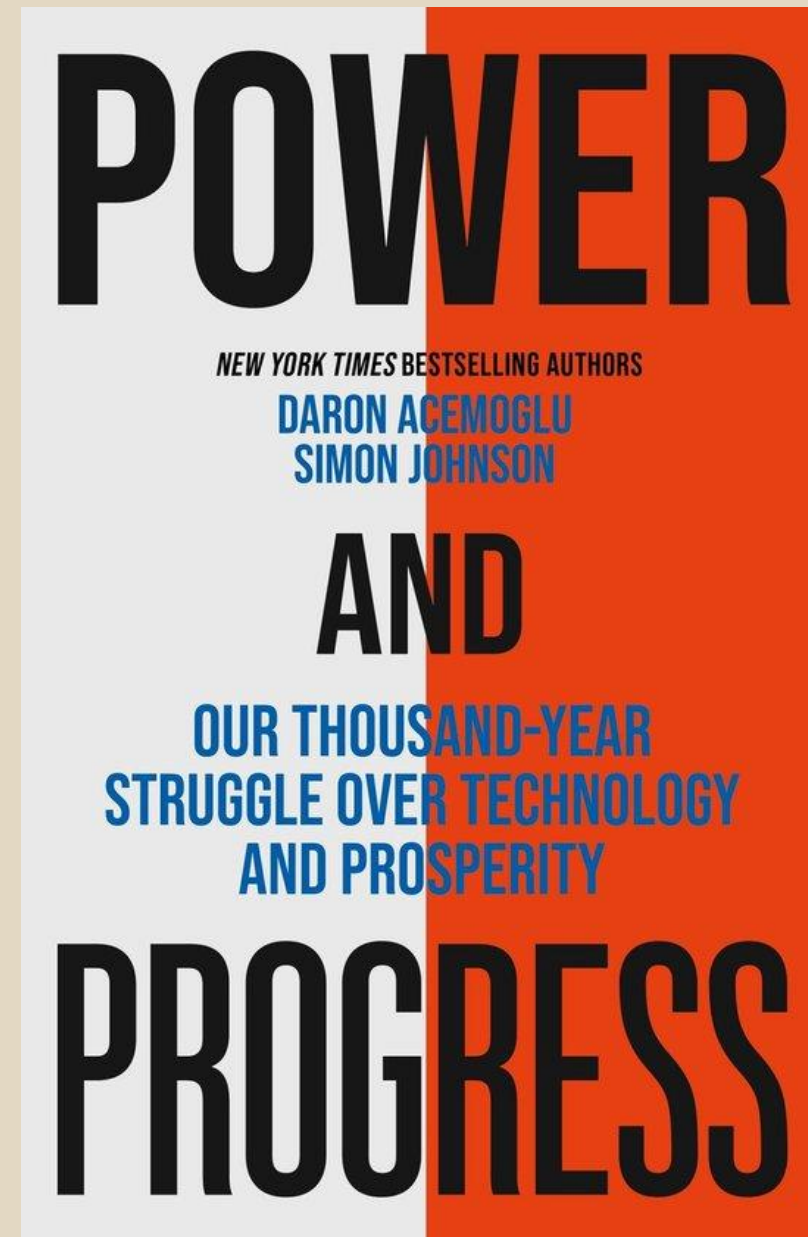


# NO PROGRESS WITHOUT THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF POWER

*Political choices  
determine the outcomes  
of technological  
and social  
progress*

Harm Hofman  
Duurzaam Heiloo



## Key

- Power should be as close to the people as possible.
- Contrasts with centralism, where national authorities dictate solutions.

## Empower Local Communities

- Municipalities and neighborhoods choose what works best for residents.
- Structural budgets allow tailored solutions for energy, housing, and social programs.

