

# TA and dysfunctional liberal democracy: Bridging crisis through a politics of hype

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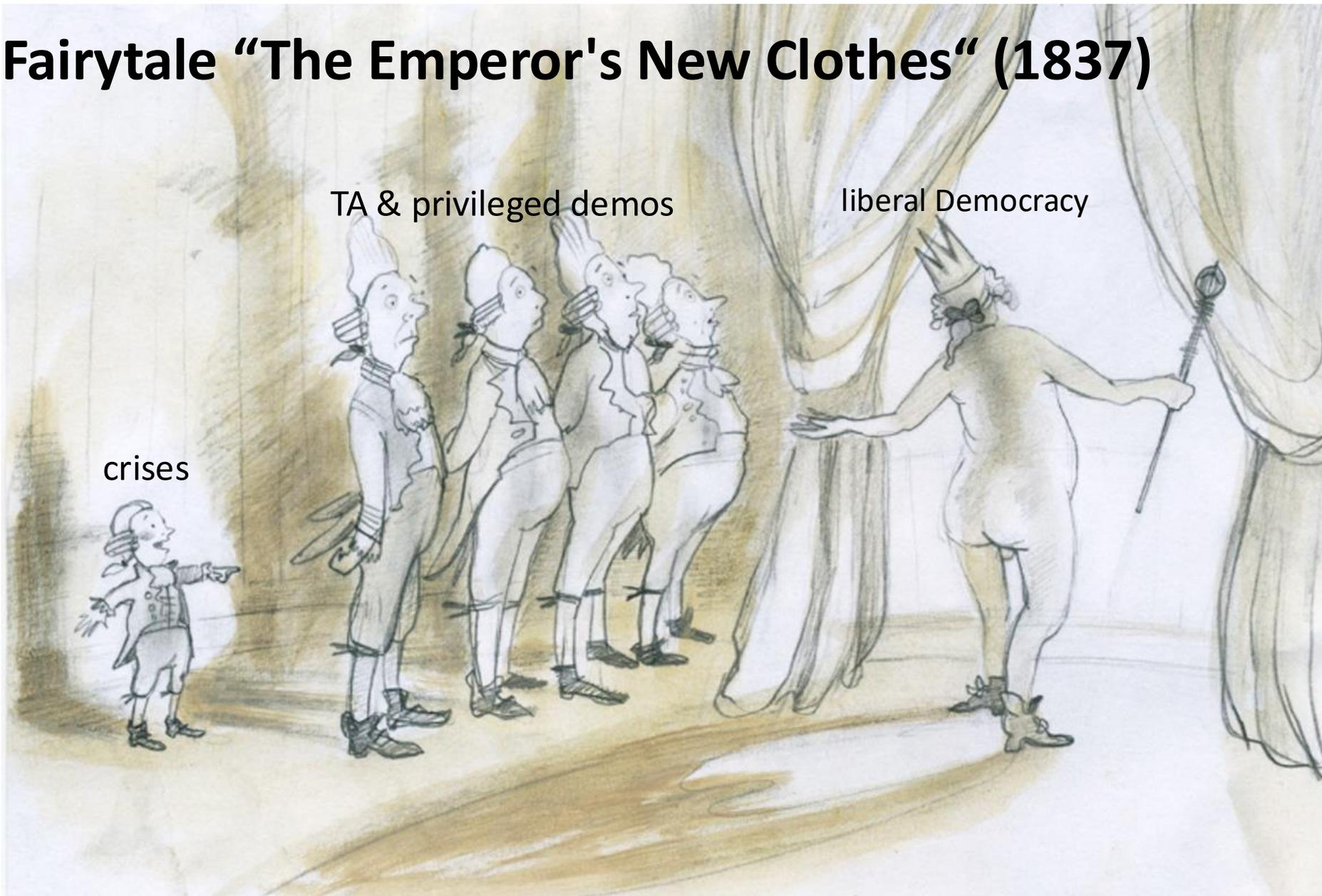
# The crisis of the liberal system is TA's crisis

- TA bases itself on liberal democratic premises, especially echoing a deliberative ethos
- But idea of democracy appears unreal, disconnected from experience, and its normative appeal fades. **We experience dysfunctional political subjectivity and institutional failure.**
- If democracy becomes dysfunctional, the epistemological and normative self-understanding of TA is eroding with it.

