

# Democracy 2.0

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Alex Servín has become a kind of treasure hunter. We are united by the love for the tribes, the anthropological vision of life, provocative reading and good sake, among other things. If we had both lived two hundred years ago, he would have come to my library with his face of discovery to unfold a jealously guarded bundle on the desk. He would have carefully removed the layers of cloth to reveal a stone with signs of another era. Modernity, however, made the discovery come through a document in pdf format that was sent to me digitally. The name was a provocation: "Tribe: Laboratory for democracy".

The origin of the document points to Chile, where the Tribu Foundation works as an independent and non-partisan organization, in the development of innovations for democracy. The document contains bright clues to revive this patient that we often see in critical condition: democracy.

I must confess my disenchantment with democracy, whose imperfection is, as has been said, the least damaging of other government regimes. And honestly I saw it as a compact block that is difficult to access and more difficult to improve. After reading the document, I ended up with a hopeful idea that improving a democracy is possible.

During the week I listened, in a private event, to Epigmenio Ibarra, one of the figures most associated with President López Obrador. Although I differ from him on some issues, he gave me the feeling that we have much more in common than we think. Although practically, due to the format, it was a monologue, I was left wanting to listen to him more, to try to understand what he sees that I don't see, and vice versa. It seems to me that in Mexico we have deficits of good dialogue. We arrive with preconceived ideas and pay attention to what coincides with our way of thinking. The rest we disqualify a priori. It is at this point that I find the Tribe document, an initiative to coexist in diversity and reach agreements, very valuable.

Listening to Epigmenio left me feeling that social dialogue, sensible and in peace is possible. However, several of the dozens of listeners did not think so, did not give him the slightest benefit of the doubt or gave him an iota of reason. In the midst of tension and the political and civic polarity that we live in Mexico, we need tools that facilitate a new dialogue that takes us out of the binary logic of "approve" or "rejection". It is here where the approach they are applying in Chile becomes relevant. It is a methodology developed by Professor James S. Fishkin, director of the Center for Deliberative Democracy at Stanford University.

If instead of applying the popular polls with which controversial decisions have been made, such as stopping the new airport or backing down a multimillion-dollar investment by a beer company, what Deliberative Democracy promotes is applied, today we would have very different moods to face together the problems that concern the country. The scheme promotes the participation of experts, empathy, understanding the perspective of people who live a different reality from one, as a way of understanding the position of the other. It involves having openness to listen without trying to impose an input solution. The document states: "we declare ourselves in love with the problem and not with the solution." Mexican society is faced because it is in love with the solution, rather, what it believes is the solution.

This methodology, where a new form of deliberative democracy has been carried out, has worked more than 100 times in 30 countries on all continents, bringing antagonistic points of view closer together. In Bulgaria it promoted the end of the separation between schools for gypsies and non-gypsies, in the United States it made more republicans in favor of migration.

Somehow we have to find the way, with today's politicians or despite them, to build Mexico in what unites us and not in what separates us.