Towards the Big Environmental Society
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Expectations in Cooperation

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Expectations in Cooperation

- Introduction
- Civil Society – State – Market
- Who provides what?
- Caveats and considerations
- Expectations
- Conclusions
Introduction

- German perspective
  - No Third Way – Big Society …
  - Hegelian tradition
  - German government not inclined towards civil society

- General assertions on the trias of state, market, and civil society

- Focus on relationship between the three

- Focus on issues
Introduction

My argument:

Societal actors are systematically precluded from bringing the best of their
- abilities
- resources
- potentials
to the table.
Civil Society – State – Market

Market

State

CITIZEN

Civil Society
Civil Society – State - Market

- three arenas of societal action
- fabric of modern society rests upon the existence and development of all three arenas
- no surprise to Anglo-Saxon academia
- exotic notion to German academia
- an atmosphere of mistrust between the actors in the various arenas
- in some respects an alliance between the state and the market at the expense of civil society
Civil Society – State – Market

- voluntary
- not-for profit
- non-governmental
- public interest

- purpose-driven
- not necessarily democratic
- giving
- self-organized
Civil Society

- provision of services
- advocacy
- self-help
- Intermediary
- watchdog
- social cohesion

- organized civil society
- social movements
- citizen action groups
- other
Funded by

- fees for purpose related service provision (including government contracts)
- non-related market income
- voluntary contributions (monetary and non-monetary)
- government subsidies
Civil Society – State – Market

- „the private sector“
- bottom-line driven
- profit-driven
- private interests
- private ownership
- non-governmental

- not democratic
- trading
- provision of goods and services
- provision of work places
Civil Society – State – **Market**

- **Funded by**
  - market income
    (payment for goods and services)
  - occasional government subsidies
Civil Society – **State** – Market

- governmental
- democratic
- public interest
- Justice
- equality
- enforcement-driven

- provision of services and goods
- provision of security
- law makers and enforcers
Civil Society – State – Market

- Funded by
  - imposed taxation
  - imposed fees
  - market income
  - occasional voluntary contributions
When cooperating… who provides what?

The state may provide

- legitimacy in decision making,
- legal framework,
- enforcement,
- governance,
- lines of command,
- funding *(through compulsory taxation of the citizens)*.
Who provides what?

The state habitually does not provide

- Entrepreneurial spirit
- Flexibility
- Responsiveness
- Business attitude
- Efficient use of resources
Who provides what?

The market may provide

- Efficiency
- Management
- Governance
- Competitiveness
- Entrepreneurial Spirit
- Funding
Who provides what?

The market habitually does not provide

- Responsibility beyond self-interest
- Volunteerism
- Legitimacy
- Long term sustainability
Who provides what?

Civil society may provide

- compassion.
- creativity,
- voluntary contributions,
- community building,
- social capital
- public consensus building.
Civil society habitually does not provide

- funding,
- formalized structures,
- stability of performance,
- business orientation.
Caveats and Considerations

- Exceptions to the rule
- Hybrids and borderline cases
- Pluralism entails diversity and inequality of approaches.
- No arena is consistent in itself
  - foundations vs. citizen action groups,
  - national vs. local government,
  - global corporations vs. small private businesses.
Caveats and Considerations

- Every actor has his own agenda.
- Every actor resents being downgraded or instrumentalized by another.
- Every actor has a motive, and more often than not a hidden agenda.
- Virtually no one acts entirely altruistically.
- Everyone has a cultural mindset he/she falls back on.
Expectations … in an ideal world

The Market
- Efficiency
- Governance
- Funding

The State
- Legal Framework
- Enforcement
- Funding

Civil Society
- Advocacy
- Volunteerism
- Creativity
- Compassion

Citizen
- Legitimacy
Expectations … in the real world

The Market
- Development
- Execution
- Funding

The State
- Governance
- Funding
- Legitimacy

Civil Society
- Awareness
- Cheap workforce
- Funding
Expectations … in many people’s preconceived notions

The Market
- Power
- Profit
- Self interest

The State
- Force
- Bureaucracy
- Political Bias

Civil Society
- Trouble-making
- Chaos
- „nimby-ism“
Conclusions

The state, in the eyes of other actors,

- uses what powers it has to remain in the driver‘s seat,
- tends to be subservient to the market,
- calls upon civil society as
  - co-producer of services,
  - funder,
- but not usually as provider of ideas and solutions.
Conclusions

The market, in the eyes of other actors,

- is set on earning money,

- looks upon government to externalize costs,

- adopts corporate social responsibility to
  - gain or uphold reputation,
  - hedge risks,

- Views civil society as a competitor in service provision and a potential troublemaker.
Conclusions

Civil society, in the eyes of other actors,

- Aspires to moral superiority and an inherent legitimacy,
- Looks upon government to enact favourable legislation,
- Looks upon government and business to fundist activities,
- Is suspicious of the market as a destroyer of values.
Conclusions

- Failure of systems needs to be addressed.
- Attitudes need to change
  - respect for and recognition of other actors’ strengths and weaknesses
  - actors to be called upon to do what they can do best
  - actors not to overstretch their self-esteem
- Expectations need to be matched to
  - abilities,
  - potential.
Conclusions

The state should expect

- civil society to provide
  - ideas and solutions,
  - public discussion,
  - civic engagement,
  - social capital,
  - volunteer action,
  - not-for-profit management.

- the market to provide
  - business solutions,
  - management of issues,
  - recognition of general interest.
Conclusions

- The market should expect
  - the state to provide
    - a stable legal framework,
    - a functioning infrastructure.
  - civil society to provide
    - a public voice,
    - ideas and solutions,
    - Civicness,
    - social capital.
Conclusions

- Civil society should expect
  - the market to provide
    * business solutions,
    * management support.
  - the state to provide
    * a stable legal framework,
    * funding for public interest programmes,
    * recognition of civil society advocacy.
The End

Thank-you!