

Sustainability thoughts 113: How can the hidden unequal nature of the liberal democracy model be detailed step by step?

By

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Abstract

In the theoretical world it can be said that the government is elected one person one vote in a science based liberal democracy model, and then this elected government uses science to help the people and to respond to the nature of their needs under equality, a perfect theoretical science based government-people interaction under equality. And if people are divided into groups, these science based liberal democracies interact with these groups under equal treatment and under equal levels of government support. A perfect world under equal rights. But we know that in reality the world is an unequal place, which means that we live under inequalities in science based liberal democracy-people interactions, inequalities in science based liberal democracy-group treatment, and inequalities in science based liberal democracy-group sharing of government support. Yet, it is not easy to see how these inequalities are embedded in the structure of the science based liberal democracy model in which we live. And this raises the question, how can the hidden unequal nature of the science based liberal democracy model be detailed step by step? The main goal of this paper is to provide an answer to this question.

Key words

Liberal democracy, sustainability, equality, inequality, trickledown, trickle up, pro-rich support, pro-poor support, balanced support, unbalanced support.

Introduction

a) Science based liberal democracies under equality

In the theoretical world it can be said that the government(G) is elected one person one vote in a science based liberal democracy model(SLDM), and then this elected government(G) uses science(S) to help the people and to respond to the nature of their needs under equality, a perfect theoretical science based government-people interaction under equality, which can be indicated as in Figure 1 below.

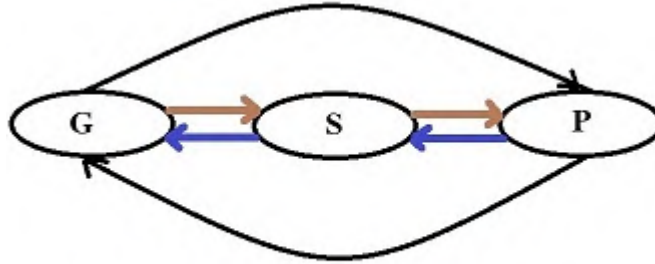


Figure 1 Science based liberal democracy under equality

Figure 1 above describes the perfect science based liberal democratic world(SLDM), where governments(G) have equal access to people(P) through science(S); and people(P) have equal access to governments(G) through science(S) as indicated by the continuous arrows between G to S and from P to S. Notice that this is a liberal democracy model where the people(P) elects the government(G) one person-one vote as indicated by the black arrow from P to G; and the government(G) is there for all the people(P) equally as indicated by the black arrow from G to P. In other words, Figure 1 above tells us two things: i) that the science based liberal democracy model(SLDM) has three components, elected government(G), science(S) and the people(P); and that the liberal democracy model(LDM) has two components, elected governments(G) and the people(P) who elects them as indicated by the black arrows from P to G and from G to P. Notice that “S” in Figure 1 above means any science based field, medicine, environmental science, economics, psychology and so on that support the working of a liberal democracy, where the government(G) will use that science(S) to treat people equally. For example, the importance of science based solutions to deal with current liberal democracy problems such as current pandemic issues(Gounder 2020; UN 2020), current global warming issues(Watts 2019; NASA 2020), and current liberal market issues(Francis 2020; Flam 2020) is very well-known and called for.

b) Extended science based liberal democracies under group treatment equality

Imaging that people(P) are divided into two groups, the rich(R) and the poor(D), then the science based liberal democracy-people model in Figure 1 above can be expanded as indicated in Figure 2 below:

