

Discourses on Isopublic Podcasts

Transcript and End Notes

Series: Introductory

Episode: 0.2 Features of Isopublic (Part 1)

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Transcript

Welcome to *Discourses on Isopublic*.

My name is Dean Adair—creator of isopublic, nation of political equals and the “rule yourself and no else” society.

♪ *Intro music*

This is Episode 0.2 titled, “Features of Isopublic (Part 1)”

With this episode and the next two, I rundown a list of features of isopublic that should provide a good general understanding of the model. The feature elements I present here can be found at isopublic.org/features basically in the form of a table of entries. Each entry itself could be a podcast, so consider these cursory which I hope to elaborate upon with future podcasts.

I’ve divided the features into the following categories—Ideology, Authority, International, Law, Integrity, Personhood, Nature, Society, and Economy. I’ve divided the categories into three podcasts to keep the length of each reasonably short.

With this podcast, Part 1, I cover the categories of Ideology, Authority, and International.

So, let’s begin. The following are features of isopublic in the category of Ideology—

The moral philosophy of isopublic is *evolutionary utilitarianism* which is stated as, “the greatest equal freedom for the greatest well-being of the greatest number.” Meaning, the maximum equal freedom of each to exercise their personal evolutionary advantages, i.e. tool-use, cognition, and language, for maximum progress of civilization, all things considered over time. Other terms for evolutionary utilitarianism are “cultural use-inheritance” and “social Spencerism” (after the 19th century English philosopher, Herbert Spencer).

Another way to express evolutionary utilitarianism is “do, learn, teach.” This is the paradigm of progress and, as under evolutionary utilitarianism, about creating optimal social conditions for all to have the greatest opportunity of each to act, assess, and communicate.

The word “isopublic” is a hybrid of Greek and Latin roots. **iso-** from Greek *isos* meaning “equal” and -**public** from Latin *publicus* meaning “of the people, of the state, done for the state,” i.e. political society. Thus, isopublic means equal political society, or restated, a society of political equals.

Isopublic is a state without government, i.e. a self-governing or self-regulating society. The authority of isopublic does not regulate society, the People regulate themselves, meaning one is legally liable for harm done to others, not harm that *might* be done.

Isopublic is a voluntary state. To become a citizen, one must sign the Compact, the citizen contract and literal social contract containing the totality of public law.

The Trilibrium is the prime political doctrine of isopublic. The Trilibrium is stated as "equal freedom, equal rule, and equal justice maintained in steady-state equilibrium."

Isopublic is a state with courts, police, and prisons.

Isopublic has a national defense comprised primarily of a citizen-militia. There is no standing army in isopublic. A standing army is dangerous to the integrity of the state and liberty. The defense of liberty is too important to delegate to others. With respect to maintaining maximum equal freedom, every citizen has "skin in the game."

The Eudemic Code is a complete system of morality for isopublic prescribing good conduct in all moral domains, i.e. personal, social, and political. Meaning, how you should treat yourself, how you should treat others, and how the state should treat you. The word "eudemic" is from Greek roots. **Eu-** meaning "happiness, health, and prosperity," i.e. well-being all things considered over time. **-dem-** from *demos* meaning "the People," i.e. civil society. The eudemic society is to be the fittest society in nature, all things considered over time. I read the Eudemic Code in episode 0.1 and you can read it on the isopublic.org home page.

The political authority of isopublic, called the Tricurria, does not act on the People (i.e. does not interfere in society) except to remedy harm individuals do to others and to perform only those functions that are vital to the viability of the nation. This because the act of regulating society is itself doing harm to the People and denies individuals their right of due process, i.e. it's wrongful to punish for harm individuals *might* do before harm is actually done.

In a moral society, political leadership is inclusive of the People. All citizens of the isopublic have an equal chance of serving at the highest level in the Tricurria via the democratic convention of selection by lottery, called sortition. A second step, the Autoselect, is used to put the most competent individuals into the most responsible roles.

Under the Eudemic Code's 1st Imperative, each person has the unalienable equal rights of selfdom, freedom, and property. Selfdom (i.e. self-dominion, self-ownership, or self-sovereignty) means dominion over one's person, mind and body. Freedom means freedom to exercise one's personal faculties and includes freedom of speech, religion, education, etc., so long as one doesn't infringe on another's equal freedom. Property, in the Lockean sense, means that you own what you produce mixing your labor with nature. To deny one the product of their labor, of mind and or body, is slavery—socialism, communism, and fascism are based on slavery because they deny an individual's right to own the products of their labor.

