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1. Abstract

The political system implemented today has its roots in the 16th century, and effectively emerged in the 18th century (1,2). Let that sink in, and you will soon realize how scary this reality is. If this doesn't worry you, take a moment to compare a day in the life of a person in 1789, when the first president was elected, to a day in the life of a person in a globalized 2017.

Is it rational that a system that originated almost one hundred years before the telephone still rules a world 230 years later, when you can connect to people with a click of a button (3)?

More than half of the world is governed by some sort of democracy, which is generally considered to provide the highest level of freedom (4). Yet while today's democracy is better than other political systems implemented throughout history, it is far from being the ultimate answer.

Donald Trump is currently the president of the United States. It is important to understand that Trump's largest support came from white Americans without a college degree (67%). Conversely, only 45% of college graduates and 37% of postgraduates voted for Trump (5,6).

A study of the exit polls showed that even when you control for

income, state, and political affiliations, education was still the factor that decided if a voter was for or against Trump (7). In other words, less educated citizens voted and decided who would lead their country for the coming four years.

As Winston Churchill said, “The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.” One could clearly surmise that Churchill wouldn’t have been thrilled about the Brexit referendum.

Considering the recent outcomes of democracy, these words seem to ring true. But in that case, what system should we revert to? We cannot go backward to dictatorship, so it would seem democracy is the best available option.

Perhaps we are not thinking outside of the box. Yes, the people should rule. Yes, the people should have freedoms. Yes, the people should vote. But should they all have the same vote? And do they still need representatives to vote on their behalf? Last time we checked, technology had progressed to the point where it facilitates quick, automatized communication worldwide.

Looking at the bigger picture, we can see that bloodshed has been an unfortunate reality before and after the spread of democracy. In fact,

there are at least fifteen wars taking place right now in 2017 (8). History has not proven that democracy is good; it has proven that dictatorships are destructive. For this reason, we have created our own version of democracy, which will be implemented in our hypothetical country: AweLand. Through AweLand, we will debate how a country should be governed.

The model is primarily based on two ideas. First, weighted democracy gives contributors to society a heavier vote than freeriders. Second, highly specialized contributing citizens get to propose solutions to issues affecting society, based on their areas of expertise. These individuals are called e-senators. As part of this initiative, proposals are accepted and rejected based on the people's vote, which gives the people an effective role in ruling, and not merely a representative one.

Both of these ideas are implemented using various forms of technology to keep up with the needs and benefit from the opportunities of our time. This will ensure a better functioning government than the one we have today.

Institutions, Tools, & Regulations

The government consists of a president and an e-senate composed of contributing citizens. The e-senate is self-regulating in a manner that will be further explained. However, in cases where conclusions and

decisions made by the e-senate need revision, the president has the authority to step in and make certain amendments.

Different tools will be used than those we currently have in place. A voting portal will be used to address, solve, and control national issues and their related projects; e-government systems will be used to optimize governmental processes; and various technologies will be used to increase trust and efficiency.

Decision-Making Paths & Control Mechanisms

Weighted Democracy

In today's democracy, everyone can vote. A PHD student who contributes with research and education, and who has a vast record in community service, has the same voting power as a voluntarily unemployed adult who has a record of petty crimes. Are these two individuals equally qualified to decide the future of a country? Are they equally capable of assessing a problem and its correct solutions? In AweLand, where education is free and job opportunities are almost guaranteed, people reap what they sow when it comes to their voting power. This system and the controversies surrounding it will be discussed further.

Voting Portal

In AweLand, there will be an online portal for proposing ideas and interacting with citizens. This portal is used by citizens to express the daily hardships they face. Citizens can interact with each other regarding these problems, and the posts that get the most interaction appear first on the community feed. The purpose of this algorithm is to shed light on posts that express problems faced by many community members, and thus require fast action. Through this platform, suggestions for improvements will be made, accepted/rejected, and implemented.

e-Government System

In AweLand, an e-government system will be created to promote a more efficient and effective government, facilitate more accessible government services, allow greater public access to information, and make government more accountable to citizens.

How Appointments Are Made

Election System

Elections throughout history have been often accused of illegitimacy, especially with the recent adoption of technology, as people have begun to fear the vulnerability of those systems. Using advanced

technologies, transparency will be guaranteed and citizens will have access to count votes themselves (10).

Advanced technologies (specifically blockchain), along with a weighted democracy, will create the optimal election system to ensure that the right people are appointed.

2. Description of the model

More on Weighted Democracy

Adopting a weighted democracy system is central to this discussion, and thus should be based on just criteria. These criteria should be accessible to any citizen upon their will, in order to avoid bias in the voting process.

First, every citizen will have one voting point by the grace of their existence; that's basic democracy right here. With this as a starting point, we will use units of one to count extra voting points (for the sake of simplicity in our explanation).

