in a German concentration camp as a youngster, Hitler seemed to me to be worse than the devil. I could not understand why millions of Germans supported him.

Later I found an explanation for this phenomenon. Hitler was able to get the German economy back on its feet after its destruction as a result of the First World War. He conquered unemployment and increased the standard of living within only a few years. If the Nazi leader had left it at that he would have gone down in the history of his country as a politician of the highest level instead of as the greatest criminal in history.

But for him this was not enough. The aggressive plans and the raging desire for world domination of the German National Socialists brought about the Second World War which cost 55 million people their lives and destroyed 10,000 towns and villages and the achievements of Europe over a thousand years.

This could have been avoided if Hitler had been removed from power in time. He would then have gone down in world history as a positive figure and millions of people could have been saved. Instead of this the Nazi regime awoke a chauvinistic complex in German citizens and brought about the erosion of democratic institutions.

Today we have the chance to see almost the same development process exemplified by the Russian President Vladimir Putin. After the Russian occupation of the Crimea peninsula the international mass media began to compare the conduct of the Kremlin with the Nazi annexation of Austria in 1938 and Vladimir Putin with Adolf Hitler (completely justifiably). With his behaviour towards the Crimea and Ukraine Putin has turned himself into a modern Hitler. (Otto von Habsburg, one of the founders of the European Community commented upon this – <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/interview-mit-otto-von-habsburg-putin-ist-ein-eiskalter-technokrat-1.750949>)

It appears that the current President of the Russian Federation will never leave power voluntarily. Power over a huge territory and successful PR campaigns have contributed to Putin, who is judged to be the richest person in the world, turning the Russian people into a controlled horde that is turned by the hand of its dictator in the direction required by the lord of the Kremlin.

However, it has turned out that this is also not enough for him – now Putin wants to be the most powerful person in the world, irrespective of whether numerous people could shed their blood for such aims.

The Russians live in great fear of the Kremlin's dwarf (similar to the time of Josef Stalin) and fulfil the destructive wishes of their ruler with the respectful nickname of «Stasi» given to him by his St. Petersburg friends and colleagues. The reasons for such a situation in Russia today are completely natural and logical consequences of the activities of the dominant structure of corruption.

Why should members of parliament be elected for just three years?

A three-year term for members of parliament would make it impossible for certain interest groups to exploit them for their own interests, thereby preventing corruption.

With a three-year term for members of parliament (it is important that each person may only hold the post one single time in their lives) more people would take part in the running of the state, which would certainly mean better results in future, and talented people would have a good opportunity to give their best for the benefit of the state and the people.

During a three-year parliamentary period (the same term would apply to regional or local assemblies) there would be less damage caused by the administration.

Members of parliament would have great interest in passing laws with which society (and previous representatives after leaving office) could develop more effectively. It is well-known that legislators usually allow themselves to be guided by their personal preferences and interests in that they primarily promote their own companies and not the interests of the state.

Why should there be only three dominant parties? Why should each of them remain in power for only three years and why is a change of party necessary?

Article 6 of the Ukrainian constitution deals with the separation of power between legislature, executive and judiciary, which is one of the basic principles of constitutional order.

This firstly means that a certain degree of independence is stipulated for the individual authorities; secondly, their fields of competence are clearly divided and thirdly, each authority has an opportunity to express its opinion about a decision by another organ while

at the same time monitoring its conduct. The principle of the separation of power is supplemented by the system of checks and balances which provides the means for the various authorities to hold in check the conduct of the others and promotes a balance of powers.

In the meantime power within the state should remain integrated and united – all branches of government should therefore interact.

Power needs political parties just as political parties need power.

A political party is an organised group of citizens which represents the interests of various social strata by campaigning for political power within the state. The main aim of the political parties is the realisation of political power that is only possible with representation in the executive authorities.

In Ukraine political parties form the government but are not dominant in the upper house of parliament. In this way they exert influence on political decisions within the possibilities of the legislative institution.

For effective action on the political stage there should be no more than three government parties. There can be more smaller parties.

The way this system would work is as follows: one of the three parties is in power while the other two parties monitor their activities and compete with each other in the process. Under these conditions each party would follow aims for the benefit of the state and its citizens and not the benefit of some criminal organisations or oligarchs.

After three years the government party would go into opposition and one of the other two parties would be elected as the leading party.

A process of upgrading would take place on the basis of this rotation of political parties. And competition is the best way for further improvement and development.

We must understand that corruption is actually the cause of the impoverishment of the population and of the loss of democratic achievements. Legitimate legislation: the reduction of terms of power of state officials to three years and simultaneously high salaries for civil servants, which would be a positive influence on their conduct; open access to internal state documents; abolition of parliamentary immunity for members of parliament, publicity (including the mass media) and rigorous controls and severe penalties for the misuse of public funds – these are all among the priorities in order to break corrupt chains and to eliminate bribery of politicians and figures in public life.