Allowances of Vital Necessity (under the Eudemic Code) identifies areas whereby the Tricurria is permitted to infringe on the People's 1st Imperative rights, the only areas the state is granted allowance to act on the People by the People. Thus, for example, public schools and welfare are not allowed.

The Allowances are preliminary at this time. In an active isopublic, i.e. after a finalized Compact is in effect, the Allowances could be changed by nomothesion.

Allowances of Vital Necessity are as follows:

- Citizenship (a function of the courts granted by Rite of Citizenship, rescindable for crimes against the state, or voluntarily canceled)
- Civil Dispute Resolution (via third-party mediation and civil adjudication by the courts)



- Criminal Justice (via criminal inquests and prisons)
- Guardianship (to identify guardians of dependent persons, e.g. children and incompetent adults)
- Humane Treatment of Sentient Beings (i.e. legal protection for the humane treatment of mammals and other sentient lifeforms)
- Public Records (i.e. repository of public information)
- Security of State (e.g. national civilian-militia, intelligence, border security, etc.)
- The Commons (i.e. the Tricuria acting as steward of natural resources and all jurisdictional nature not privately owned)
- Titles-in-nature and -property (for facilitating private use and ownership of natural resources, and identifying private property, respectively)
- The VaEN (for Value Exchange Network), the national monetary system and currency of isopublic which is a digital cryptocurrency based on the principles of true money.
- The VaEN Tax or V-tax (i.e. a fee on every currency transaction in the economy and the Tricuria's sole source of revenue)

That ends the Allowances of Vital Necessity. Note that the list is short. These are only those functions I believe necessary for the Tricuria to perform to maintain the viability of the isopublic. This list might change over time, but any additions must have a sound basis as being necessary.

The Tricuria employs democratic conventions to maintain the integrity of state such as sortition, executive councils, paranomon, and others.

The administrative division of isopublic is called a demy (*pl.* demies). Each demy has its own Tricuria. A demy tricuria makes its own policy but is not able to make law because the Compact is universal law in the isopublic. There is a National or Capital Demy and common demies. The National Demy is the seat of the National Tricuria which houses the State and Defense departments. All demies have their own Justice, Interior, and Fidelis departments. I cover departments of the Tricuria in Part 2.

The demy (including the National Demy) has a maximum and minimum population. If a demy exceeds the maximum, it must be divided into two demies (like cell mitosis) and if below the minimum must be absorbed by a neighboring demy. Because demies are administrative and not jurisdictional, division or absorption should be mostly transparent to the People. Because demies are only administrative, should a power struggle between demy tricurias occur, something very wrong is afoot.

It's important that no demy be allowed to exceed the maximum population contained in the Compact (e.g. two million citizens or five million total) to keep the Tricuria at a human scale and responsive to local concerns. The Tricuria is intended to be decentralized with autonomous demies under the universal Compact law. This is especially true of the National Demy which, apart from specific functions (e.g. administering the VaEN, National Grand Courts, etc.) and Departments of Defense and State, it operates like any other demy.

Isopublic is highly scalable. If the entire world with population of eight billion was a single isopublic and assuming an average demy population of 3.5 million, there'd be about 2,300 demies worldwide under the single universal Compact law. That sounds like a lot, and it is, but given there're about 195 countries today, that's only about 10 divisions per country on average (e.g. the US would divide into about 85 demies and China 400). Thus, a global nomothesion would have a World Citizen Assembly of 7,500

members x 2,300 assemblies or 17 million people voting. Again, while that's a big number, consider the 2016 US presidential election had almost 130 million voters.

Isopublic promotes private mutual aid societies by eliminating interference from the state and tax-funded welfare. The People must rely on family, community, and charity to weather difficult times. Thus, does isopublic strengthen the altruistic virtues of generosity, charity, and compassion. Extended families and community are important in isopublic. So, for instance, there'd be no taxpayer subsidized single-motherhood thus encouraging sexual responsibility.

