

The Globalist Manifesto

by Mario Kaiser

I love science fiction. I always dreamed and fantasized about the future. Not only with the boyish excitement about spaceships and aliens, but also and especially with the teenager's aching sense of justice in face of a broken world.

I am mostly not a teenager not anymore, but our world is still broken and I am still in pain about it. I am dreaming of a mending world we humans build together for our shared future, to overcome our primal past instead of exploiting it in each other for individual gain.

What follows is a brief rant about the present, a keen dream about a better future and a simple way for us to start turning one into the other.

We do not have to hit the iceberg

The way we run our world is not sustainable. Not only the climate is on the verge of breaking down – our societies are, too. I have watched neoliberalism disintegrate the fabric of society over decades. Populism and fascism are hailed as the answer, but as a German aware of history I know they are not.

But I do not think the world is ending: it is just changing. I firmly believe that an infinitely better world is possible and that the path to it does not necessarily lead through chaos and destruction. I want you to imagine that better world. We can all see the iceberg we are headed towards; what I want you to show you is a way around and beyond.

Why me?

At university I dabbled in philosophy and only thought about a better world. As a programmer I solved many problems for

many people, but did not improve the world one bit (pun intended). As a game developer I designed complex, interactive systems that which did not improve the world but provided an escape from it.

But ultimately, a better world is what I am most passionate about. I have been thinking about it for as long as I can think. And through the years and the different lenses of the philosopher, the programmer and last but not least, the game developer, I feel I have a unique perspective on things, which I am excited to share with you.

Why you?

You deserve to live in a world where you do not have to worry about hunger or wars. You deserve to imagine a better future instead of imagining how you would furnish your bunker to live out the end days shut off from the rest of the world. You deserve to live in a world which needs no bunkers.

But a better future on this planet does not work without you. Left or right, young or old, black or white or anything in between: you must be a part of it. We have to learn again to focus on the things we have in common instead of only seeing our differences.

So no matter who you are, this is for you. We are all humans. We want the same things. We all want good food. Our health being taken care of. Roofs over our heads. Well-paid work that we find engaging. We want relationships, friends, lovers, partners. We want to be safe from harm. We want to have nice things. We want to learn, to grow. This is not rocket science. This is possible. Not just for some, but for everyone on this planet. We just have to imagine that world, and then build it. And it does not work without you. But before we go on to solutions, let us have a look at the problems.

Sorry, not sorry

If you are a rich or a politician, you might take offense at some of the following. I apologize in advance for the sweeping generalizations employed below; not every player in this game is a cheater – but as long as this game allows cheating, it is fundamentally broken and needs to be fixed. So if some of my following words rub you the wrong way, please keep in mind I am hating the game, not the player.

We built a machine that hates us

I love playing and making video games because I love worlds that make sense. I dream of other worlds because I can and because it is fun. And of course because the one I live in is so unnecessarily and humanly fucked up.

We humans are amazing in so many ways. Just a couple of thousand years ago we were bashing in each other's heads with

sticks and stones, but here we are now, civilized, and doing most of our headbashing from a safe distance with guns. No but seriously: we have come a long way. We are reaching for the final frontier, chipping away at the final jump off the planet. We're creating mechanical beings and algorithms able to digest and regurgitate the entirety of human knowledge, always getting a bit closer to creating artificial life far superior to our own.

We might actually stand a chance at these transcendental achievements if we were not so incredibly wasteful with our own potential. That we even got as far as we did is miraculous. We waste an absolutely incredible amount of our resources as a species exploiting each other for pointless individual gain.

The bottom ones being fucked over time and time again happily applaud the ones at the top, because very soon of course they shall ascend from their drudgery and join the one percent doing

the fucking. At least that is what the raucous propaganda is pushing, along with our most primal buttons, keeping us all oscillating between misdirected rage at and fear of one another.

And the worst of it all: there is no them and there is no we. You might consider yourself a part of the 99 per cent, finding comfort in the accusation of others and your own portrayal as a poor victim of oppression and exploitation. But alas we are all doing our part to keep this terrible machine running, if only with our silent permission.