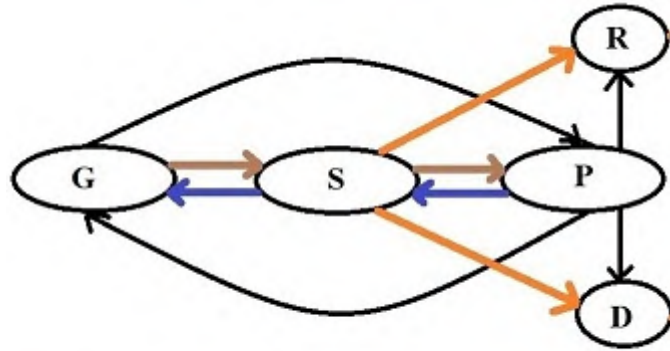


Figure 2 Science based liberal democracy under group treatment equality

Figure 2 above describes the perfect world, where the science based liberal democracy(SLDM) has equal access to the rich(R) and the poor(D); and the rich(R) and the poor(D) have equal access to the science based liberal democracy(SLDM); and therefore, the science based liberal democracy(SLDM) will treat them equally as indicated by the continuous orange arrows from S to R and from S to D. In other words, the government(G) will use science to provide equal treatment to the rich(R) and the poor(D) in terms of policy and services; and the rich(R) and the poor(D) will also use science to made sense and check what the government(G) is doing to ensure equal treatment.

c) Extended science based liberal democracy under group support equality

As both the rich(R) and the poor(D) have equal access to support from the government(G), then the science based liberal democracy model(SLDM) in Figure 2 above can be extended as it provides pro-rich support to the rich(R) and pro-poor support to the poor(D) in a balanced fashion, as detailed in Figure 3 below:

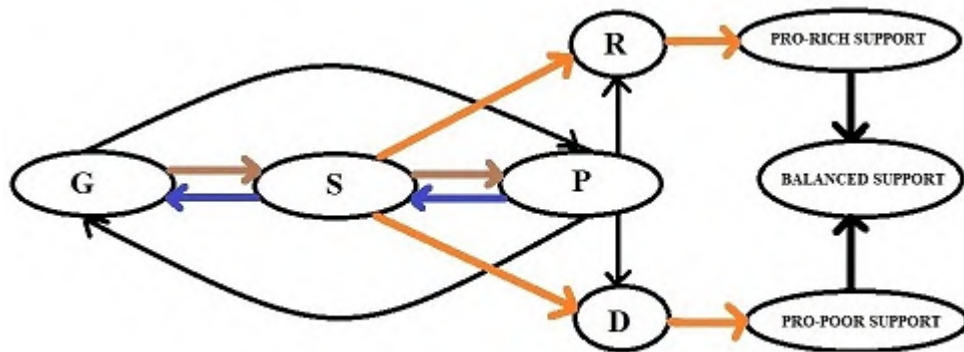


Figure 3 Science based liberal democracy under group support equality

Figure 3 above tells us that when the rich(R) and the poor(D) have equal access to support from the governments market(G) and its growth in support this leads to balanced development communities, where there is no need for trickledowns or trickle ups in help as everyone shares in the support equally. That is a true perfect science based liberal

democracy(PSLDM) model in Figure 3 above, a model where there are no sustainability gaps and where there is full market responsibility and inclusion. The idea that trickledowns in support under equal conditions have the same nature as the bowl effect in benefit sharing as everybody gets the same support (Muñoz 2009) ; and the idea that ensuring balanced development support to rich and poor stakeholders, internationally and locally, leads to more sustainable development outcomes(Muñoz 2010) have recently been highlighted.

d) The perfect science based liberal democracy world vrs the real world

What was described above is a perfect world under equal treatment and support. The structure of the science based liberal democracy that reflect the best interest of the majority summarizing the world of normal democratic outcomes or normal liberal democracy where equality or morality is the goal has been recently shared(Muñoz 2017a). But we know that in reality the world is an unequal place, which means that we live under inequality in science based liberal democracy-people interactions, inequality in science based liberal democracy-group treatment, and inequalities in science based liberal democracy-group sharing of support. Yet, it is not easy to see how these inequalities are embedded in the structure of the science based liberal democracy model in which we live. The structure of the non-science based liberal democracy that reflect the best interest of the minority summarizing the world of extreme democratic outcomes or extreme liberal democracy where inequality or amorality is fine has been recently pointed out(Muñoz 2017b; Muñoz 2019). The discussion above raises the question, how can the hidden unequal nature of the science based liberal democracy model be detailed step by step? The main goal of this paper is to provide an answer to this question.