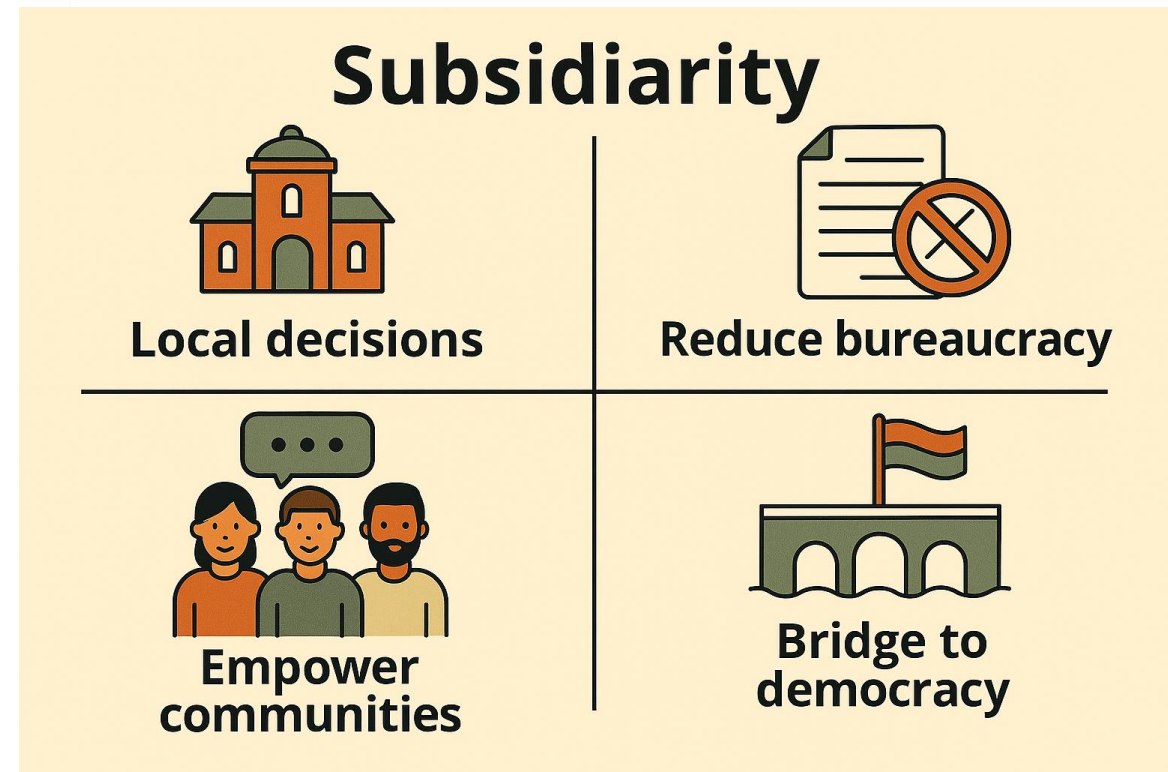
## Reduce Bureaucracy

- Centralized decisions create rigid rules and inefficiency.
- Local autonomy increases flexibility and trust

## Bridge to Democracy

- Citizen assemblies ensure decisions reflect local needs.
- Subsidiarity strengthens democratic legitimacy and participation

# Subsidiarity – Decisions at the Lowest Effective Level



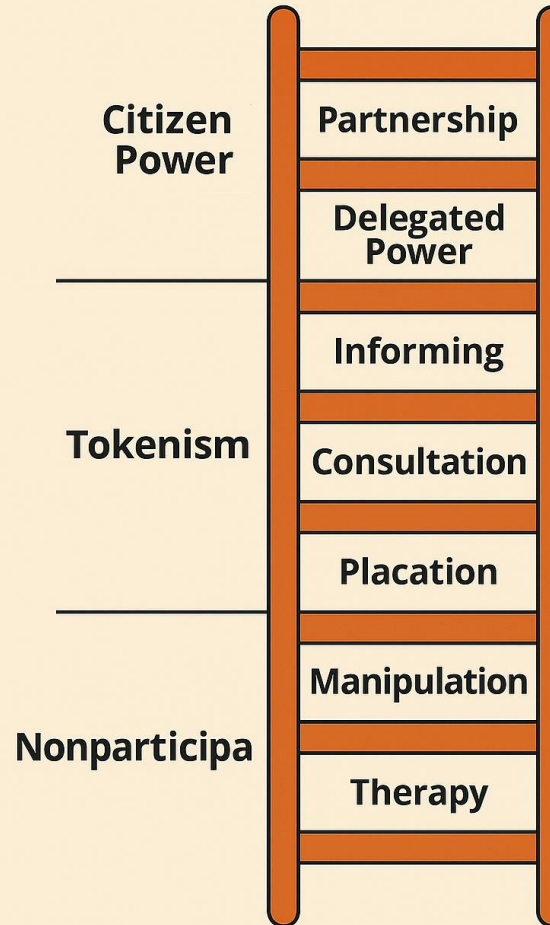
# Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation,

- Bottom (Nonparticipation):
  - *Therapy and Manipulation*:
  - Citizens no real influence; is symbolic or controlling.
- Middle (Tokenism):
  - *Informing, Consultation, Placation*:
  - Citizens are heard but lack actual power to shape outcomes.
- Top (Citizen Power):
  - *Delegated Power and Partnership*:
  - Citizens share real decision-making authority with institutions.

## Relation to Citizens' Assemblies and Democracy

- Citizens co-create policies rather than just being consulted.
- Decisions reflect local needs and values,
- Strengthening **democratic legitimacy**.
- Higher participation means stronger trust and accountability in governance.

## Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation



## Shared Prosperity

- Requires inclusive institutions.
- Technology should serve society, not narrow interests.