We have built a system which abuses our weaknesses to feed our insatiable greed. We have become a cancer to our planet, whose immune response will probably wipe out most of our civilization before we manage to ourselves.

What we say and what we do

The political system I grew up in is called "democracy". I do not think it deserves that name. It might meet some very minimal definition, but crossing a circle every couple years does not constitute a democracy.

The power is in the hands of the people, but constantly on sale and said "democracy" does not even try to hide the fact. Most people only have their voices, some have newspapers. Most people only vote for politicians, some buy them lunches and give them lucrative side gigs.

The judicial system that comes with it has the same corrupt inequality baked right into it. If you are rich, you can afford the best lawyers, embezzle your nation's tax money and walk away with a slap on the wrist while the poor get incarcerated over minor offenses.

The sad thing is: we got the values and principles right; we are just exceedingly bad at thinking them through to the end and at implementing systems which uphold these values instead of eroding them.

As a human being currently raising another human being I am painfully aware that there sometimes is a huge divide between what we say and what we do. In case of our lofty values and our broken system, the two could not be much further apart. That is why I do not think our current democracies deserve the name. They are oligarchies with half-assed democratic window dressing. The French Revolution got rid of kings and replaced them with rich people. And since then, not much has changed.

We have a money problem

Just as our political system, our economic system is based on some good values, but the systems in place to uphold these

values were lacking to begin with and have since been eroded to the point where people rightfully describe our economic system as late stage capitalism, as if it were a cancer which has all but killed its host.

From where we stand it is not very hard to imagine one giant corporation owning our entire planet. Diehard capitalists will never tire of proclaiming that we need competition to do anything efficiently and yet they fail to acknowledge that the most successful players in the game are the ones that eliminate all competition; the end game of capitalism is for one person to own the world. By definition, capitalism is not for the good of the many, it is at best for the good of the fittest, the ones who competed and won. The winners will jovially encourage the paupers to also try, because of course everything is possible in capitalism! If you do not succeed, it must be your own fault, because you poor sucker did not compete hard enough.

What they fail to mention is that not everyone gets the same chances. Some are born into immense wealth and never even have to compete, while others toil and struggle all their life just to die in poverty.

The ideals of capitalism are window dressing for the oligarchies we are living in, where the vast majority of people in rags will never see riches. The capitalist cake is a lie meant to keep the toiling masses docile with futile hope. The propaganda makes it look like a nice warm blanket, but it is addled with tons of little weights that keep the paupers in their place and prevent the upward mobility the propaganda is pushing in the first place. We abolished slavery long ago, but we are still far from free.

We are better than them

All of this only works in a world which overvalues the individual. I deserve everything, I am better than everyone, if something is wrong it is their fault, not mine. We extend not our

hands to our brethren, we extend our elbows. This mindset does not exactly foster collaboration. It severely limits our potential, and not only on the individual level, but very much on a global level, too. The amount of energy we waste trying to get the edge over one another is absolutely mindboggling.

We do not have to fight petty wars over beliefs or resources, we choose to. And the sad thing is that we do not see, not even dare to imagine how much better life could be for every single human on this planet if we pooled our resources and used them cleverly for everyone's benefit. We could be eradicating diseases instead of peoples. Instead of fighting each other, we could be fighting the life-threatening legacy of our economic growth. Instead of trying to restore nations to yesterday's glory with an iron fist, we could unite all of humanity and leave nations to history, where they belong.

We are not all fascists, just out of ideas

For as long as I can remember the political landscape in western countries has been oscillating between conservatism and neoliberalism, as if these were two opposite sides of a spectrum and the only choices we really have. After decades of deregulation and giving things to the invisible hand of the market we are beginning to realize that invisible hand is constantly jerking off instead of fixing anything.

But if neoliberalism was supposed to be the progressive side of things, how can you blame the masses for believing the populists and seeing fascism as the only way out of this mess? There is no vision for a better future that people could subscribe to! The progressives of the world are stuck in complicit, complacent arrogance and continuously fail to come up with a vision that captivates people and creates emphatic support for the big changes necessary to make a better world happen. The

populists claim to have simple solutions, but I do not think that is the reason for their success; it rests on the fact that there are no other competitive solutions being offered besides badly maintaining the status quo.