A citizen earns an extra point for a college degree or a professional certificate in a field. They earn an extra point for having a PhD, two extra points for continuous community service (assisting diverse groups with no bias to one's group), and an extra point for earning a salary exceeding the average income of the country. They lose a point for having a criminal record.

Three objections might arise in the reader's mind when reading this policy. First, it might seem that the elite (those who hold graduate degrees) are given more influence in the election process. This isn't true, as in AweLand you need not be fortunate to afford a college or

graduate degree, since education is 100% free for everyone.

Therefore, it makes sense to reward those who put in the extra effort to be more educated and specialized in their fields.

The second objection might be that the wealthy are given power, but this is not the case, either. The average salary used will exclude the few that earn significantly higher than the second highest group, and who, as a small percent of the population, push the average upward. The effect will be that anyone who works hard enough to earn the average attainable salary will earn an extra voting point, regardless if they earn \$70,000 (the presumptive average salary excluding outliers) or \$3,000,000 per year. This is used to reward ambitious individuals who make an effort to build better lives, as these individuals contribute to the advancement of society as a whole.

Third, the reader might ask why there are two extra points for continuous community service. In AweLand, we want to measure and reward social responsibility and empathy. We want those who care about their communities and work for the betterment of their fellow citizens as a group to have a higher voting power than those who focus solely on themselves and their families. This way, if there is a proposed project that would benefit an area that a person never visits, citizens will still vote for it as long it serves the global well-being of the community.

As a more concrete illustration, please see our first diagram of six sample citizens and their voting multipliers. We will go through the examples one by one, and compare them here.

First, there is the university professor who earned five points in our basic matrix. This is a citizen who is highly specialized in a field and is earning more than the country's adjusted average income. Had this university professor had community service on her profile, she would have earned a seven-point vote, and would then be a potential e-senator.

The next example is an elementary school teacher who doesn't have a PhD and doesn't earn more than the country's adjusted average income, but who has still managed to earn the same voting power as the university professor due to her continuous community service (which is highly recognized in our election system for its representation of social responsibility).

Third, we have the restaurant owner with an impressive four points. His successful business and community service lifted him to only one point less the highly specialized university professor. In other words, successful entrepreneurship and social responsibility made up for a lack of education.

Number four is a taxi driver who normally would've had only his basic

NUMBER FOUR IS A TAXI DRIVER WHO NORMALLY WOULD ONLY HAVE ONE citizenship point, but who managed to earn a three-point vote for servicing his community. (Please note that in our more advanced matrix, having a job would count for a fraction of a one-point vote, as it doesn't make sense for a taxi driver and a voluntarily unemployed citizen to have the same voting power, all else being equal).

Fifth, there is the car mechanic. Although this guy has a specialized skill, he earned less than the taxi driver, with a two-point vote.

Finally, we have the non-educated, voluntarily unemployed citizen who only has the one point based on his actual existence. It is worth mentioning that if this voluntarily unemployed person were caught stealing, he would have one point deducted for having a criminal record, and his total multiplier would become zero – no voting power.

What we are trying to do through this design is to reward good citizens – those who give back to their communities either by being specialists, or by directly volunteering and helping those in need. The complete matrix which will be designed with the programming language Ruby on Rails is out of the scope of this article, but we have included three more detailed criteria to illustrate other features that would be included in this model:

- An aging variable would be added to give more weight for roles that took place in the recent past. For example, a citizen who took part in gathering and distributing toys to kids in orphanages for the past two years will have more voting power, all else being equal, than a citizen who took part in the same activity ten years ago. The weight of the recent community service will be continuously reduced over time (if not renewed), just like the concept of depreciating assets in accounting. For this process, we need an algorithm derived from an exponential decay formula, where a constant causes the score to fall over time.

- We will make use of machine learning, and use deep learning (a subfield) to assess the voter's influence on his/her community based on historical data available on the voters (11). Some technologies, like recurrent neural network (RNN) with Python and Keras, can be used to train the model so we can predict the kind of impact the individual has. This can be used in the computation of voting power. The use of such technologies in deciding on citizens' voting power contributes to the objectivity of the model, as it eliminates human bias.

- The model categorizes the voters based on the source of their points, so that when a vote is needed on an issue surrounding a specific subject, the model makes sure the relevant citizens vote for the relevant subject. For example, if a similar referendum to Brexit happens in AweLand, the model allows economists, political

scientists, and other related professions more weight in the vote than butlers and rock stars.

Citizens of AweLand are required to complete a mandatory 12 years of education. In other words, all citizens must graduate from high school. Following high school, college education is free, and each college has the responsibility of providing one job per graduate. This education plan ensures that citizens are in control of their status in society, so that our weighted democracy isn't skewed toward people who happen to be more financially fortunate.