Goals of this paper

a) to share the structure of science based liberal democracies as they interact with people, as they interact with groups of people, and as they enable support sharing by groups giving a sense of moving from simplicity to complexity all under equality conditions; and b) to transform all those equality based structures into inequality based structures to see step by step how inequality is step by step embedded in the science based liberal democracy model we live in.

Methodology

i) the terminology used in this paper is shared; ii) some operational concepts are given; iii) the structure of the science based liberal democracy model under inequality is highlighted; iv) the extended structure of science based liberal democracy model under unequal treatment of groups is stressed; v) the extended structure of the science based liberal democracy model under

unequal sharing of support is pointed out; and vi) some food for thoughts and conclusions are provided.

Terminology

SLDM = science based liberal democracy **S = science**
PSLDM = perfect science based liberal democracy **P = people**
ILDLM = imperfect science based liberal democracy **R = the rich/supply side of help**
D = the poor/the demand side of help **G = elected government on person-one vote**

Operational concepts

- 1) **Equality**, *the idea that all members of a system receive the same treatment.*
- 2) **Inequality**, *the idea that only some members of a system receive better treatment.*
- 3) **The liberal democracy model**, *the one based on majority rule, one person, one vote.*
- 4) **Sustainability**, *the idea that equality leads to full responsibility.*
- 5) **Trickledown**, *the idea that pro-rich government support will one day indirectly benefit the poor.*
- 6) **Direct trickledown**, *the support that reach the poor directly.*
- 7) **Extreme intervention based direct trickle down**, *the government support that reach the poor directly during an extreme event.*
- 8) **Trickle up**, *the government support that reach the rich directly during an extreme event.*
- 9) **Indirect trickle up**, *the idea that direct trickledown will benefit pro-rich support.*
- 10) **Pro-rich support**, *the type of support targeted to benefits the rich.*
- 11) **Pro-poor support**, *the type of support targeted to benefit the poor.*
- 12) **Balanced support**, *the type of support that brings benefits to both the rich and the poor at the same time.*

13) Unbalanced support, *the type of support that brings benefits to only the rich or to only the poor.*

14) Externality neutrality assumption illusion, the idea that relevant inequalities or liberal democracy distortions can be assumed away to create perfect conditions.

Science based liberal democracy under inequality

In the real world it can be said that science based liberal democracies(SLDM) interact with people(P) providing them support and responding to the nature of their demands for support under inequality such as unequal ability to participate or pay or to buy or unequal wealth/income level, an imperfect real interaction under inequality, which can be stated as in Figure 4 below.

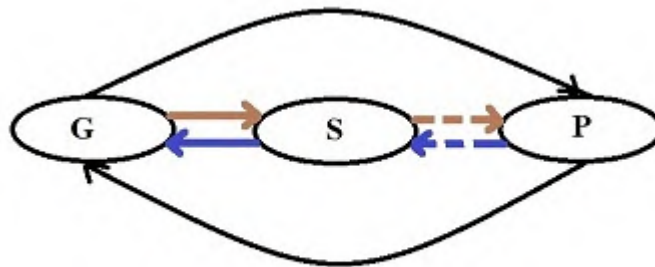


Figure 4 Science based liberal democracy under inequality

Figure 4 above describes the imperfect world, where science based liberal democracy(SLDM) has unequal access to people(P); and people(P) have unequal access to science based liberal democracies(SLDM) as indicated by the broken arrows between S and P, yet people(P) has equal role in electing the government(G) that uses science to treat them unequally as indicated by the black arrow from P to G.

Extended science based democracy under group treatment inequality

The imperfect democracy world above can be seen more clearly when the people(P) are divided into two groups, those who have access to science based government support or who can participate in the lobbying for it, the rich(R); and those who do not have access to science based government support or who cannot participate in the lobbying for it, the poor(D), then the unequal science based liberal democracy-people model in Figure 4 above can be expanded as indicated in Figure 5 below:

