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# In Defence Of Selfish Genes Richard Dawkins Philosophy

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The Selfish Gene

The Selfish Meme

The Selfish Gene

The Gene's-Eye View of Evolution

A Cooperative Species

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The Selfish Gene (summary)

SUMMARY - The Selfish Gene By Richard Dawkins

Alas Poor Darwin

Vishnu's Crowded Temple

The Selfish Gene: stability and the selfish machine; 6. Genesmanship; 7. Family planning; 8. Battle of the generations; 9. Battle of the sexes; 10. You scratch my back, I'll ride on yours; 11. Memes: the new replicators; 12. Nice guys finish first; 13.

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The Selfish Genius

Summary of The Selfish Gene

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Genes Richard Dawkins  
Philosophy*

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## CANTRELL FELIPE

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**The Selfish Gene** OUP Oxford

The million copy international bestseller, critically acclaimed and translated into over 25 languages. As influential today as when it was first published, *The Selfish Gene* has become a classic exposition of evolutionary thought. Professor Dawkins articulates a gene's eye view of evolution - a view giving centre stage to these persistent units of information, and in which organisms can be seen as vehicles for their replication. This imaginative, powerful, and stylistically brilliant work not only brought the insights of Neo-Darwinism to a wide audience, but galvanized the biology community, generating much debate and stimulating whole new areas of research. Forty years later, its insights remain as relevant today as on the day it was published. This 40th anniversary edition includes a new epilogue from the author discussing the continuing relevance of these ideas in evolutionary biology today, as well as the original prefaces and foreword, and extracts from early reviews. Oxford Landmark Science books are 'must-read' classics of modern science writing which have crystallized big ideas, and shaped the way we think.

*The Selfish Meme* Floris Books

\* Our summary is short, simple and pragmatic. It allows you to have the essential ideas of a big book in less than 30 minutes. As you read this summary,

you will discover that in nature, altruism does not exist. All living species are genetically selfish. You will also discover : that your genes have created you for their own survival; that your children will be naturally selfish, but that you have the means to change that through culture; that in terms of reproduction, the male is less involved than the female; that since the appearance of modern man, genetic evolution is no longer the only type of evolution in the world. The selfish gene theory is another facet of Darwin's theory. Rather than focusing on the individual organism, it takes the point of view of genetics. Your genes survived in a world where competition was raging, so the predominant quality in a gene that thrived is certainly ruthless selfishness. A selfishness that inevitably affects individual behavior. But by understanding what your genes are tending towards - selfishness - you may have a chance to counteract them and achieve what no other species has ever achieved: becoming an altruistic individual. Are you ready to regain control of your identity? \*Buy now the summary of this book for the modest price of a cup of coffee!

**The Selfish Gene** Cambridge University Press

Samir Okasha approaches evolutionary biology from a philosophical perspective in *Agents and Goals in Evolution*, analysing a mode of thinking in biology called agential thinking. He considers how the paradigm case involves treating an evolved organism as if it were an agent pursuing a goal, such as survival

or reproduction, and seeing its phenotypic traits as strategies for achieving that goal or furthering its biological interests. As agential thinking deliberately transposes a set of concepts--goals, interests, strategies--from rational human agents and to the biological world more generally, Okasha's enquiry firstly looks at the justification for this: is it mere anthropomorphism, or does it play a genuine intellectual role in the science? From this central question, key points are considered such as: how do we identify the 'goal' that evolved organisms will behave as if they are trying to achieve? Can agential thinking ever be applied to groups rather than to individual organisms? And how does agential thinking relate to the controversies over fitness-maximization in evolutionary biology? In addition, Okasha examines the relation between the adaptive and the rational by considering whether organisms can validly be treated as agent-like. Should we expect their evolved behaviour to correspond with that of rational agents as codified in the theory of rational choice? If so, does this mean that the fitness-maximizing paradigm of the evolutionary biologist can be mapped directly to the utility-maximizing paradigm of the rational choice theorist? All of these important questions are engagingly raised and discussed at length.

### **The Gene's-Eye View of Evolution**

Oxford University Press, USA

In this revised edition of his bestselling book *The Selfish Gene*, Richard Dawkins demonstrates how cooperation can evolve even in a basically selfish world. Contains two new chapters and a wealth of remarkable new insights into the biological world.