Trust the Election System

As Pierre Noizat explains, "Existing electronic systems all suffer from a serious flaw: they are proprietary. They are centralized by design, which means that there is a single supplier that controls the code base, the database, and the system outputs, and supplies the monitoring tools at the same time. The lack of an open source, independently verifiable output makes it difficult for such centralized systems to acquire the trustworthiness required by voters and election organizers"(12).

For this purpose, in Aweland, electronic elections (which will be the only form of elections) will be enhanced by using Blockchain.

According to blockbonds.io, "Blockchain is a distributed database that

maintains a continuously growing list of ordered records called blocks, with each block linked to the one preceding it" (13). Why did we decide to use this specific technology? The transparent and decentralized nature of the blockchain network enables the development of a non-refutable and unbreakable record of data, which guarantees transparency and trust.

Due to the transparency of this technology, it will be used to create the proposed election system. At the voter's request, they will vote online and follow their vote into the ballot box to ensure it was safely stored without being altered. Within this system, the voter submits the appropriate identifying information in order to have their identity verified by an identity verifier, which would be approved ahead of time by the organisation hosting the election. Once their identity is verified, the voter would be able to request their ballot, at which point they are issued their correct ballot type by the registrar (14).

The voter would then complete their ballot and securely submit their vote to the blockchain-based ballot box. To obtain proof of casting their ballot, the voter would have the option to print out a receipt. In addition, voters have the option to cast their votes early, and are allowed to amend their votes in the days leading up to the election.

The cool thing about blockchain is that, after the elections, voters have access to audit each ballot in the ballot box to confirm that the

vote totals being reported by the blockchain voting system are accurate (without revealing the identities of the voters). In addition, each voter can follow their own vote to the ballot box to ensure that their vote was cast as intended (14).

Given that voting takes place online, and can be done using any electronic device, more people will vote (which will make the system more representative of the people). It is also an option to make voting for presidential elections mandatory, since voting is done with a few clicks, and the Internet will be accessible and free to everyone. If a citizen doesn't approve of either candidate, they can vote with a blank ballot. This will help to indicate when a considerable portion of the voters are unsatisfied with the available candidates (which indicates that reform is needed).

The president's authority will be indirectly controlled by a two-year term that is potentially renewable if the president once again wins the majority of the vote. A two-year term is long enough for the president to showcase his direction in ruling, but short enough to prevent excessive damage in case the president is not doing the job as expected.

In AweLand, a sixteen-year total term (eight separate two-year terms) is allowed. The benefit of this rule is that good presidents can acquire

great experience and employ it to advance their country, as well as projects that take a long time to be finalized. In such a case, the experience of the president is utilized and rather than wasted when starting over with a new ruler that has to learn everything from scratch. Of course, this power has to be controlled, and this is done through elections every other year, when the people can remove the president from power in the case of unsatisfactory performance.

In addition, since our weighted democracy gives more votes to those who are better contributors to society, the decision of renewing the term of the president is mostly made by qualified individuals who are better able to judge the leader's qualities. Thus, we make sure that the president is rewarded or penalized appropriately.

Voting Portal in Depth

As mentioned previously, the voting portal will be used to address issues faced in the daily lives of citizens. People will be able to post their concerns and interact with each other.

To move to the next function of this voting portal, we need to first expand upon the concept of e-senators.

The system only appoints citizens with the highest positive influence on their community. For example, the citizens with the 200 highest

scores in the system would be chosen. (This number is an example, and would increase upon a sliding scale with the size of the country's population). These high influencers are given the role of senator, through which they can post proposals regarding needed projects and prominent issues that need to be addressed.

Each e-senator is given a fixed number of proposals per period to ensure that they are always using their influence wisely. Another factor that controls the senators' proposals is categorization according to the senator's areas of expertise, whereby each senator can only propose projects related to their area. In this way, we make sure the right issues are addressed by the right people.

Once proposals have been made, people will vote on them, and semi-annually the top 20% of approved projects will be adopted and promoted to the next level, where projects are appointed to the right entities for implementation.

Given this weighted democracy, the system is expected to select quality projects that are well distributed across geographical and topical areas. However, in the case of uneven distribution or budgetary issues, the president has the authority to make amendments within projects or reallocate funds to alternative highly supported projects. The president must of course make only reasonable amendments. For example, he is not allowed to give the

most funding to the least-approved project.

To increase interactivity between citizens, senators, and the government, senators who happen to have their projects accepted gain a certain fraction of a vote as a reward, and as a motivation to put forth their best effort.

Once a proposal is accepted and moves to the development queue (which can be viewed by the public), progress will be tracked publicly so people can get credit for their work. This also allows us to pinpoint problems in real time and solve them as they arise. Any delay can be traced to the root cause, and to the person/entity causing it. In this way, efficiency, time, and cost will not be compromised. This process also ensures that new laws or projects actually come to life, and don't not just stagnate as ink on paper for years, as is often the case in today's world.