Instead of a vision we got decades worth of empty promises and useless campaigning that did not save anything but their big donor's tax money or their next election. Between corruption, incompetence and inaction many people have lost all trust in the system; they are so unhappy that they would rather see fascists burn it all down.

Would we allow for that to happen, we would inevitably destroy many good things. Destroying things is all too human, but not our only option. We can carefully disassemble the the terrible machine we built and create a new way to run things that slowly but steadily replaces it. A way to run things that unites humanity instead of dividing it. A way to run things that brings

out the best of us, not the worst. A shortcut to our species' evolution into a symbiotic organism that nurtures life instead of a virus that destroys everything in its path, including itself.

So let's get started, shall we?

In the beginning was the word

And the word was: Freedom. Nothing in this manifesto is new or radical, all of it is based on things we already know. What I am dreaming of comes down to one thing: to do as we say. To fix this world we will just need to uphold the values already at the core of our human society. And it all starts with freedom.

That word might mean many different things for many different people, so I want to clearly define what I mean by freedom: to think, say or do whatever I want unless that would violate someone else's freedom. Like every good rule, this one has exceptions: On the one hand I could of course consent to some

violation of my bodily freedom if I want to have sex for example; or I could consent to the government taking some of my money to build public infrastructure. And on the other hand I would absolutely want the police to be able to violate someone's freedom to stop an ongoing violation of mine.

This is a more maximalist interpretation of freedom that differs from how we apply the concept today. In practice this means for example that I should be allowed to take any drugs I want to take. My brain, my choice. No one should have say in what I do with my own body. But people might kill themselves with drugs? We cannot allow that? Well we can, because even if we disallow it, people will just kill themselves with drugs anyway. There is a gigantic industry of crime and punishment that we could just evaporate overnight and the whole world would be better for it.

In that same vein, I should absolutely be able to get an abortion for an unwanted pregnancy. Of course a child has a right to freedom just as its mother does – but to call a clot of cells the size of a booger a life that is somehow more worth saving than its potential mother is hateful hypocrisy that has no place in the world I am dreaming of.

Under this definition of freedom I should also be allowed to get help to kill myself, granted I am of sound mind when I make that decision. It is my life and I decide what I want to do with it, even if that means ending it. Especially considering that I never had a say in whether I want that life; my parents made that decision for me. To most, life is a gift. To some, it is not. How dare the former force the latter to endure unnecessary torture?

In the world I am dreaming of there also is absolute freedom of movement: I should be allowed to go and live wherever I want to on this planet. I am a human being of planet earth. Everyone on

this planet should be able to travel and work and live their lives wherever they want to. I am not infringing on anyone's freedom by going to another country. The same people who always say that capitalism's permanent competition is the only way are also the ones crying the loudest if they have to actually compete for jobs and houses with so-called foreigners. Locking someone out of a country, that is unfair competition. That is an infringement on their freedom. I am not opposed to the idea of property and making a little corner of the earth my own for a while, but nations and borders are absurd, appalling and should be abolished – but we are getting ahead of ourselves here; let us talk about freedom a bit more first.

No freedom without equality

We've declared ourselves free by right almost a century ago. And some of us are indeed, rather free. But the vast majority of humans on earth are far from it. You might consider yourself free; maybe you are lucky enough to be able to publically criticize

your government without having to worry about your safety. Maybe you are lucky enough to be able to choose whether you want to believe in god, and which. Maybe you are lucky enough to choose what you want to have growing in your body or not. Maybe you are even lucky enough to have access to healthcare and education without ending up shackled by debt.

But even if you check all those boxes, it will not take you long to come up with people around you who were equally free *of* impediments, but a lot more free *to* do things they wanted. If money were not an issue, would you really do the job you are currently doing? Would your life be the same?