# The demos: Emancipating from emancipation?

- “Stay loyal to your political ideals“; “more democratic participation“, “listen to the science” **is not feasible politics anymore for the demos.**
- Such drastic interventions in their project of self-realization and autonomy are too demanding, too stressful and simply overburdening.
- **Blühdorn (2013); Selk (2024):** the modern subjects liberate themselves from the traditional normative enlightenment constraints and “ruthlessly indulge in their self-realization, which is primarily oriented towards consumption and market success.”

# Fairy tale “The Emperor's New Clothes” (1837)

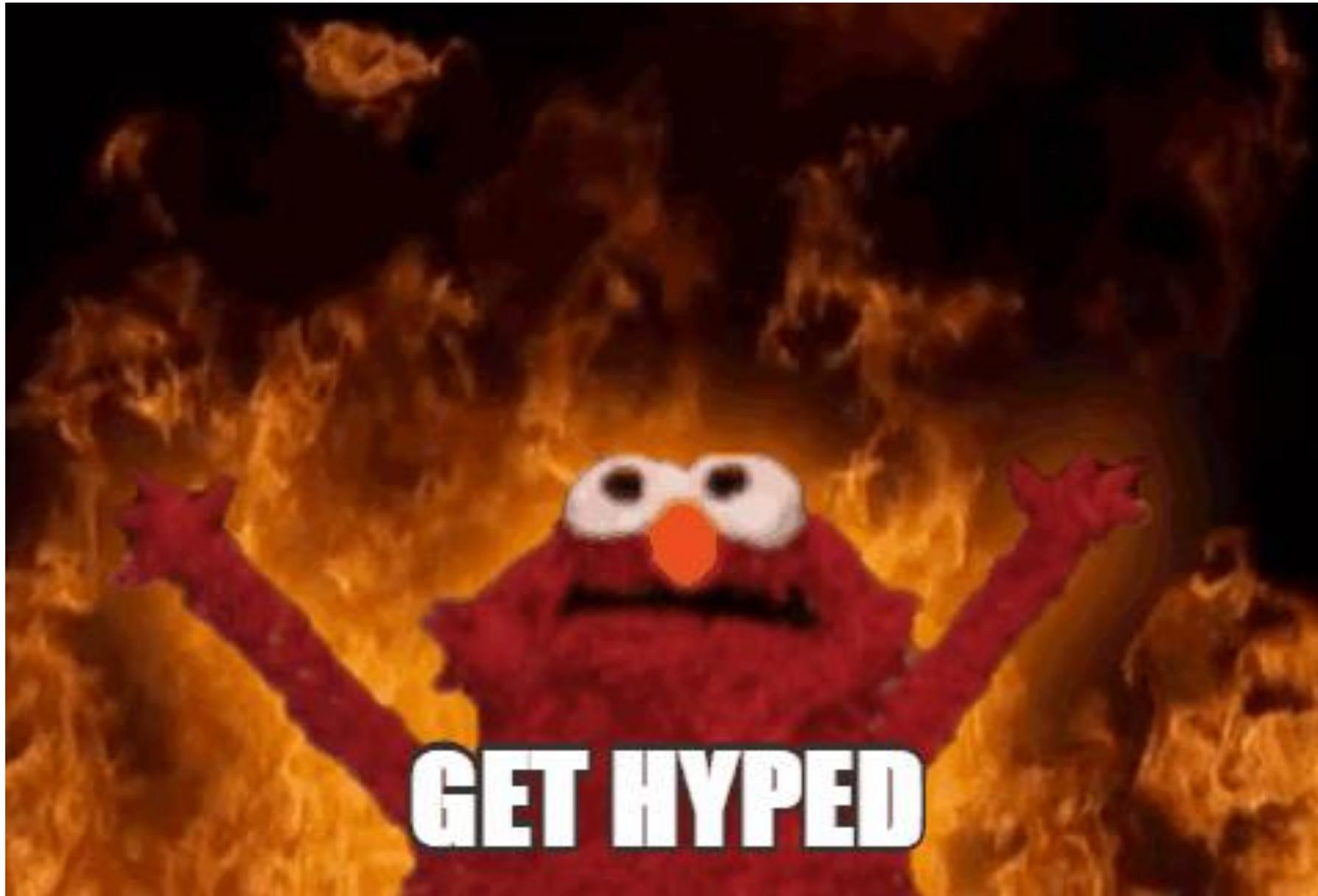


Tale is based on a 1335 story from the *Libro de los ejemplos*, a medieval Spanish collection of fifty-one cautionary tales.