While working on a proposal, if some urgent change is needed, a high-level overview of the changes will be added. The process of the Agile Methodology, which is a project management tool that embraces iterative and incremental practices, can help cut the cost dramatically (27). This has been proven efficient in software development, and can be applied when building proposals (16).

Notes:

- The registered user will be verified by providing some identification, as with the Airbnb verification process.

- The voting system is highly inspired by Slackoverflow. The site intended to be a sort of representative democracy. Moderator elections are an important part of that plan, but voting on questions and answers is the primary mechanism through which the community governs the site on a day to day basis. Every user with sufficient reputation can exercise their right to vote. Voting is so important that there is a variety of badges associated with different aspects of voting. We can use something very similar to the voting portal to assure interaction and efficiency between users and representatives.

- The proposal system is inspired by Github for handling pull requests (PR). Pull requests in Github website let users tell each others about changes and ideas. Once a pull request is opened, you can discuss and review the potential changes with collaborators and add follow-up commits before the changes are merged and accepted and then deployed. Other contributors can review the proposed changes, add review comments, contribute to the pull request discussion, and even add commits to the pull request. After all are happy with the proposed changes, it can be merged and deployed. This collaborative flow can be applied with our proposals mechanism in AvoLand

III AWE LAND.

Technologies:

For building the web portal, we will be using the Ruby on Rails framework for its productivity, so we can focus on the business side without worrying about the technical aspect.

Ionic will be used to build IOS/Android apps. The main reason for this is that it's a cross-platform technology and allows us write the same app once for multiple platforms without much cost. Relational database PostgreSQL will be used as the main database engine.

E-government in Action

According to the World Bank, "E-government refers to the use by government agencies of information technologies (such as wide area network, the Internet, and mobile computing) that have the ability to transform relations with citizens, businesses, and other arms of government" (9).

As mentioned earlier, in AweLand, we will have an e-government system that allows all governmental processes and requests to go through a systemized communication flow that eliminates manual

emails and bureaucracy in obtaining authorizations. Consequently, inefficiency is eliminated.

Another advantage of the e-government system is the protection of citizens' privacy by allowing only authorized government officials to have access to people's information, and only when it is relevant to their jobs in light of a required check. Let's see how this can be implemented in reality.

A RESTful-based web services is used in this case. The service will provide data as response (JSON or XML). For example, consider a government official that needs to know whether a citizen with ID=X has been convicted. The response is true/false. If, instead, a government official needs to know the address of a company with identifier=X, the response would be an address. This type of service can be used via standard protocol, so that the user doesn't actually care about where exactly the data is located. Again, this increases efficiency.

- Each request for citizens' or businesses' information is logged, and the respective entity is notified. That way, no government official can secretly spy on citizens by requesting their data from other administrations. In other words, it is easy for the government to access information about citizens that they have already provided to it, but citizens always know when this happens. Thus, inappropriate

checks on citizens can be detected as early as possible.

- As a security measure, only approved consumers can see a given data type (e.g., not everyone in the government can see your medical record).

- Everything is encrypted and digitally signed, and the government has its own certification authority (CA).

- A base SDK in popular programming languages is to be provided together with the implementation of the central infrastructure, so that many service providers (individuals and companies) will be able to build more solutions based on the data provided by the government.

- When building the RESTful API, we need to make sure the API performs well, and that it's consistent, as many clients will be using it. For this reason, I'll be using the Phoenix framework. This is a productive framework for building RESTful APIs that uses concurrency, which makes it extremely fast and scalable (exactly what is needed, in our case).

- We will be using Amazon Web Service (AWS) infrastructure to host our code, and RDS to host our PostgreSQL database.

Revolutionizing Foreign Affairs

AweLand will be a proud member of various global assemblies. In general, AweLand will favor more modern and progressive countries, but it will not exercise moral superiority on any subject or pretend to know what's best for everyone everywhere. As such, it will have a strict rule of no military intervention anywhere in the world.

However, it will automatically blacklist countries that discriminate against people based on race or religion.

Having said that, how will AweLand revolutionize global relations?

Well, not all countries are democracies, and it is unreasonable to require those countries to adopt our model. These countries need not adopt a democracy or a weighted democracy as a political system, but they can adopt our tools if they so desire.

If all countries have a portal for a community feed where citizens can post the problems they face in their communities, it will be possible to assess the major challenges most commonly faced around the world.

This is done by using the previously described algorithm that assess challenges on the local level. These countries can choose to implement the concept of e-senators without granting those citizens decision-making power in the government. This would still be useful to generate ideas by specialists on how to solve certain problems, which the government could later decide whether or not to consider

which the government could later decide whether or not to consider.

In essence, this would serve as a consultancy service by citizens to the government.