We do not want to be all identical. But it is absolutely ludicrous to announce all humans are "born free and equal in dignity and rights" while some of us are born in the mud and some in golden beds. Some have the right skin color, some have the wrong one. Some believe in the right god, some in the wrong

one. Some love the right way, some love the wrong way. If we assume equal rights for all human beings, we cannot allow for people some people to have more freedom than others. The ones having more freedom violate the rights of all who have less. So while we are not really equal, we are not really free. Striving for more equality by restricting the freedom of one for the benefit of many is "not simply compatible with freedom, but required in order to protect it", as Paul Spicker writes.

The root of all evil as solution to our problems

If we are not equally free while we do not have the same chances in life, then the solution could be as easy as making sure that everyone does, right? Well I am going to have so say that I absolutely think it is. Most of that inequality we can fix by redistributing our wealth.

In the world I am daydreaming of there will be yachts and people who own these yachts. There will be people who have

more money than others, but that difference will be based on choice and merit. The key difference between my daydream and the world we live in: there is no inheritance within families whatsoever. Everyone can get rich, but no one is born rich. Every human gets an equal inheritance from society when they come of age; and when they die, they give all their possessions back to society.

At this point you might rightfully object that if some people have more than others, their kids would have more chances, making others less free, which is regrettable but a necessary side effect of us humans being as different as we are. We already have parents that are more capable than others; the only way to achieve absolute equality would be to turn ourselves into machines or clones without any differences whatsoever and I would argue that we would lose more than we would gain that way. What I am dreaming of is a world where we try our very best to make sure everyone gets the same access to all the

amazing things we build. Just because we will not always achieve that does not mean we should not try.

Money can't buy me love

Not all inequality is based on differences in wealth though. Humans have forever diminished and ostracised others to justify their exploitation: men are better than women, whites are better than blacks, christians are better than muslims. In the world I am dreaming of, little kids will still point their fingers at someone who looks different, but instead of weaponizing those differences, kids are taught to respect and even celebrate them just as much as everything that unites all of us. Without the need to hate others to justify our greed, it turns out that loving thy neighbour is much easier, too.

The road to hell is paved with good intentions

We already have the right values and still ended up in a world in which we do not practice what we preach. So how do we make sure we will not make the same mistakes again? You know how hard it is to make choices which are good for you: doing sports, eating healthy, drinking less – but like most other people, more often than not you might make the choice that is not good for you. Even if you did the right thing hundreds of times, you do not rise above temptation. To do the right thing is a constant struggle. This is not only true of your personal life; humanity at large faces the same challenge.

Which is why we have to build and maintain a way to govern our global society which helps overcome our weaknesses instead of constantly creating loopholes to exploit them. If you want to make good choices, you have to start making them and then keep making them. Changing the world for the better is no

different: we just have to start somewhere and keep in mind that nothing we build will stand the test of time. We have to constantly evaluate what works and what does not. We have to evolve and improve not just ourselves but also the way we run things. So where do we start that process?

A fish rots from the head down

A political system for the good of the many cannot be run by the few. The world I am dreaming of boasts a political system that actually deserves the name democracy. It does away with elections, politicians and corruption in one fell swoop, with a simple system that has been around for ages: the selection of all public officials at random. With "Against Elections", David Van Reybrouck wrote an absolute banger of a book on the subject, which I cannot possibly do justice here; I will however outline for which reasons a system like this is so vastly superior to the one in use today.

Imagine a world where there are no politicians. No elections. No campaigns. No parties. No lobbies. No drama, no fanfare. Just normal people coming together, discussing and deciding things.

For the people, by the actual people

Imagine an assembly of a hundred randomly selected people representing a cross section of society coming together on a secluded compound for a week to take care of everything a government does today: discussing which issues need fixing, making decisions, drafting, refining and passing laws, appointing judges, hiring and firing department heads.

And now imagine the participants of this assembly being treated like kings and queens in that compound, having their every need taken care of. Imagine them not even having to take time off from work or school for this government duty and

being paid *per day* what the average worker makes in a *whole month*.