That covers notable features of isopublic Ideology. Next up is the category of Authority, the political institutions of isopublic.

The Tricuria, as the political authority of isopublic, is the guardian and steward of the Trilibrum. The word, tricuria, is from Latin roots with **tri-** from *tres* meaning "three" and **-curia** meaning "council, court or assembly." In the case of Tricuria, suggesting council, court *and* assembly, a reference to the three branches of the Tricuria—the Executive, Judicial, and Citizen Assembly.

The Triennial Selectoral is the process by which political leadership is selected. Every three years, individuals are selected from the citizenry by lottery, i.e. by sortition. From that group, the most competent are selected to serve as councilors by their peers in a 2-day event called the Autoselect.

Councilors are paid at the highest level of compensation in the Tricuria. All councilors are paid identically regardless of type but adjusted by demy cost of living. Cabinet officials are next highest not to exceed 90% the compensation councilors receive. Compensation is set by the outgoing National Executive Council; thus, they can't receive the benefit of their own increase. Compensation levels are set once every three years. The expectation is for councilors to receive compensation at three or four times the national average.

Able-bodied citizens of any age serve in the Citizen Assembly, but one must be 21 to serve on council with no maximum age. The only requirement for service is to be a citizen in good standing, i.e. not currently in prison. Any citizen unable to serve if selected receives a deferment. Any individual deemed mentally incompetent would need to have their legal status changed to dependent person thus removing their citizen status. It's essential that the widest cross section of citizens be included and no filtering or prejudicing of selection be allowed.

Each demy conducts a triennial selectoral lottery which selects a statistically significant random sample size multiplied by nine from the citizenry called citizens-select. For example, given a demy with 1,000,000 citizens, the selectoral sample size is 1,100 x 9 or 9,900 citizens-select. From this group, councilors are selected in an autoselect. Everyone not selected for council service serve on the assembly. Assuming this citizen population, there'd be a 1% chance of being selected every three years, 10% chance over thirty years, and 25% over a lifetime for someone becoming a citizen at age 15 and living to be age 90.

The Autoselect is the second step of the Triennial Selectoral and is used to assign the most responsible roles (i.e. executive and judicial council seats) to the most competent people in the opinion of their peers. The Autoselect is a 2-day event over which all those selected in the Lottery by demy convene for a 3-round mutual interview process. For each round, the citizens-select are randomly divided into groups of nine for a 3-hour session to ask each other questions and review short bios. At the end of the session, each ranks from most to least preferred the other eight in the group. For each round, the groups are randomly assigned such that no two individuals participate in the same group twice.

After the third round on the second day, the rankings are published. Starting with the highest ranked individuals (i.e. having the lowest score of 3 x 8 or 24), the council seats are filled beginning with the executive councils (National first followed by each demy council), then judicial councils (National Court-of-courts first, followed by demy courts-of-courts, and finally, the remaining court council seats by demy). All those not selected for council then serve on the respective assembly by demy.

With respect to starting-up an isopublic, an estimated minimum citizen population of 4,000 is needed to support a minimal Tricuria. Meaning, the minimum-sized viable isopublic might be around 10,000 population including children and non-citizen residents (i.e. legal independent residents).

The Executive Branch of the Tricuria is divided into five departments—Justice, Interior, Fidelis, State, and Defense. All demies, including the National Demy, have the Judicial, Interior, and Fidelis departments. Only the National Demy has the State and Defense departments.

When a councilor is serving on council (National, demy, or department), they're to act on their individual conscience, not as part of a group. For example, when a Defense Department councilor is serving on the National Council, they're not at that time part of the Defense Council per se, meaning they vote as an individual member of the National Council, i.e. the Defense Department Council doesn't act as a block with respect to National Council votes.

The five departments of the Tricuria Executive Branch perform the following general missions:

- The Justice Department administers the police and prisons. Justice supports the courts by providing investigators, executing courts orders, etc.
- The Interior Department prepares budgets, administers to facilities, parks, and the Commons. The National Interior Department oversees the state monetary system, the VaLEN.
- The Fidelis Department acts as internal affairs and police of the police. Fidelis performs audits and acts as the citizen ombudsman. Fidelis also administers the Triennial Selectoral.
- The State Department is responsible for international affairs and maintains the diplomatic corps.
- The Defense Department is responsible for national defense and national security including border security.

