

alt.lang.asm: Re: Microsoft reserves all rights not expressly granted to you in this EULA.

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From: Beth (*BethStone21_at_hotmail.NOSPICEDHAM.com*)

Date: 02/21/04

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Robert Redelmeier wrote:

> *Beth wrote:*

> > *Odd; I would have thought that a Constitutional Republic would*

> > *actually quite _like_ being a "democracy" rather than constantly*

> > *denying it all the time...this is far from the first Amerikaner*

I've

> > *heard making this plea _against_ being "democratic", as if almost*

> > *running scared from it...as if it would be a "bad idea" or*

> > *something...*

>

> *Oh, but pure democracy _is_ a bad idea, except for most of*

> *the others (apologies to Churchill).*

Actually, because it's relevant, Churchill said "_all_" of the others"...but, in essence, yeah...quite right...it's the best "bad idea" out of a bunch of even worse "bad ideas"...

> *How can a pure democracy prevent tyranny of the majority?*

It can't; In fact, democracy _is_ the tyranny of the majority...voting is merely the act of determining what that majority is, in fact, to give them the tyranny...

It is based on the presumption – although, there is no guarantee that this is actually ever correct – that the "majority" will have the right idea...but, hey, "consensus" isn't a bad starting point to trying to work out how people can "just get along with each other"...

> *The United States has various democratic institutions, each*

> *pitted against lethally the others, expressly designed to*

> *produce gridlock.*

Yup, "checks and balances"...it's the inclusion of this stuff that is what's most admirable about the American versions of "many democratic elements" (sorry, forbidden to call it "democracy" outright, due to earlier pedanticism ;)...this basic idea – though America took a small

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idea and made into a really big idea and put the "checks and balances" everywhere – was actually the main bit that America "loaned" from Britain's Magna Carta...I guess a very sensible idea of "hey, let's learn from their mistakes –