*A Cooperative Species* Cambridge University Press

Summary of *The Selfish Gene* Has The Egocentric Gene by Richard Dawkins been waiting for you on your study list? Choose the important thing ideas inside the e book with this brief summary. Over 3.5 billion years ago, in a primordial soup of molecules, the primary, most effective form of life on the planet came to be: a molecule able to reproduce itself, a replicator. Molecular replicators are made from lengthy chains of smaller building-block molecules in the same manner that a phrase is made up of a string of letters. Replicators reproduce themselves via attracting different 'letters' and performing as a template for them to fit into. The primary replicator routinely had a competitive edge over all the different molecules within the primordial soup because they could not replicate themselves, and subsequently the replicators have become more numerous than every other sort of molecule. But, mistakes inside the copying system led to 'daughter' replicators that had a slightly different configuration than their 'parent.' These new configurations supposed that a few 'daughters' had been able to reproduce themselves faster, or more correctly, giving them a competitive advantage over their 'parent.' An increasing number of replicators have been built from the finite deliver of constructing-block molecules within the primordial soup, and those molecules were step by step used up. Those two principles - a population in which ability varies and an surroundings of restrained sources - are the primary requirements for the system we recognize as evolution. As time went on, similar mistakes in copying resulted in new high quality traits, inclusive of the

capacity to interrupt other replicators and use their constructing blocks for replication: the primary carnivores. Through the introduction of latest variations, and the survival of the replicators with the maximum beneficial blessings, greater complex existence forms emerged, in the end ensuing in the type of organisms we see today. Here is a Preview of What You Will Get: - A Full Book Summary - An Analysis - Fun quizzes - Quiz Answers - Etc. Get a copy of this summary and learn about the book.

*The Selfish Gene Pool* Random House  
Filling a major gap in the philosophy of biology by examining central philosophical issues in microbiology, this book is aimed at philosophers and scientists who wish to gain insight into the basic philosophical issues of microbiology. Topics are drawn from evolutionary microbiology, microbial ecology, and microbial classification.

*The Handicap Principle* CRC Press  
Dawkin's theory that genes may reach outside the bodies in which they sit and manipulate other individuals is recapitulated in this book, this edition of which has two new chapters - a summary of the arguments and a new argument on the co-operation between the selfish genes.

**Genes in Conflict** Oxford University Press

Why do humans, uniquely among animals, cooperate in large numbers to advance projects for the common good? Contrary to the conventional wisdom in biology and economics, this generous and civic-minded behavior is widespread and cannot be explained simply by far-sighted self-interest or a desire to help close genealogical kin. In *A Cooperative Species*, Samuel Bowles and Herbert Gintis--pioneers in the new experimental

and evolutionary science of human behavior--show that the central issue is not why selfish people act generously, but instead how genetic and cultural evolution has produced a species in which substantial numbers make sacrifices to uphold ethical norms and to help even total strangers. The authors describe how, for thousands of generations, cooperation with fellow group members has been essential to survival. Groups that created institutions to protect the civic-minded from exploitation by the selfish flourished and prevailed in conflicts with less cooperative groups. Key to this process was the evolution of social emotions such as shame and guilt, and our capacity to internalize social norms so that acting ethically became a personal goal rather than simply a prudent way to avoid punishment. Using experimental, archaeological, genetic, and ethnographic data to calibrate models of the coevolution of genes and culture as well as prehistoric warfare and other forms of group competition, *A Cooperative Species* provides a compelling and novel account of how humans came to be moral and cooperative.

*Agents and Goals in Evolution*

BookSummaryGr

Publisher Description

**Ex-foliations** Oxford University Press

As it enters its sixtieth year of independence, India stands on the threshold of superpower status. Yet India is strikingly different from all other global colossi. While it is the world's most populous democracy and enjoys the benefits of its internationally competitive high-tech and software industries, India also contends with extremes of poverty, inequality, and political and religious violence. This

accessible and vividly written book presents a new interpretation of India's history, focusing particular attention on the impact of British imperialism on Independent India. Maria Misra begins with the rebellion against the British in 1857 and tracks the country's advance to the present day. India's extremes persist, the author argues, because its politics rest upon a peculiar foundation in which traditional ideas of hierarchy, difference, and privilege coexist to a remarkable degree with modern notions of equality and democracy. The challenge of India's leaders today, as in the last sixty years, is to weave together the disparate threads of the nation's ancient culture, colonial legacy, and modern experience.

**Genes in Conflict** Cambridge University Press

Terry Harpold offers a sophisticated consideration of technologies of reading in the digital age.

*Human Evolution Beyond Biology and Culture* Cambridge University Press

Metaphorically, our genes might chuckle at how we humans unwittingly define our morality to serve their interests, even above our own. By our dearly sacrificing for our children, we clearly show that our moral intuitions serve the interests of our genes. While we each seem to willfully pursue different methods for getting the things we want, the fundamental things we want - fit sexual partners, and well-being for ourselves and our children - are not defined by our wills, but rather, by our genes. From a unique, irreverent, yet fully scientific perspective, this book clearly explains the philosophical mysteries of life, God, intellectual creativity, feelings of consciousness, the meaning of responsibility in a world full of deterministic minds, and especially,

morality.

Summary of The Selfish Genes

Rockefeller Univ. Press

Explores evidence that suggests whether selfishness and individuality are subjective biological traits, examining social behaviors that relate to sex, gender, and family, and discussing an alternative evolutionary theory called "social selection" that focuses on cooperation.

