

7. LEFT-LIBERTARIAN PARTIES III: PIRATE PARTIES

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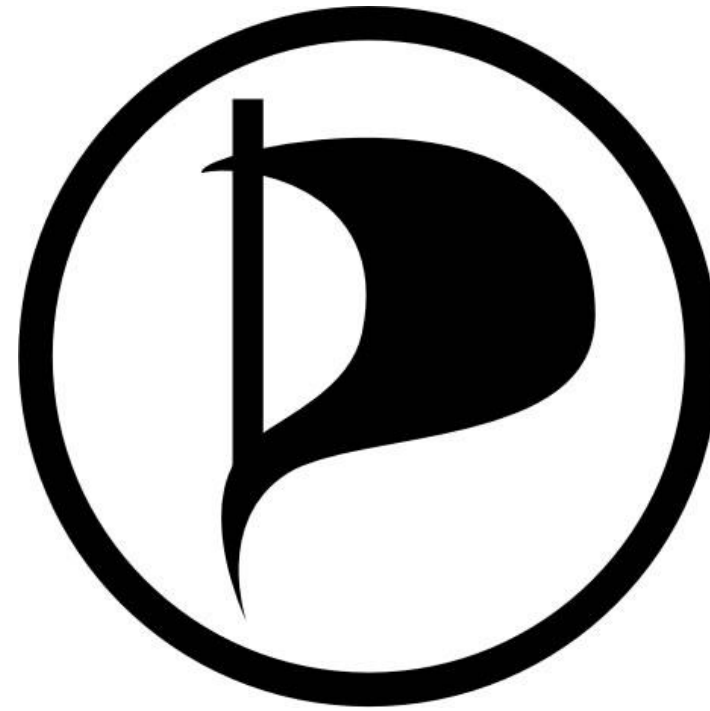
IMPORTANCE OF PIRATE PARTIES

- New issues
- New party type
 - Party organization
 - Party communication
 - Party goals
- Election success/failure



WHAT ARE PIRATE PARTIES?

- **First PP 2006 – Sweden**
(Piratpartiet)
 - **Founder and first chair Richard Falkvinge**
- **Reasons to establish a new party:**
 - **fight copyright**
 - **Privacy protection**
 - **Fight against patents**
- **Great example for rise of PP around the world (2023: 39 PP)**



MEDIALIZATION OF PIRATE PARTIES

- Conflicts, law suits, trials
 - Pirate Bay
 - FRA
 - *Försvarets radioanstalt* - office to control phone and internet communication
 - IPRED
 - *Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Directive*
 - Facilitates prosecution of „pirates“
 - „Zensursula“
 - Ursula von der Leyen, 2009
 - ACTA- Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)

ZENSURSULA



STASI 2.1

THE PIRATE BAY

- Swedish website hosting magnet links and torrent files
- Established 2003
- Often accused of „assisting in making copyrighted content available“
- 2006 website's servers in Stockholm raided and taken away by Swedish police
- 2009 four leading figures sentenced to one year in prison and payment of a fine of about 3 mil. EUR



ELECTORAL SUCCESS

☐ Sweden

- 2006: 0,63%
- 2012: 0,43%
- 2009 (EP): 7,1% (2014: 2,2,%)

☐ Luxembourg

- 2018 and 2023: 6-7 %

☐ Iceland

- 2013: 5 %
- 2016: 14,5 %
- 2017: 9,2 %
- 2021: 8,6 %



ELECTORAL SUCCESS

Germany

- **2009: 2%**
- **2013: 2,2%**
- **Local elections**
 - **2009 Aachen and Münster: first seats**
 - **2011 success in Berlin 8,9%**
- **2017: 0,4%**

Czech Republic

- **2010: 0,8%, 2013: 2,6%**
- **2017: 10,8%**
- **2021: 15,6 % (with Mayors)**



„Sink them !“

ORIGINAL ISSUES

1. Privacy and personal data protection from state's control and surveillance
2. Copyright and patents
3. Free internet

Was ist nun die **Bananenrepublik?**

	Deutschland	Philippinen
Telefon-überwachung	Seit 90'ern	Verboten
Vorratsdatenspeicherung	Seit Nov. 2007	Verboten
Fingerabdruck in Pässen	Seit Okt. 2007	Verboten

Und das Wetter auf den Philippinen ist auch besser!

