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Press Release

## Global network of writers adopt Creative Commons licensing

San Francisco, USA & London, UK - June 14, 2005

Creative Commons, a nonprofit organization that provides flexible copyright licenses for authors and artists, and openDemocracy.net, an independent online magazine for debate about global politics, today unveiled a new partnership to bring works by the world's leading scholars and writers into the global commons.

openDemocracy.net is the first online publisher of its size and caliber to adopt Creative Commons licensing. Starting today, members of the public will be free to republish most articles on the openDemocracy.net site in any non-commercial publication in the world. "This move embodies the democratic values we champion," says openDemocracy's editor Isabel Hilton.

Since 2001 openDemocracy.net has published more than 2,600 articles by writers from around the world on issues relating to democracy, politics and culture. Contributors include scholars, journalists, policymakers and politicians. openDemocracy.net today released the work of 150 existing authors under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives license. All future authors will be encouraged to publish their work under this new default license, although they will also be free to opt for traditional "All rights reserved" level of copyright, or an even more permissive Creative Commons license instead.

Chairman & CEO of Creative Commons, Lawrence Lessig, said "It is exciting that the important content published in openDemocracy will be able to freely circulate around the globe and assist in spreading the ideas and arguments of its contributors. Creative Commons is honored that openDemocracy felt that Creative Commons licenses were suitable for this purpose."

### About openDemocracy.net

openDemocracy was founded in London in 2001. Its authors span the globe, and include some of the most respected writers and scholars from across the political spectrum. Past contributors include Todd Gitlin, Mary Kaldor, Kofi Annan, Anne-Marie Slaughter, John le Carré, Ian McEwan, and Siva Vaidhyanathan. Visit: <http://www.openDemocracy.net>



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## **About Creative Commons**

A nonprofit corporation founded in 2001, Creative Commons promotes the creative re-use of intellectual and artistic works—whether owned or in the public domain—by empowering authors and audiences. It is sustained by the generous support of the Center for the Public Domain, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Omidyar Network Fund, and the Hewlett Foundation. For general information, visit <http://creativecommons.org>

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