**The Selfish Gene** Oxford University Press

'Arvid Ågren has undertaken the most meticulously thorough reading of the relevant literature that I have ever encountered, deploying an intelligent understanding to pull it into a coherent story. As if that wasn't enough, he gets it right.' (Richard Dawkins) To many evolutionary biologists, the central challenge of their discipline is to explain adaptation, the appearance of design in the living world. With the theory of evolution by natural selection, Charles Darwin elegantly showed how a purely mechanistic process can achieve this striking feature of nature. Since then, the way many biologists have thought about evolution and natural selection is as a theory about individual organisms. Over a century later, a subtle but radical shift in perspective emerged with the gene's-eye view of evolution in which natural selection was conceptualized as a struggle between genes for replication and transmission to the next generation. This viewpoint culminated with the publication of *The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins (Oxford University Press, 1976) and is now commonly referred to as selfish gene thinking. The gene's-eye view has subsequently played a central role in evolutionary biology, although it continues to attract controversy. The central aim of this

accessible book is to show how the gene's-eye view differs from the traditional organismal account of evolution, trace its historical origins, clarify typical misunderstandings and, by using examples from contemporary experimental work, show why so many evolutionary biologists still consider it an indispensable heuristic. The book concludes by discussing how selfish gene thinking fits into ongoing debates in evolutionary biology, and what they tell us about the future of the gene's-eye view of evolution. The Gene's-Eye View of Evolution is suitable for graduate-level students taking courses in evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, and evolutionary genetics, as well as professional researchers in these fields. It will also appeal to a broader, interdisciplinary audience from the social sciences and humanities including philosophers and historians of science. The Genial Gene BookSummaryGr Richard Dawkins provides excellent examples of his reasoning and interpretation skills in The Selfish Gene. His 1976 book is not a work of original research, but instead a careful explanation of evolution, combined with an argument for a particular interpretation of several aspects of evolution. Since Dawkins is building on other researchers' work and writing for a general audience, the central elements of good reasoning are vital to his book: producing a clear argument and presenting a persuasive case; organising an argument and supporting its conclusions. In doing this, Dawkins also employs the crucial skill of interpretation: understanding what evidence means; clarifying terms; questioning definitions; giving clear definitions on which to build arguments. The strength of his reasoning and

interpretative skills played a key part in the widespread acceptance of his argument for a gene-centred interpretation of natural selection and evolution – and in its history as a bestselling classic of science writing.

**The Social Instinct** Oxford University Press

"Why are we willing to die for our countries? How can ideology persuade someone to blow themselves up? When we go to war, morality, religion and ideology often take the blame. But Mike Martin boldly argues that the opposite is true: rather than driving violence, these things help to reduce it. While we resort to ideas and values to justify or interpret warfare, something else is really propelling us towards conflict: our subconscious desires, shaped by millions of years of evolution.

A Philosopher Looks at Human Beings Princeton University Press

The million copy international bestseller, critically acclaimed and translated into over 25 languages. This 30th anniversary edition includes a new introduction from the author as well as the original prefaces and foreword, and extracts from early reviews. As relevant and influential today as when it was first published, The Selfish Gene has become a classic exposition of evolutionary thought. Professor Dawkins articulates a gene's eye view of evolution – a view giving centre stage to these persistent units of information, and in which organisms can be seen as vehicles for their replication. This imaginative, powerful, and stylistically brilliant work not only brought the insights of Neo-Darwinism to a wide audience, but galvanized the biology community, generating much debate and stimulating whole new areas of research.

Summary of The Selfish Gene Cambridge



University Press

For all the "selfishness" of genes, they team up to survive. Is the history of life in fact a story of cooperation? Amid the violence and brutality that dominates the news, it's hard to think of ourselves as team players. But cooperation, Jonathan Silvertown argues, is a fundamental part of our make-up, and deeply woven into the whole four-billion-year history of life. Starting with human society, Silvertown digs deeper, to show how cooperation is key to the cells forming our organs, to symbiosis between organisms, to genes that band together, to the dawn of life itself. Cooperation has enabled life to thrive and become complex. Without it, life would never have begun.

*Why Genes Are Not Selfish and People Are Nice* Readtrepreneur Publishing

For all the discussion in the media about creationism and 'Intelligent Design', virtually nothing has been said about the evidence in question - the evidence for

evolution by natural selection. Yet, as this succinct and important book shows, that evidence is vast, varied, and magnificent, and drawn from many disparate fields of science. The very latest research is uncovering a stream of evidence revealing evolution in action - from the actual observation of a species splitting into two, to new fossil discoveries, to the deciphering of the evidence stored in our genome. *Why Evolution is True* weaves together the many threads of modern work in genetics, palaeontology, geology, molecular biology, anatomy, and development to demonstrate the 'indelible stamp' of the processes first proposed by Darwin. It is a crisp, lucid, and accessible statement that will leave no one with an open mind in any doubt about the truth of evolution.

Dawkins' GOD Univ of California Press  
Harry Smit examines the elements of current evolutionary theory and how they bear on the evolution of the human mind.

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