Klarmachen zum Ändern.
MACH MIT!
<http://piratenpartei-hessen.de>



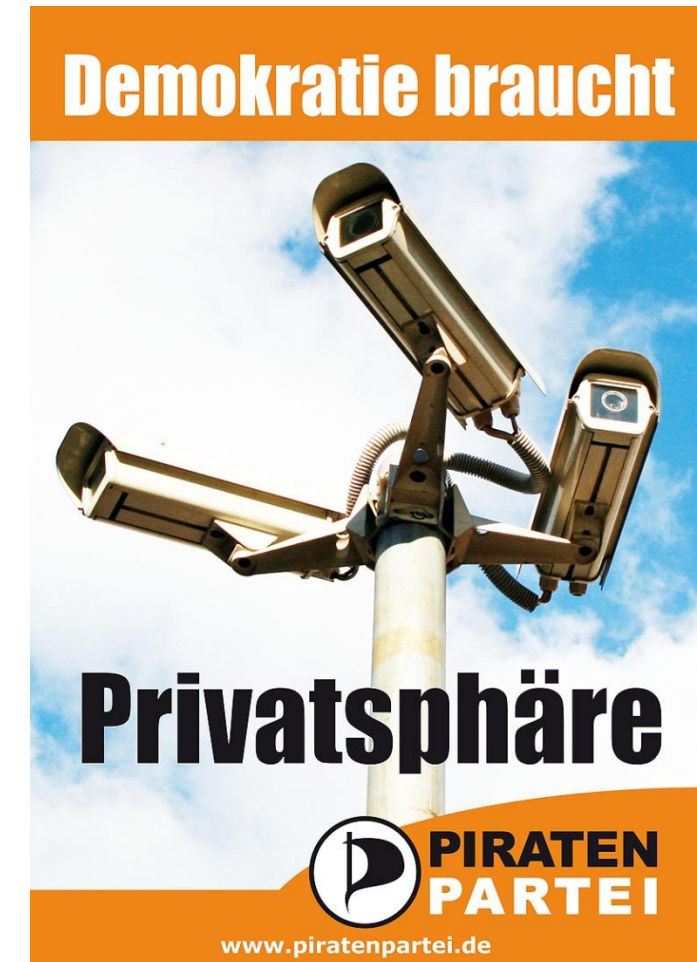
*„What's now the
„Banana republic?“*

PRIVACY PROTECTION

**Warning against
„surveillance society“**

- **Constant registration and surveillance of people**

**Privacy protection =
constitutional right**



PRIVACY PROTECTION

- **Control efforts strengthened after 9/11**

„I am not allowed to smoke in front of the camera...“



COPYING

Legalization of free downloading of music, movies, SW

- Not for commercial use

Principal reform of copyright

- Should reflect individuals' as well as societal interests

Free spreading and sharing

- Positive for the progress and development

Klarmachen zum Ändern!

Gute Ideen sind da um **kopiert zu werden!**



Und ausgerechnet unsere Generation soll das verlernt haben?

Nur dadurch, dass das Rad ständig kopiert und weiterentwickelt wurde, sind heutige moderne Datenlager wie die CD und DVD überhaupt denkbar. Man stelle sich vor die Erfindung des Rades wäre damals schon patentiert worden – unsere heutige Zivilisation wäre undenkbar. Durch Lernen von anderen, durch Kopieren ihres Wissen und die Weiterentwicklung dieses Wissen sind moderne Erfindungen überhaupt denkbar. Das heutige Patentrecht behindert nur den Fortschritt und wird von den Firmen missbraucht, um sich Monopolstellungen am Markt zu schaffen.

 **PIRATEN PARTEI**

www.piratenpartei.de

„Good ideas are here to be copied. And why just our generation should unteach that?“

COPYRIGHT AND THE CZECH PIRATE PARTY

No intention to break rights of authors and artists, but to adjust the copyright to the digital age

- Support creativity, sharing and a fair reward for the authors for the commercial use

Shortening of the copyright duration

- Usually it spans the author's life plus 50 to 100 years
- Pirates: 14 years (enough time to create financial gains)

PATENTS

- ❑ Favourable/profitable only for a small group of monopolist owners
 - Excessive gains
 - Limits competition
 - Limits further development of society
- ❑ Patents should be abolished altogether
 - Releasing of competition and innovation



A SHIFT TO OTHER (LESS CONTROVERSIAL) ISSUES

Access to public information

Transparency

- Public contracts
- Public administration reform

Corruption

Direct and grassroots democracy

Renationalize the natural-resource industries (ICE)

Legalization of marijuana for medical purposes



„Fed up with being surveilled? Join us and stop the big brother“

PP AS LIBERAL PARTIES ?