## Power Structures Matter

- Tech often amplifies existing inequalities.
- Elites can control its direction and benefits.

## Historical Lessons

- Progress is never automatic.
- Social movements and democratic oversight shape outcomes

## Modern Challenges

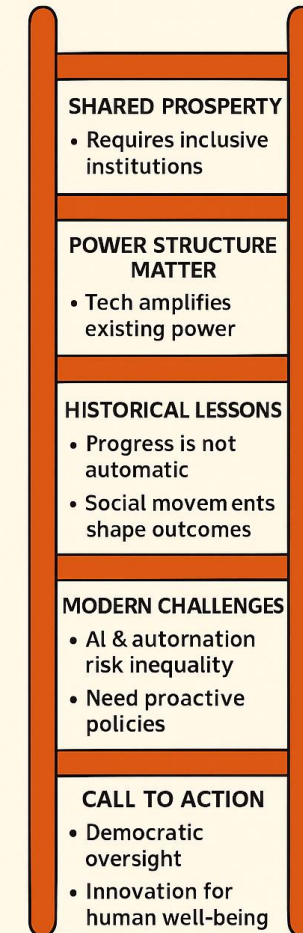
- AI and automation risk deepening inequality.
- Proactive policies are needed to align tech with fairness.

## Call to Action

- Strengthen democratic checks and transparency.
- Ensure innovation promotes human well-being.

# The Ladder of Acemoglu & Johnson

## Power and Progress: Technology and Prosperity





## Core Principles; Community

- Shared values and social responsibility. Inclusive
- Co-ops Micro-investment and open membership.

## Subsidiarity

- Decisions made as close as possible to the people affected.
- Moves from tokenistic consultation to genuine partnership and delegated power.

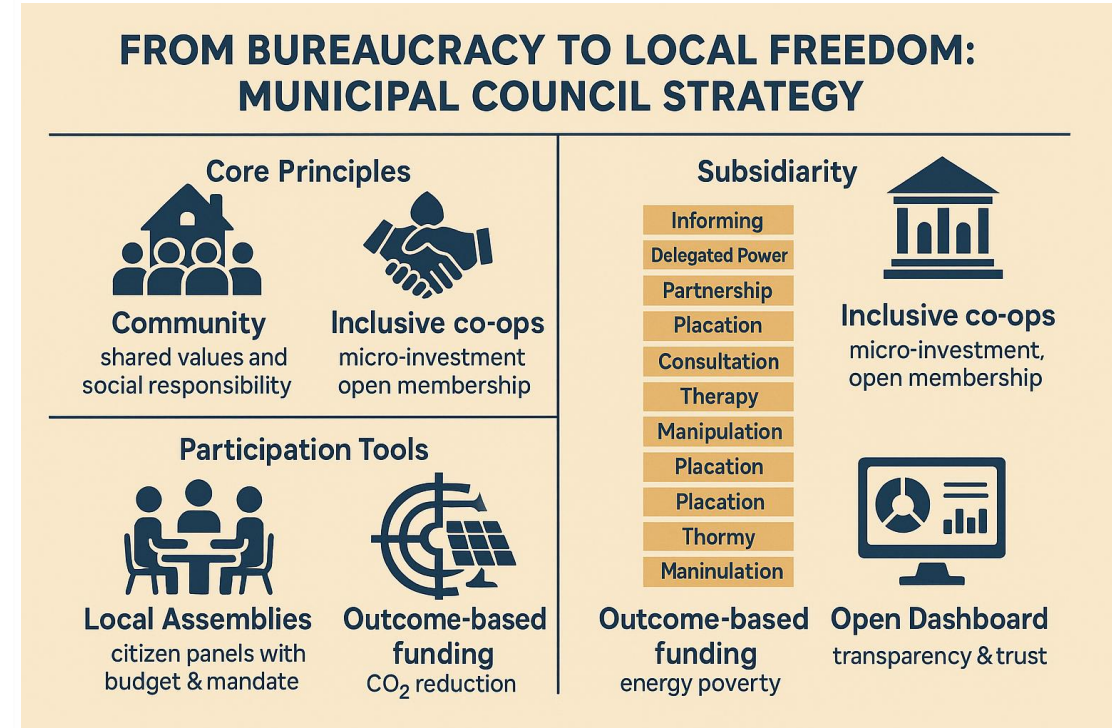
## Participation Tools

- Local Assemblies Citizen panels with budget and mandate.
- Outcome-Based Funding Focus on measurable results like CO<sub>2</sub> reduction

## Open Dashboard

- Transparency and trust between citizens and government.

# Overview



# NO PROGRESS WITHOUT THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF POWER

Technological progress  
does not automatically  
create prosperity:

Those who hold power  
define the direction

Harm Hofman  
Duurzaam Heiloo