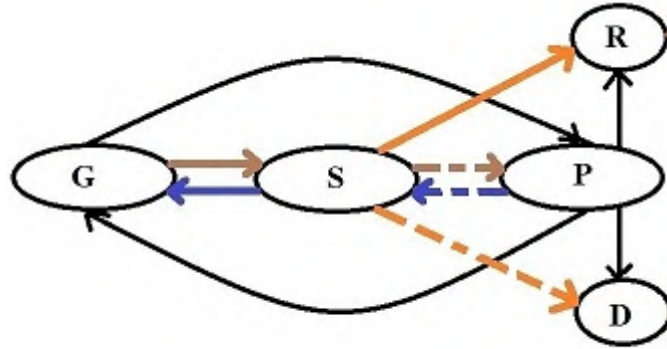


Figure 5 Science based liberal democracy under group treatment inequality

Figure 5 above shows the imperfect world, where governments(G) in the science based liberal democracy give help the rich(R) as indicated by the continuous arrow from S to R, but not the poor(D) as indicated by the broken arrow from S to D; and therefore, the rich(R) and the poor(D) have unequal access to government (G) support in the science based liberal democracy. In other words, Figure 5 above tells us that the governments(G) in the science based liberal democracy will treat the rich(R) and the poor(D) unequally.

Extended science based liberal democracy under group growth inequality

Unequal treatment means that the rich(R) and the poor(D) have unequal access to benefits from support growth as the government(G) in science based liberal democracies provides direct support to the rich(R) through pro-rich support; and it provides no direct support to the poor(D), creating on unbalanced situation as detailed in Figure 6 below:

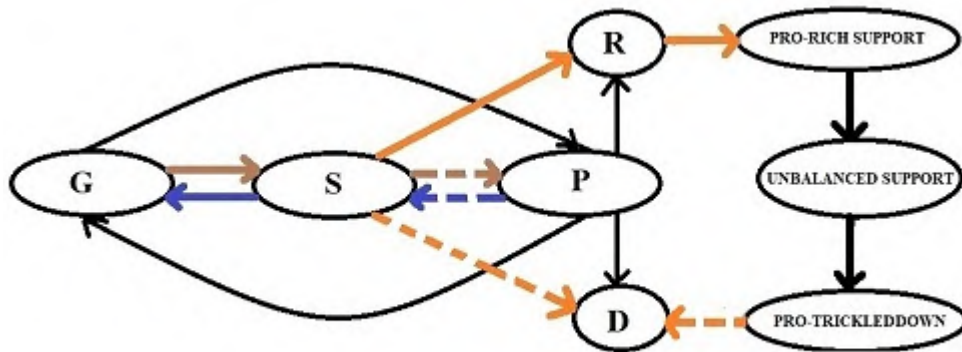


Figure 6 Science based liberal democracy under group support inequality

Figure 6 above indicates that when the rich(R) and the poor(D) have unequal access to support and its growth it leads to unbalanced government support development, where there is a need for trickledowns assumptions that never reach the poor(D) as trickledowns do not work under inequality conditions voluntarily. The broken arrow in Figure 6 above from S to D means

there is no direct trickle-down in the liberal democracy support; and the broken arrow from Pro-trickle-down to D means indirect trickle-downs do not work under inequality. That is a true imperfect science based liberal democracy (ISLDM) in Figure 6 above, a democracy where there are sustainability gaps and where there is no full market responsibility and inclusion.

Implications

1) A science based liberal democracy model (SLDM) like the one in Figure 6 above can only be a perfect science based liberal democracy (PSLDM) by assumption, like assuming that poor externality neutrality in support exist and assuming that trickle-downs in support work like magic under inequalities; and 2) The structure in Figure 6 above is the structure of the current imperfect science based liberal democracy (ISLDM) in which we currently live in.

Food for thoughts

i) Are there specific situations in which the rich/supply side of the liberal democracy model will be okay with direct trickle-downs in support? I think yes, what do you think?; and ii) Are sustainability based liberal democracies full equality based democracies? I think yes, what do you think?

Conclusions

i) the structure of science based liberal democracies under unequal interaction with individuals was shared; ii) the structure of science based liberal democracies under unequal help to different groups was pointed out; iii) the structure of science based liberal democracies under unequal sharing of support growth was stressed; and iv) it was highlighted that the only way an unequal science based liberal democracy can be a perfect democracy is by assumption only.

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