- **Key principle: freedom**
 - Freedom from control and surveillance
 - Freedom of information and their spreading
 - Free Internet

Freiheit ist
KEINE
Randnotiz



KLARMACHEN ZUM ÄNDERN!



„Freedom is not a marginal phrase“

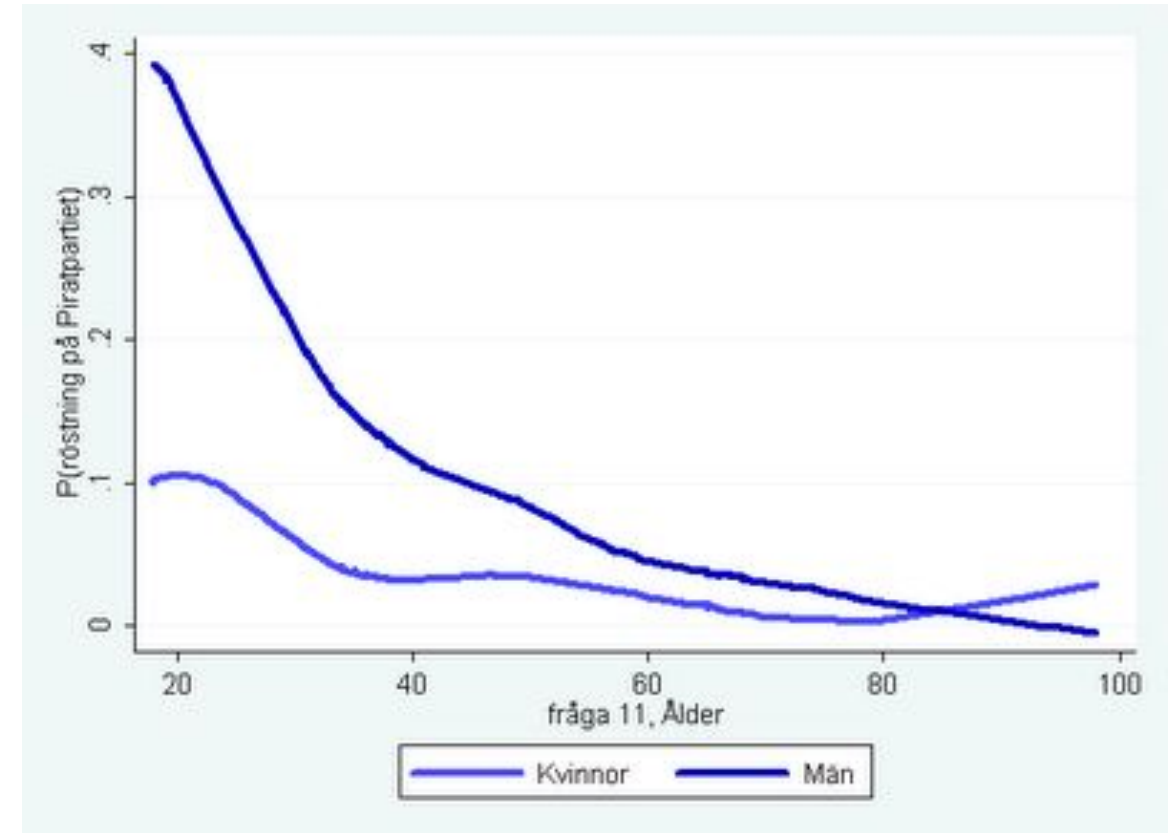
PP VOTERS (SWEDEN)

- Young people
- Men (80%)
- Internet users („*digital natives*“)
- Cities
- Low interest in politics
- First time voters
- Students



SWEDISH PP

- Free membership
- 46 687 (!) members (March 2010)
 - 2020: 2 528 members
- EP elections (2009): the best result among first-time voters 37% men and 11% women



CAUSES OF SUCCESS

1. Medialization
2. General trends in voting behaviour
 - Distrust towards parties
 - More volatile voters
3. Protest appeals
 - ICE, CZE (LUX) x SWE and GER
4. Information technologies
5. New issues and style
 - Authentic, credible image



PROTEST APPEALS: ICELAND

□ Birgitta Jonsdottir

- Iceland full of corruption and “nepotism”
- Country is controlled by a handful of “mafia-style families” and their friends

□ 2016: Panama Papers: former PM Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson held investments in offshore accounts