So how will the global implementation of a portal with a community feed benefit the world? With people all over the world recording their problems, and e-senators globally developing proposals for solving prominent issues, there will be a database describing how similar challenges were resolved around the world. This will create a standard reference for governments on how to address the local obstacles in their communities.

Moreover, this will lead to greater global cooperation. First, on the level of e-senators, there can be a local and a global tab where e-senators can present their proposals to problems faced around the world (if those problems relate to their areas of specialty). Global proposals would not be voted on, of course, as this would just be a form of assistance. Second, having a system decide that a problem is widely spread around the world will trigger presidents and leaders to unite their efforts in order to reach a resolution.

Current and Global Challenges

- [Financial crisis and bitcoins:](#)

The world is always at risk of another economic recession or financial crisis. With the globalization and interdependent economies around the world, the effect of a recession in a major country will have a ripple effect on everyone else.

In AweLand, however, the risk of a new financial crisis will be negligible at worst, due to the adaptation of a blockchain in our system. We will start with central banks.

One of the main functions of a central bank is managing the country's monetary policy, which involves controlling interest rates and the money supply. Usually, central banks decide to cut interest rates or raise them based on predictions. If interest rates are cut, the central bank will have to rely on indicators that this cut will increase spending and lending, which will ostensibly boost the economy (17).

However, if the currency is represented on a blockchain system, the central bank can observe, in real time, how a cut was affecting the economy. They can tell how people and financial institutions respond with their spending and lending behavior, and can either amend or maintain their monetary strategy accordingly. The result is a monetary policy better managed on the spot instead of waiting to know if the strategy has worked or failed (which will only allow retroactive action if damage was done) (17).

Moreover, if blockchain is implemented and the currency is represented in this system, the central bank will be able to observe the level of risk taken by banks and financial institutions (the central bank will have authority to observe general risks taken by the banks without necessarily compromising privacy). There will be no need for time consumption and resource gathering in order to check on the health of the financial system (shadow banks, liquidity crunches, or inappropriate risk, for example) so that the central bank to do its job. Information will be available, and the big picture will be easily presented, which will enable the central bank to do a better job (17).

From a bank's perspective, it will be better able to assess a borrower's ability to pay. The payment history of each individual or entity will be recorded on blockchain (information accessible by permission of the borrower), and the bank can come up with a more accurate prediction than what is possible today.

When we talk about blockchain, we have to mention bitcoin. Bitcoin is a digital currency currently traded as an asset, and is accepted as a method of payment by many major businesses.

The bitcoin system will be of great use in AweLand's economy. This currency, which is developed through blockchain, will have all the data encrypted in it (from the time it was created) (18). This means that every unit of bitcoin has its whole transaction history recorded in

it. This is similar to writing on a dollar bill who gave you the bill, and to whom you gave it when you bought goods with it, except that every person who ever used the bill is doing the same thing. Having this information recorded, the system will be better enabled to track risk and trouble, and take the necessary action.

You may have noticed that we have mentioned blockchain repeatedly in our model. That is because blockchain is bound to change the world. And Japan is one of the first countries to realize its importance. In February 2017, it hit the news that Japan is passing legislation to regulate bitcoin and accept it as a conventional currency. After realising the success and potential of bitcoin and blockchain, other countries will follow suit (19).

For a clearer demonstration of how blockchain works, please refer to our second attached diagram, "Why is blockchain so secure."

- Religious Extremism

As Faruk Ates stated, "The problem with some religions is that they were used for centuries to govern people, and thus the religious organization itself started gaining power and control over people. This created a breed of people within those religions obsessed with that power and control over others, and it has skewed them to varying degrees further in the direction of making a religion absolute and

degrees further in the direction of making a religion absolute and decreeing. Ironically, such efforts are largely in direct conflict with what the original intent of the respective religion was" (20).

In general, public practice of religion will be banned in AweLand, although personal, at-home practice would still be allowed. There would be no government-sanctioned sponsorship of religious bodies of any kind. Also, religious institutions would not be allowed to register as charities or volunteer organizations. These policies are intended to limit religious control and the development of religious extremism.

The long-term strategy used to fight religious extremism worldwide would be simply not fighting it. Putting ourselves opposite radicals as their enemies only radicalizes them further and helps them recruit more people into their movements. Instead, we will use our whole AweLand model to improve the living standards of people and provide them with education, jobs, hobbies, interests, and a quality standard of life. We will give them something to live for, and a lot to lose, so that joining those radical movements that market their causes by playing the role of the victim will look less and less appealing. A real-life example of this is the UAE. According to a study published by Telegraph, UAE has only contributed fifteen Isis fighters, despite having a total population of nine million (21).

- Climate change and fusion:

As has been thoroughly explained, the voting portal tool implemented worldwide, where global challenges can be pointed out and suggestions for solutions proposed, will help solve issues like climate change. How? This tool will demonstrate best practices used around the world. Of course, the plans we have for AweLand will definitely top the best practices list for alternative energy sources to reduce climate change.

