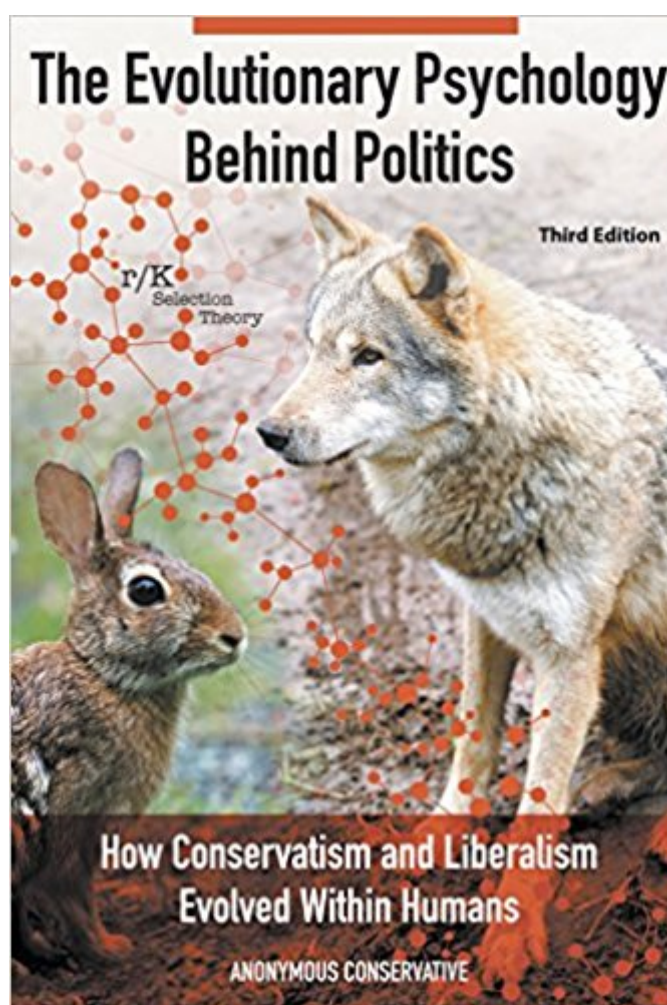


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The Evolutionary Psychology Behind Politics: How Conservatism And Liberalism Evolved Within Humans, Third Edition



Synopsis

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Why do people adopt different political ideologies? How can seemingly equal intellects, presented with the same facts and circumstances disagree so vehemently over how society should be structured? What psychological undercurrents guide people to adopt Conservative or Liberal political beliefs, and where did they come from? The answer lies in a well known concept in biology termed r/K Selection Theory, and this third edition is the most complete examination of this ground-breaking idea to date. r/K Theory examines how all populations tend to adopt one of two psychologies as a means of adapting their behavior to the presence or absence of environmental resources. The two strategies, termed r and K, each correlate perfectly with the psychologies underlying Liberalism and Conservatism. One strategy, named the r-strategy, imbues those who are programmed with it to be averse to all peer on peer competition, embrace promiscuity, embrace single parenting, and support early onset sexual activity in youth. Obviously, this mirrors the Liberal philosophy's aversion to individual Darwinian competitions such as capitalism and self defense with firearms, as well as group competitions such as war. Likewise, Liberalism is tolerant of promiscuity, tolerant of single parenting, and more prone to support early sex education for children and the sexualization of cultural influences. Designed to exploit a plethora of resources, one will often find this r-type strategy embodied within prey species, where predation has lowered the population's numbers, and thereby increased the resources available to it's individuals. The other strategy, termed the K-strategy, imbues those who pursue it with a fierce competitiveness, as well as tendencies towards abstinence until monogamy, two-parent parenting, and delaying sexual activity until later in life. Obviously, this mirrors Conservatism's acceptance of all sorts of competitive social schemes, from free market capitalism, to war, to individuals owning and carrying private weapons for self defense. Conservatives also tend to favor abstinence until monogamy, two parent parenting with an emphasis upon "family values," and children being shielded from any sexualized stimuli until later in life. This strategy is found most commonly in species which lack predation, and whose population's have grown to the point individuals must compete with each other for the limited environmental resources that they are rapidly running out of. Meticulously substantiated with the latest research in fields from neurobiology to human behavioral ecology, this work offers an unprecedented view into not just what governs our political battles, but why these battles have arisen within our species in the first place. From showing

how these two strategies adapt in other more complex species in nature, to examining the role of a migrating history in the evolution of more complex leftist political ideals, to examining what genetic and neurostructural mechanisms may produce these divergences between individuals, to examining how the environment may alter the expression of these ideals, to showing what this theory indicates our future may hold, this work is the most thorough analysis to date of just why we have two political ideologies, why they will never agree, and why we will tend to become even more partisan in the future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I heard about this theory a while back and was fairly repelled by it but after reading the book I changed my tune. The idea is simple enough, and gets laid out in a just a few pages but the real meat and potatoes makes up the greater part where supporting evidence was able to answer all my initial criticisms. I was left quite satisfied in the explanatory power of the theory on the cause of political bifurcation which is something that has always interested me. This theory not only benefits from having a biological basis but allows one to make a judgement of the merits of political ideas using that biological basis. Without such weight it would simply be one opinion pitted against another, but coming at it from a scientific perspective, relying solely on the evidence to explain the phenomena, one can now add an evaluation amounting to a judgement and have firm ground to stand on, so-to-speak. We can see that the longer a society lives in resource abundance, the farther to the political left of the spectrum that society moves. I'm reminded of the idea that "Good times

breed weak people. Weak people create tough times. Tough times breed strong people. Strong people create good times." which is an idea I heard quite independently of this book/theory. This means the ideas of this book could be proposed as the mechanism of action for ideas like the Fourth Turning and other generational theories of history.

This one was a real eye opener, and months later I am still thinking over it. Definitely worth the read, especially in these times when so many are predicting another Civil War.

Well researched and easily read, this book brings a deep understanding why a person is either left or right. Excellent book.

r/K will be obvious in every interaction, every conversation, every decision you participate in. You will wonder how you ever survived before reading it. If you keep contemplating it... you will eventually realize you *weren't* surviving before. Then you will get angry. And at the same time laugh the heartiest laugh you ever have because you will be (a little more) free. Humanity is r/K... r/K is not a judgment of humanity but an accurate description of incredibly well tuned mechanisms for survival regardless of the environment the human being is born into. Survival isn't moral. However, humans can be moral AND survive. If they understand r/K. Both r and K automatically correct each other when the environment no longer reflects the strategy. The only thing you can do is position yourself accordingly.

Excellent book on the link between natural selection and politics. If you want to have a new and different understanding of where political philosophy comes from, this is the book for you. Conservatives are wolves; Liberals are rabbits.

This book will open your eyes to how those on the other side of the political spectrum think (no matter what side you are on). I was baffled at how otherwise intelligent people could ever be so completely opposite politically. The theory in this book finally explains it, and explains the different ways of thinking in humans in almost every aspect of life. Once you learn about it, you see the patterns in real life constantly. I tell friends about r/K theory all of the time as I see the world through this prism now and it makes sense.

Absolutely amazing/mind-blowing. Cannot recommend more highly. Completely changed the way I

view politics (and liberals especially). Required reading for people who want to understand the current worldwide political zeitgeist.

What an amazing read!!! This book gives us profound insight into politics in a way that will astound you. You will never see the 'right' and the 'left' the same way again - guaranteed!

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