- large protest
- Support for the PP surged to 43 %



LUXEMBOURG 2009

- ❑ general dissatisfaction with the lack of transparency in politics
- ❑ strong opposition to video surveillance



LUXEMBOURG 2023

- Fair tax
- Greater security in streets
- Digital economy
- Reward environmentally friendly behaviour
- Child-care benefits (both at home and facilities)
- Better access to health care to all
- A roof over everyone's head
- Universal access to retirement houses
- Greater say to citizens

Sven Clement



LIQUID DEMOCRACY

Another perspective on democracy

**Reaction to crisis of representative
democracy**

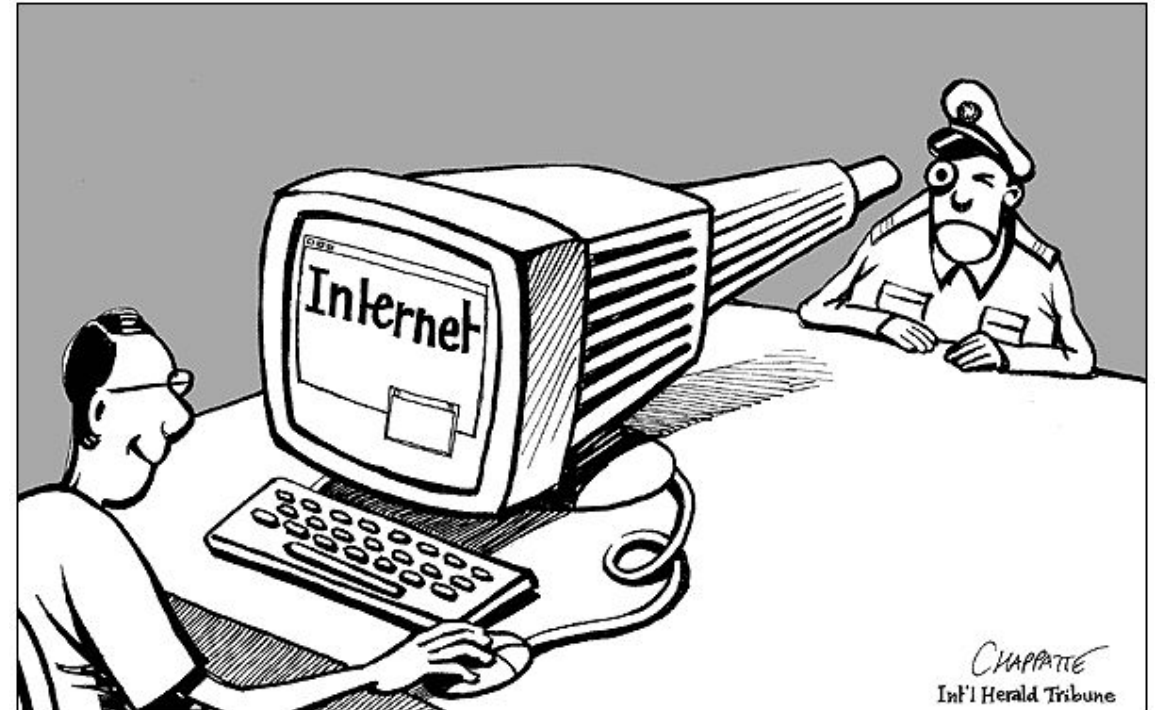
**Attempt to revive aspects of direct
democracy**

Citizens may

- **Delegate their power to representatives**
- **Take political decisions themselves (e.g. on-line referenda)**

COMMUNICATION REVOLUTION: „STRUGGLE FOR KNOWLEDGE“

1. Information production
 - struggle for control over content of information
2. Spread and mediation of information
 - struggle for control over access to information
3. Legitimacy of information
 - which information becomes tool to gain legitimacy and authority
4. New cleavages (?)
 - knowledge X market
 - Transnational networks X national state



CONCLUSIONS: PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

- Temporary/transient phenomena
 - Medial bubble or long-term party ???
- Low efficiency
- Lowering medialization – may cause failures
- Ability to monopolize their issues
 - Other parties (may) copy the issues
- lack of coherency in many other (traditional) issues
- excessive transparency ?

Wählen Sie
nur das
Original!

**Lassen Sie sich
nicht durch
Plagiate täuschen!**

KOPIE
Piraten in der
SPD

KLARMACHEN ZUM ÄNDERN!  **PIRATEN
PARTEI**

„Vote the original.“