There are lots of alternative energy resources available.

Fusion energy is what is going to be used in AweLand. It may not be renewable energy, but it is still a power source for our future. Fusion is produced when hydrogen reaches a temperature in excess of 100 million degrees Celsius. At that point, the hydrogen is contained in a high-powered magnetic confinement system where positively charged hydrogen atoms, stripped of their electrons, fuse to form helium. This fusion produces energy (22). An international research team is working on the design, and will possibly open the first fusion power plant by 2027 (23).

Another alternative would be a super-charged wind-solar hybrid. Plans are already in place to build a massive 2,235-foot-tall tower in the Arizona desert that would produce clean energy (24).

General Concerns

The model we propose will generally help reduce the intensity of local and global crises. Today, politicians make the decisions that govern our world. But very often they are not environmental scientists, software developers, accountants, practicing civil engineers, or any other specialists that are equipped to make these decisions.

In AweLand, technicians and people of specialized expertise will tackle our problems. Each e-senator has the authority propose solutions to issues that fall into their area of education or skills, and by definition an e-senator will be a highly qualified technician or expert with a very high sense of social responsibility.

Global warming needs environmental scientists to be in positions of authority, not politicians. Financial crises need economists and accountants, and traffic issues need civil engineers.

What is most important is that these people are contributors to society and ethical citizens proposing improvements from behind the scenes, for the sake of their community and without any political motives.

No hidden motives to protect corporate interests or attempts at being

re-elected will have any role in the decision-making process.

Moreover, we will not need international forums to agree that a problem exists, and to find and agree upon the suitable solution, as everything will be documented and confirmed on the community feed within the voting portal.

The global community feed, which is a combination of all the local feeds, will automatically conclude which problems are being faced on a global level, and will take note of best practices or proposals been used in local communities that can help in solving the same problem being faced elsewhere. This system keeps up with globalization, with the help of technology and the power of the people.

Suggestions from the Authors

Now that we have covered the fundamentals of AweLand, it is time to go over some random suggestions for our not-so-typical country.

Through this section, you will be able to see the essence of how life exists within our borders. It is needless to say that all the below suggestions need to be posted on the voting portal and approved by our beloved citizens :).

- 1) Prostitution would be legal, with mandated taxes and health care benefits.

- 2) Same sex marriage would be allowed.
- 3) Internet would be free! There would be no supervision or regulation of any kind.
- 4) Domestic housekeeping would be considered a full-time job, with all its benefits.
- 5) Trades with apprenticeships would be recognized as a valid alternative to formal education. Udacity and other certificates would also be recognized.
- 6) Real-life education would be added to the school curriculum (e.g., banking education needed for adult life).
- 7) Citizens would have two types of holidays: generic and personalized. Generic holidays are like Independence Day celebrations or New Year's Eve, while personalized holidays will be custom-made for every employee. For example, a personalized holiday could be the date when your favorite show air (ours would be "Planet Earth" and "South Park"). In this way, we would make the process more productive and fun.
- 8) For children, subjects like classic literature would be replaced with

more fun books like "Lord of the Rings" and "Harry Potter."

9) People would not be allowed to vote, drive, or drink before the age of 21.

10) Retirement age would be 60, but people would be allowed to continue working after that age if they so desire.

11) There would be mandatory volunteering for children, like helping elderly three hours a month or so.

12) People would be granted a parenting license after proving they can raise children. Tests would be based on a few simple factors, including basic intelligence, education, criminal past, profession, etc. If a couple had an unplanned pregnancy, they would undergo this test, and must go to a parenting rehab if they do not meet the minimum score threshold.

13) Abortion would be free, and maternity leave would be two years.

14) There would be a mandatory break for yoga or football at the workplace.

15) Autonomous driving would be the main medium of transportation in AweLand. Currently, 81% of car crashes are a result of human

error. Computers would take a lot of danger out of the equation, and human driving would be highly taxed in AweLand.

16) Selling drugs and alcohol to minors would be a capital offense.

This is just a random selection of ideas. I'm sure our e-senators will do a way better job!

3. Motivation

Core Values

Giving people who make greater contributions to society more voting power will produce elected officials that are more devoted to the greater good of society and the world, and vice versa. For example, a racist will respond well to a candidate who uses hate language, and might end up voting for this candidate. The biases of this racist might bring a racist into power, and this will deteriorate living conditions for minorities in the community, and lead to more citizens adopting this hateful mindset. In this situation, giving equal votes to everyone does the opposite of contributing to the greater good of the nation. Are you wondering if this example could actually happen in real life? We think it just did.

A major controversy surrounding weighted democracy system is the notion of giving people unequal votes, and thus implying that human beings are not equal. While human beings are equal in value and rights, we believe they are not equal with their contributions and influence.