# Entering simulative democratic times

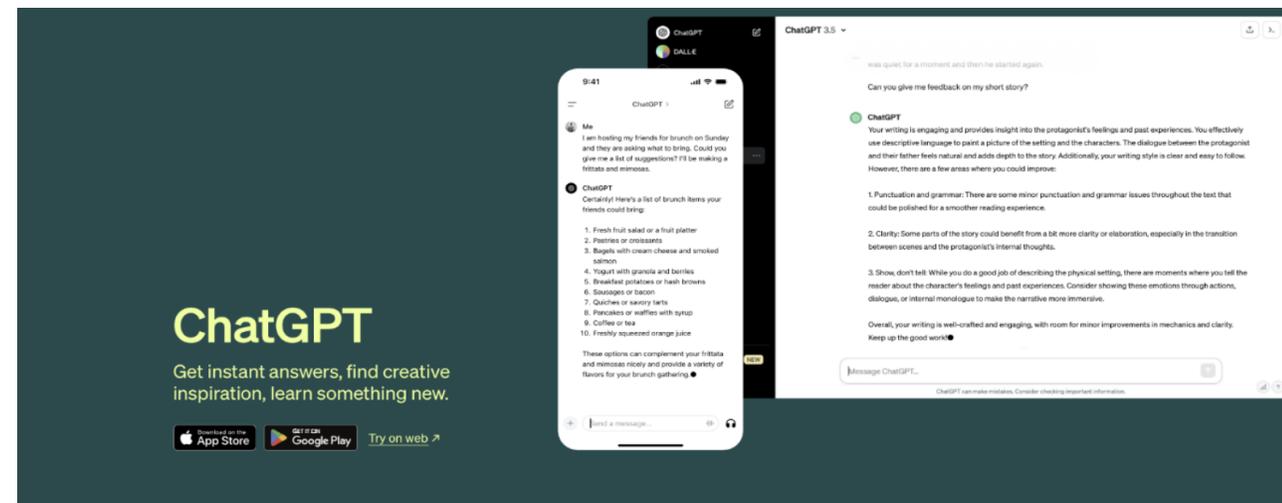
- Liberal values are empirically fading, but their symbolism is reaffirmed: How to make democratic simulation tangible, performative and effective?
- What can the system offer to the demos so they stay pacified?

The system needs to, albeit implausible, perform the symbolic liberal capitalist order:



# The simulative and pacifying force of tech hype

- AI Tech progress as a remedy to democratic, ecological & economic crisis. And TA rides along (Nanotech, IoT 4.0, AI...)
- Open AI and its claims of singularity:  
Tech fix solutionism: *“Ask me anything”*
- the politics of hype points to the emotional celebration of technology as an efficient and sustainable future, without really politically changing anything - except for the stock value of some privileged financial strata



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**Ask me anything**

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Quiz me on vocabulary	Translate this recipe into Greek	Plan an itinerary for teens in Hong Kong
Plan a surf trip to Costa Rica	Rank dog breeds for a small apartment	Design a database schema
Draft a thank-you note	Help me plan a fun dinner party	Recommend an easy potluck dish
Explain this code	Draft a social media content calendar	Help me build a budget

# Summary

- The premises of liberal democracy are implausible and overcome putting TA into crisis.
- In concealing the broken liberalism through hype, only the privileged part of demos benefits. The neglected one rages.
- For now democratic order will continue in some dysfunctional way, as a hybrid between expertocratic, authoritarian, grassroots, constitutional, nationalist tension. Democracies are not *dying*, they are *crying*.
- Dear TA: Where do you stand? Who benefits from TA? Can you exist without hype?
- Address: Questions of *power, ownership, decentralisation, degrowth, global inclusion...*