This solves many problems in one fell swoop: By employing citizens to make political decisions we ensure these are made by the many and not the few. By randomly selecting them we ensure they cannot be targeted by corruption. By selecting a cross section of society we make sure that all voices are heard. By secluding the compound we further ensure that the participants are not externally influenced and corrupted during the assembly. By limiting its duration we not only ensure that actual normal people can fit this government duty into their busy lives, but also constantly bring in new opinions and perspectives. And by paying and treating them well we ensure that this duty is one people will be happy to do.

But wait, there are many more advantages: this political system is very scalable. We could have many assemblies working on

different problems at the same time; with only one elected parliament or government, the throughput is limited by design and usually further reduced by the neverending onslaught of crises. The political system I am dreaming of does not have that problem. Assemblies can quickly be scaled to the governmental demand at any time.

But even if we do not run concurrent assemblies, we can use consecutive assemblies to create a system of checks and balances within this single institution: If one assembly drafts a new law for example, the next assembly will review it and either enact it or further refine it and pass it on to yet another fresh assembly for enactment or further review.

There are many things to gain from getting rid of politicians and replacing them with citizens. There is one thing we would lose: expertise. Politicians can be very savvy in their fields and

even lobby organizations do sometimes productively help the government do its job.

Since we are doing away with both, our new political system must tap into specialist knowledge by inviting experts to speak before the citizen assembly. The speaker might still be a lobbyist in the end, but the fact that they are purposefully invited to speak in front of the whole assembly makes a hell of a difference to today, where corruption is more or less openly baked into the system. To also make sure that the assembly is aware on whose behalf the expert is speaking, we will use some changes to our economic system, which I will outline later; for now, we have bigger fish to fry.

The pen is mightier than the checkbook

A political system based on randomly selected citizen assemblies could work today; it would work infinitely better in a world without media empires manipulating the masses to push

their agendas. Some industries are so vital to our survival and health as a species that there should be different rules in place to protect them; a hospital should not have to turn a profit, its job is to heal people. These very different goals are in constant conflict, and we currently see which of the two usually has the upper hand.

Like hospitals, news organizations should be non-profits. But taking profits out of the equation does not solve everything here: this would not stop a single person from owning the entire media landscape and force-feeding the masses their propaganda and poisoning the public discourse like they do today.

But this, too, can we solved a tool we already have today: the *worker cooperative*, a business owned and managed by the people who work there. In a worker cooperative no one but the journalists themselves decide what and how they report – and only then can they do their job fairly and deliver the service the

public so desperately needs. Interestingly enough, there is a number of recently founded publications like 404Media and Aftermath, which are owned by journalists fed up with vampiric media corporations buying up their workplaces and sucking them dry.

But aside from ensuring their independence and giving them the space to do their jobs, I think that industries which deliver a public service like this should also be subsidized by the public to further ensure their independence and sustainability. Turning news organizations into subsidized non-profit worker cooperatives will not fix all problems of our media landscape today; but like the citizen assembly, it sure helps to remove the grabby fingers of greed where they do not belong.

There are many more industries which require protection from greed; but I firmly believe that we only need to create an environment in which a better world will readily grow into. To

democratize both wealth and power, we only need an actual democracy based on randomized citizen assemblies; independent, worker-owned news organizations to support it – and the shift from family inheritance to societal inheritance. This better world will grow itself if only we create and maintain a growth medium. Which immediately begs the question: how do we get there?

Ending is sometimes better than mending

How do we replace a political system peacefully? How do we get the rich and their political puppets to hand over their power? The answer is simple: they will not. Our whole world is built around the idea that no one of us is never rich enough; we are all temporarily embarrassed millionaires. And even if we become billionaires, we end up convinced that we deserve so much more money and power yet. So no, they – we – will never give it up freely.

That is the bad news; the good: we can enforce political change without any violence whatsoever. Nothing can possibly stand in the way of the 99% who would benefit from an actual democracy and from end to exploitation and corruption.

I am a Berliner, married to a woman who I might never would have met if hundreds of thousands of GDR citizens would not have taken to the streets peacefully to demand unification.