To illustrate this, consider a founder of an NGO against drinking and driving, an extremely wealthy citizen who never lifted a finger to help his/her community, and a college dropout who attempted to rob a

shop last year. All three will get free health care; this is due to their equal worth as humans. However, these three citizens have made unequal contributions to society, and shown unequal compassion and concern toward their fellow citizens and community members. Consequently, these three individuals are not equally qualified to decide what is best for their country, and thus should not have the same voting power.

Furthermore, none of the factors upon which the voting power is founded are related to pre-birth conditions. They have nothing to do with what you're born as, or which social class you belong to. It is only what you make out of yourself. Hence, anyone can grow into a powerful voter, and anyone can grow into a one-point voter, regardless of where they come from. That is human equality with responsibility, because citizens have rights and duties.

In AweLand, good and hard working people will get extra voting points. While most governments penalize offenders, they do not typically reward good citizens. As much as we would like to believe that human beings will fulfill their moral duties and are innately motivated to do the right thing for the sake of it, history shows otherwise. Therefore, adopting the strategy of rewarding good citizens for their efforts works for the betterment of the community for all citizens, with all kinds of voting powers.

The system serves one-point voters without them being aware of the fact, as people often do not have a clear understanding of what is best for them. A hardcore Republican in the United States will most probably vote against Obamacare just because it has the name Obama attached to it, even if there is no replacement for his free health care program. If enough voters chose this path, Obamacare would be repealed, citizens would lose their health care, and they would get sick and struggle to afford treatment.

Finally, the spectrum of politics will be based on logic rather than breeding, and will rule out the quantity-over-quality politics that dominate our world today.

On a separate note, In AweLand, all citizens and residents will have very strong loyalty and a sense of belonging to this Land. As a first step to accomplish this patriotism, we will make sure AweLand has some powerful and flashy symbols. Why the emphasis on symbols? As K.R. Minogue said in his book “Nationalism” (1967):

“Flags and anthems can be used to create members of a nation by developing new habits and emotions; the Star-Spangled Banner (U.S. flag) with its stars increasing as a new state joined the Union was an important symbol of America for the millions of immigrants to the United States.”

Symbols remind people that they belong to a group, to a land, and to a nation. The social psychology of the individual engages with national symbols and anthems to create a sense of national consciousness, pride toward national culture, and loyalty toward national political interests.

One of the main symbols that is relevant in this section is AweLand's motto, which is Thomas Paine's quote: "My country is the world, and my religion is to do good." This motto doesn't focus inwards, but actually sets out a solid mission for the country, and reaches outwards to all mankind.

Decision-Making Capacity & Effectiveness

The tools and processes in AweLand are focused on paving the way for fast decision making and effective implementation. The voting portal platform outlines the prominent challenges that need to be addressed through a combination of the people's voice and an advanced algorithm.

The decision regarding which issues need to be addressed isn't bandied back and forth by politicians sitting at a round table discussing what is best for the people. The people decide what is best for them, and their decision is valid due to a weighted democracy that

gives thinkers (who are a combination of all the social classes) a bigger say on what should be improved in the country.

Decisions about a new health care bill or reversal of gun ownership is never hindered by the political motives or personal benefits of biased individuals. Instead, decisions are just made based on facts and numbers, and will only require a final revision by the president. The president carries out his elected vision without needing the approval of another couple hundred representatives, since the people have already voted and will vote again after a two-year term.

In addition to the voting portal, the development queue system will make sure that projects and decisions see the light of day. Projects are on the system for every citizen to follow, progress is observed, and delayed steps are easily traced to the entity causing the delay.

This will end hidden politics, and everything will be in the open for the people to see. In addition to that, the agile process will help make fast decisions when changes in the projects are needed, thus ensuring increased efficiency and effectiveness.

Furthermore, having an e-government system that makes functions among different entities automatic and systematized, without the obstacle of bureaucracy and protocol, enables the administration to carry out its operations effectively by providing platforms that don't

compromise efficiency.

Resources and Financing

A progressive taxing system will be implemented. The additional tax per higher salary range is applied only on the marginal increase in salary. For example, if a 15% tax is applicable for salaries between \$36,000 and \$48,000, and a 20% tax is applicable for salaries between \$48,000 and \$60,000, a person earning \$55,000 will pay 20% tax on the top \$7,000, 15% on the \$12,000 in between the \$36,000-\$48,000 range, and a lower % that is applied on the first \$36,000.

This strategy ensures that those who are more capable of contributing to the well-being of the nation do so, while not completely stripping them of the reward for their hard work and success.

One might argue here that even this additional tax on the higher salary range might push citizens to feel less need to work hard, since a higher portion of their extra income would be taxed. In AweLand, schools will have a curriculum and programs implemented to discover and nourish each student's unique talents, and direct these students to the fields that suit their hobbies and talents. Even if such talents are not part of the original school curriculum, students will still get the direction and training needed. How is this related to finance?

