

becomes dysfunctional during a time of sweeping global change. The historian Barbara Tuchman describes this process as “the march to folly,” when rulers become addicted to old ways despite clear evidence of the need for reform. This decay and dysfunction is what we are witnessing from Sacramento to Washington.

Since the 1960s the cynical politics of Machiavelli’s state have been opposed by a very different politics based in spiritual and moral concerns, based on telling the truth rather than manipulation, on participatory democracy rather than placating interest-groups.

Nothing less than a paradigm shift in politics is occurring as the centralized structures of the nation-state, of public and private bureaucracy, and of the industrial corporation find themselves undermined by democratic revolts, by decentralized information technologies, and by the emergence of the environmental crisis.

We have seen the creative power of civil rights, women’s and environmental movements make progress against the institutional power of state and corporate bureaucracies time after time.

The effort to achieve campaign reform and lobbying reform is not simply about limiting contributions and tinkering with disclosure forms. It is about awakening the power of citizens to have meaningful lives.

We have seen the beginning of a spiritual force in politics in the powerful global role of the Dalai Lama and the democratic revolutions in South Africa and Czechoslovakia which elected former political prisoners Nelson Mandela and Vaclav Havel as presidents of their transformed nations.