The way to this better world starts in our heads. It starts with seeing a better alternative. It starts with resolute refusal to be manipulated any longer. It starts with pointing the blame right back at the rich, who have us fighting in the mud over the scraps of their orgy. It starts with realizing that we deserve more than toiling ourselves to death hoping to be millionaires some day. And once we have realized that, we will start demanding it. And once enough people demand it, anything is possible.

Imagine just 1% of humanity taking to the streets; that would be around 80 million people, the same as the population of my entire country. Now imagine 10% of us. That is more than the population of the 50 biggest cities in the world combined. Imagine the power we have just by taking to the streets. We can make or break entire economies with a few taps on our phones. Nothing can stay in our way if we just manage to break the spell we are all under. Too depressed to protest, too afraid to stand up, too tired to complain, too comfortable to get off the couch, too convinced that there is nothing we can do. So how do we break this spell?

Go big or go home

I believe that a vision of a better tomorrow for all of humanity has the potential to break that spell. An ambitious goal to work towards. A big dream. And here is where it all comes together: because that world that is truly run by the people, for the people

- this world in where all humans are equally free, this is only possible if it run as one.

What we need are not half-assedly united nations trying to get ahead of one another, but a united world, in which we all get ahead together. We need a global democracy; one that deserves the name. One that ensures freedom and fairness for all of humanity.

There are disadvantages to global solutions of course; after all one size almost never fits all. Our decisions should be as local as possible, but as global as necessary to ensure fairness and freedom. A local citizen assembly should decide how money for local infrastructure is spent, but a global government has to make sure that this citizen assembly can even exist and operate.

Money talks, freedom walks

But dreams alone do not change worlds. Money does. People might not be willing to take to the streets for lofty ideas of a better tomorrow; but if that better tomorrow starts with money in their pockets, people might be much more interested in making it happen.

Above I already pitched the idea of shifting inheritance from families to society at large. This would not only ensure equal opportunities and thus freedom for all of humanity in the long run; but in the short term, it could also be used to transfer wealth and power from the few to the many – without even having to tax the rich; all we would ask is for them to give their wealth to society when they die.

A global democracy can be built around that single purpose at first: ensuring freedom and fairness for all. All it needs to be at

the start is an global institution capable of receiving and redistributing money; it would of course make sense to use some of that money to further build the global democracy of the future - but for the most part, this money should be immediately redistributed in equal parts to all humans on this planet.

So instead of lofty promises of a better tomorrow, we give people money and the opportunity to build that better tomorrow themselves. But before we can give that money away, how do we get it in the first place?

One step at a time, one country at a time

Before a global government can start collecting and distributing our societal inheritance, it has to exist. This is the easy part. We would have to start with coming up with a minimum viable constitution for our new global democracy. For a democracy based on randomized assemblies representing a cross-section of

our global society, it would only be logical to use such assemblies to draft and refine this constitution.

To facilitate this, we could set up a non-profit organization which accepts anonymous donations to organize and pay for the foundational assemblies. This organization could build an open-source platform for assembly volunteers to register as well as an open-source algorithm based on scientific datasets to fairly choose the participants for the first assemblies.

After a couple of assemblies have written and refined the constitution and formally established a global government, the hard part begins: because the ruling class of rich people and their political puppets will simply laugh and shrug the whole thing off.

Why should they care? Without a legal basis, they will simply refuse to accept a global government. And this is the hard part:

we peasants have to rally and demand the keys to the castle. And we absolutely have to do so peacefully. Violence would be just the excuse the powerful need to unleash mayhem upon us and justify killing countless civilians in the name of law and order.

But law is the key: all we have to do is apply enough peaceful pressure on our governments to ratify that global constitution and turn it into national law. We have to take to the streets by the millions and demand it. We have to strike by the millions to show them we mean it. And they will have no choice but to do it. We are the many. We have the power. We keep lending it to the few, but they have no claim on it. We can take it back at any time.

And it all starts with you. Imagine how that better world looks for you. What would the world look like if everyone had the same opportunities? If most of us had more money? If we

stopped allowing corporate interests to mess with every single aspect of our lives for the sake of profit?

You probably can think of a friend or two who would be perfect to talk about these things with. Send them this manifesto and do just that. Imagine a better world together. And then we start building it.