

**A.C. Sturt**

# **Democratic Systems**

**Everyone deserves a chance:  
how a modern industrial society  
works.**

**Democratic Systems**

Political decisions often seem to bring about the very situation they were intended to prevent. Governments take action to increase accountability, improve parental or patient choice and rein in public expenditure. The result is that public expenditure continues up, parents and patients are given choices which are no choice and the non-accountable are less accountable than ever.

The problem lies in the failure to consider whole national systems and their interactions. It is not all inept administration or ideological deceit, though this certainly plays a part. Mistakes are made at the very first step which could have been avoided with a basic understanding of the simplest systems rules. After that the systems cannot possibly work as

intended, whatever the effort expended on them.

Systems thinking in this sense has so far been applied almost exclusively to scientific and engineering problems, usually quantitatively.

Here it is applied in a non-mathematical way to the systems which underpin a modern industrial society: legal, education, health and broadcasting, and finally the system of democracy itself. It explores their dynamics and interactions, and points them at explicit national goals, no less.

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Next:

A Degree of Freedom and

The Scale and Scope of Economics ...

**A.C. Sturt**

# **A Degree of Freedom**

**Systems for Everyman:**

**the essence of all processes, both  
human and natural.**

**A Degree of Freedom**

We use the rules of arithmetic to count and measure without realising that such rules apply to very little else, and can be misleading if extended to other areas.

We cannot 'add' living things, for instance, or organisations such as football teams or companies, because their parts interact; they are systems. If we try to add to them, we form an entirely new system. If we subtract from them, we destroy their entity. The result is something different.

Systems thinking is a way of looking at the world as it really is, not frozen into numerical abstraction. It focusses on the changes of a system over time, its most important feature, its dynamics.

The rules are simple and need no equations. The most important rule is that a system is more than the sum of its parts.

Laying out a system in diagrammatic form defines its boundaries and goals, reveals its dynamics and provides a framework for analysis and problem-solving. The book illustrates the principles with a wide range of examples as different as tomato growing and

the weather, touching even on language, planning, strategy and philosophy.

The principles apply to any system the reader chooses. Everyone involved in change should use them, preferably before resources are committed. Analysis is quick and cheap, but an unworkable system is irretrievable.

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Next:

The Scale and Scope of Economics

A.C. Sturt

# The Scale and Scope of Economics

It's a question of real time:  
how modern industrial economies  
work. Or not!

**The Scale and Scope of Economics  
(or Economics in Real Time)**

The world is changing before our eyes under the influence of new technology, not least information technology. New products and processes are coming from countries which not long ago were considered “backward”. Old assumptions of an international economic pecking order are going out of the window. Classical economic theory has nothing to say on this, the most important change of our time. It deals in timeless “equilibria”, and takes no account of energy or technology, still less innovation.

The new paradigm of this book applies a largely descriptive methodology of systems analysis to the economic process. It shows how time and energy must be integral parts of economic theory. Economies evolve through the continual differentiation of products and processes, or change of scope, much of it

brought about by the type of decision-makers who will read this book. The only solution for those who are losing out in the race is investment in all its forms, in both equipment and people.

Marshall discussed the importance of differentiation in his *Principles of Economics* at the end of the nineteenth century, but he abandoned it in favour of the simplicity of supply/demand schedules, the basis of neoclassical economics. The world has moved into an era where this is grossly misleading. The new paradigm is needed.

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