Each department is divided into offices. Each office is run by a director who sits on the department cabinet and answers directly to the department council.

The Tricuria is highly decentralized. Each demy council has authority over its own demy tricuria. The National Council has authority over the capital demy tricuria and those functions expressly limited by the Compact nationally, e.g. national defense, foreign affairs, national security, national currency. Common demy tricurias are to be expressly prohibited from engaging in these functions.

The principle political bodies that govern the Tricuria are executive councils, judicial councils, and citizen assemblies. All serve on a 3-year term with councilors serving full-time and assembly members on a by-vote basis. Councils are either by demy or the National Council seated in the capital demy. National Councilors are selected from the highest autoselect-ranked citizen-selects nationally.

The Tricuria Executive Branch is governed by executive councils. Each executive department is governed by a department council with nine members. The department councils combine to form the executive council. Thus, a common demy executive council (called a demy council) has 27 members, i.e. the combined demy Justice, Interior, and Fidelis department councils. The National Council has 45 members, i.e. the combined Justice, Interior, Fidelis, Defense, and State department councils.

In isopublic, there are no elections, no elected public officials, no political parties, and no political campaigns.

The Citizen Assembly is a branch of the Tricuria consisting of everyone who didn't get selected for council in the Autoselect. The Citizen Assembly has the power to nullify any executive policy, remove any executive council, cancel a state of emergency, and make the final decision on changes to the Compact. The Citizen Assembly is not a deliberative body, i.e. the Assembly only convenes for the purpose of casting votes. An executive council can dispute any Assembly vote except on the removal of an executive council. A disputed vote goes before the grand courts (demy or National as appropriate) to break the tie.

The Tricuria is to be prohibited from issuing debt except during a declared state of emergency. The debt issued must be paid within 30 years (i.e. in one generation and 10 service terms).

Debt could be issued either by demy or National tricuria but the issuing tricuria is responsible for repaying the debt from its respective budget.

Disputes between executive councils and citizen assemblies are resolved by the Grand Courts. The Grand Courts mediate disputes and, by final court decision, is the dispute resolved. The disputing assembly and executive council each appoint a team of three to represent their position to appear before the courts. A dispute between the National Assembly and National Council is resolved by the National Grand Courts.

Disputes between demy tricurias including disputes between the National Council and common demy tricurias are resolved by the National Grand Courts acting as mediators.

In the isopublic, there is a general separation of science and state. The only science to be conducted by the Tricuria (i.e. with public funds) is under the Security of State Allowance, i.e. for national security and defense. There's to be no social science funding and no educational funding except under the Security of State Allowance. Science in isopublic is to be pursued by private interests, and only so far as it remains lawful and doesn't do harm or endanger the security of the state, meaning that under the Security of State Allowance, science can be regulated by the National Council and associated National department councils.

Because political honorifics (e.g. The Honorable, Your Honor, Your Grace, etc.) suggest status and hierarchy, there are to be no political honorifics used in the isopublic. Personal honorifics such as Dr., Prof., Ms. are okay for councilors and assembly members.

Titles of political leadership roles in the Tricuria are—Member (for those serving on a citizen assembly), Councilor or Executive-councilor (for those serving on a demy council or National Council), and Judge or Judge-councilor (for those serving on a judicial council, i.e. court panel).

That's the end of the Authority category. I only have two entries for the International category currently.

Foreign affairs are to be under the direct authority of the State and Defense Departments of the National Tricuria and under the ultimate authority of the National Council. The State Department includes a foreign service which employs diplomats.

No policies are to be adopted that restrict imports or exports except under the Security of State Allowance. Thus, the National Council is to have no authority to impose economic sanctions against other countries.



That's it for this episode. My next episode will be "Features of Isopublic (Part 2)" and include the categories of Law, Integrity, Personhood, and Nature.

Again, the table can be found at isopublic.org/features. I'll be adding to and revising the table on an ongoing basis. The list I've presented here is a starting point. My hope is for these features to be part of the future *Treatise on Isopublic* followed by the *Annotated Compact*.

Here ends this episode of *Discourses on Isopublic*.

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This is Dean Adair signing off until next time.

♪ *Outro music*



End Notes

No end notes for this episode.