When we have generations of students who are well aware of what they can do best, and who have received the training to develop their skills in what they enjoy doing, we end up with a labor force that has the drive to keep working and move forward not just to earn more money, but to have a higher sense of self-fulfillment.

Additional income will be the result of a desire to succeed, instead of the other way around. This strategy helps eliminate the lack of motivation in career development due to additional taxation.

In regards to human resources, the country will permit professional and skilled workers to immigrate. Foreign investment in real estate and high-tech industry will be encouraged, but economic laws will be enforced. The core human resource, however, will be AweLand's education. High school education (or equivalent degrees) is mandatory, and college education is free. Schools cater to students' talents, resulting in a labor force made up of specialized, passionate workers ready to excel.

AweLand will take it up a notch when it comes to the economy. We are aware that a resource-based economy is the next phase in our economic system, once the current monetary system collapses. If you are not familiar with this term, please see the brief explanation below, as taken from The Venus Project:

"In a Resource Based Economy all goods and services are available to all people without the need for means of exchange such as money, credits, barter or any other means. For this to be achieved all resources must be declared as the common heritage of all Earth's inhabitants. Equipped with the latest scientific and technological marvels mankind could reach extremely high productivity levels and create abundance of resources." (25)

A huge leap in thought is required in order to guarantee a smooth transition to this new resource-based society (26). Therefore, we will make teaching resource-based economy (RBE) a mandatory subject in the school curriculum, which will prepare coming generations to accept this new form of economy. This strategy ensures that people will be ready to adapt to an RBE when this transitory phase from our monetary system to the next is needed.

Trust and Insight

In AweLand, the whole government database is accessible by every citizen, election results can be audited by every voter, and the advanced technology guarantees that the system is solid and cannot be hacked.

In today's world, the citizen has to trust the administration. In

A new world citizen can doubt the system that the new world citizen can

AWEland, citizens don't have to trust; they can check for themselves. This is due to the transparency attained through blockchain, the distributed database, and other regulations discussed that involve all citizens in the decision-making process and its implementation.

The voice of the citizens is heard on the community feed. Citizens are not worried that their representatives will keep their promises and carry their voice to the Senate or the House. Moreover, e-senators are simply extremely qualified citizens with integrity, and not politicians. The result is that citizens make the proposals, and citizens vote on the proposals.

Even though the president has a final say, our model produces a virtuous president that is assessed every other year by the public. The frustration that has been widely experienced in both democratic and non-democratic societies is eliminated when citizens hold such organized power. Corrupt politicians that fail their people while governing on their behalf is a thing of the past, and the result is a nation blessed with the trust and satisfaction of its people.

Flexibility

Flexibility to remodel the current system and regulations is essential so that governance remains up-to-date with the present circumstances and challenges. In today's most developed

democracies, the adopted procedures hinder the potential improvement and updating of laws and regulations due to complicated processes with lots of inefficient veto powers often used against the good of the people.

In AweLand, whenever an e-senator believes that a law or regulation should be amended, added, or eliminated, they can suggest that as one of their proposals. This proposal, as usual, would be subject to a vote.

In the case of a tight vote on such a proposal concerning a major law (winning with a 1% to 5% margin, or thereabouts), the president can make the final judgment. Otherwise, the weighted vote of the people decides whether or not the proposal becomes law. All laws in AweLand are amendable through this self-regulating model of e-senators and the weighted vote, except for free education (which acts as the foundation of the equal opportunities presented to all citizens, and gives them the chance to become heavy voters and e-senators). However, it is noteworthy to mention that even if free education is exposed to amendment, it is most likely that the institution would prevail, as the system is designed to only produce what is best for society.

Protections Against the Abuse of Power & Accountability

Accountability and protections against the abuse of power are interrelated in AweLand, and are depicted on two levels. First, abuse is eliminated through the e-senate and the systematized decision process that leaves no room for human greed and bias.

Within this model, no human has real power through which he can abuse his position. Moreover, with the voting portal, issues from all areas of the nation are addressed and gain visibility according to their importance. Likewise, proposals cover all geographic areas of the nation.

No district is left out, and no single person can stand in the way of a voted project except for the president, which brings us to our next point. Protection against the president's power and a guarantee that the president is held accountable are accomplished through the people, who can end his term two years after inauguration, during the next election cycle.

It is noteworthy to mention that the president can make amendments to voted projects, but he can't propose projects himself, which is another form of protection against abuse of power.

Finally, in regards to accountability, when projects are voted in for implementation, progress is observed by the public, so related entities are held accountable for doing their jobs as assigned. This public

accountability acts as a barrier to the potential abuse of power.

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Tags

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