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RICHARD DAWKINS THE SELFISH GENE

WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION
30th
Anniversary
edition
BY THE AUTHOR



Richard Dawkins

The Selfish Gene: 30th Anniversary Edition--with a new Introduction by the Author



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Richard Dawkins' amazing reformulation of the idea of natural selection gets the rare distinction of experiencing provoked as very much excitement and interest outside the scientific community as within it. His theories have helped change the whole nature of the analysis of cultural biology, and also have forced thousands of readers to rethink their beliefs about life. This 30th anniversary edition of Dawkins' exciting book retains all unique material, like the two enlightening chapters added in the next edition. Bees, for example, will commit suicide when they sting to protect the hive, and birds will risk their lives to warn the flock of an approaching hawk. The globe of the selfish gene revolves around savage competition, ruthless exploitation, and deceit, yet, Dawkins argues, acts of apparent altruism do exist in character. In his internationally bestselling, now classic quantity, *The Selfish Gene*, Dawkins explains the way the selfish gene can also be a delicate gene. In a fresh Introduction the writer presents his thoughts thirty years following the publication of his first & most famous book, as the inclusion of the two-page initial Foreword by excellent American scientist Robert Trivers shows the enthusiastic result of the scientific community at that time. This edition is certainly a celebration of an extraordinary exposition of evolutionary believed, a work that is widely hailed for its stylistic brilliance and deep scientific insights, and that continues to stimulate totally new regions of research today.



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A significant book about that I have one important reservation I recommend this publication and learned a good deal from it. Through the entire book, Dawkins attempts to create it more approachable by using snappy colloquial language. to the nature of evolution, operating (in distinct ways) with regards to both genes and people, aka both genes and "their" survival automobiles, aka both chemical/physics and biological evolution; All in all, my frustration is principally with the insistence of treating this reserve as anything apart from what it is. Please contemplate this review for the reason that light...g. E.O. I'll, however, amend Dawkins' wonderful characterization of "us" (Preface to the First Edition, p. "The Selfish Gene" continues on to clarify not only its expressed subject matter, the nature and genesis of Selfishness and Altruism, but to make clear the mistake, scope, and source of various (idealistic, and often political) arguments and suggestions centered around group selection fallacies, like the genesis of (ill-conceived) "group-beneficial", cooperative "features" vs. Press: 30th Anniversary Edition (Hardbound) There is much more to "The Selfish Gene" than is advertised, also in the most glowing of its reviews. I was/am uninterested in these quarrels and also have no way of analyzing their merits. However, a number of these are built-into the explanatory text so that it is normally hard to skip over them. The reserve is listed at 450 pages which 100 pages are devoted to end- notes which contain a lot more rebuttals/explanations of other competing thinking in the field. Worse, legitimate breakthroughs like Masatoshi Nei's "Mutation Driven Development" will often obtain sidelined because Dawkins shown mutation as secondary to natural selection. A challenging topic to comprehend, for me anyway. Much More Than Advertised My Duplicate: Oxford Univ. Gould and others). In fact, I (not really a biologist, but fascinated with evolution since "dinosaurs" and the 1st high school biology program) have already been vaguely alert to this reserve since its initial wave of rave reviews a long time ago, but never bothered to learn it because since it was advertised its theme(s) always appeared pretty obvious. But something lately piqued my curiosity again, not sure what that was today, and after reading the prefatory materials online I finally made a decision to take a look. After reading quickly through the first 3 chapters, it became apparent that there is considerably more underlying the book than was overtly presented, that it had been not only an over-extended, over-simplified, over-popularized, metaphorical presentation. Nevertheless, that is a challenging browse.. And David Dobbs rightly called it out: "The gene-centric model survives because simpleness is a hugely advantageous trait for an idea to possess. but rather that its metaphorical treatment is painstakingly faithful to a more elaborate, closely-reasoned, actually rigorous, scientific underpinning. Dawkins writes clearly, with wit. He saves himself, more than once, by specifying that his theories are not meant to be applied to humans, However, his language helps it be clear that is something he'd designed, before validity and dependability of his statements got in the way. to the consequent continuity with the creation of "replicators", elementary "survival" cells, genes, and the beginnings of lifestyle forms; to the important distinction between genes and individuals, as genes and their "survival vehicles" (the first cells and "us", for instance); Good Book Really good to a very clear presentation of the conflict between Darwinian and "group" selection and evolution; This book which sets out the gene centric theory of evolution is difficult for a lay reader (me) to examine. to genetic kinship and its very particular selective and social implications; . For a lay reader, portion of the challenge is sorting through the reserve's near endless digressions where Dawkins "rebutts" the contrary views of some extremely well-respected evolutionists (e.. "Interesting angle on evolution!"). (individual) evolutionarily stable strategies (ESS) and kinship. It also sheds light on a great many other commonly-posed questions, among them: the essential "reason" for the 50:50 sex ratio (regardless of the number of different breeding strategies noticed for man competitors); the driving way to obtain the natural variability where (continuing) evolution depends; Some of the more recent analysis involving gene expression, has to work very much harder than it will, in order to fall under this umbrella. . Great book!.. rather than so frequently posed: that "In its long journey down the generations therefore, an [ANY] standard gene will spend about 50 % its time sitting in man bodies, and the spouse sitting in woman bodies", and thus genes will generally contribute positively to both sexes, sometimes in very different methods, and that, certainly, many "purely man / purely female" effects pass (unexpressed) through many bodies of the contrary sex; and much, a lot more. That is a truth which still fills me with astonishment. In fact, there is indeed much food for believed in the story-lines and illustrations (e.g. Because we haven't discovered an empathy gene, this can not be a proof its nonexistence. Wilson, S. xxi): "We are survival devices --- robot vehicles blindly programmed to protect the selfish molecules referred to as

genes. Beautifully written and packed with wonderful insights, "The Selfish Gene" isn't only well-worth the read, but will amply reward the reader in proportion to the thoughtfulness and reflection with which they read it. Time to retire So I had to read this for my Moral Development course. There is absolutely no experiment that has been performed, or can be carried out, that would validate such a claim..... by grafting it to my very own prior synopsis, with the effect: "We are Conditioned-Reaction Engines [built on Simple Senses + Unconditioned Reflexes (among them innate Kantian "Groups", instincts, feelings, etc.)] constructed as Gene-Survival "Machines" [genetically "programmed" to serve the "passions" of our genes] = Pavlo-Kantian Conditioned-Response, Darwin-Dawkins Gene-Survival Automaton. To a scientist, these types of proclamations are ghastly... This is the first of his books I've read, and I expect to read all his others before I die. I really believe the lucidity of the text will be much improved. At which point, I halted reading and began again from the beginning, first the prefatory materials, then from page 1, this time around more slowly and more carefully, taking care to appreciate and reflect on all of the markers of the underlying basis and their implications. Though I have known it for a long time, I never appear to get completely utilized to it. And I suppose if you're just reading to discover just what a breakthrough evolutionary theory appeared as if 50 years back, then it's a good read. Don't get me incorrect, this book was excellent in its period, and it's more likely to entertain you. However, nothing is ever as simple as Dawkins tries to make it out to end up being, evolution least of all. The evidence the book presents (for development) is overpowering, and still left me with the uncomfortable feeling that there surely is little area left for supernatural explanations. the variety and shadings of competing "strategies", which may be both conceived and advantageous, clustered around a given regard (partly due to environmental inconstancy), one incidental, unintended but important, implication which is that this is definitely itself an evolutionary driving source of the natural variability upon which (continuing) evolution operates; I wish the book were 250 webpages and the end-notes 200 webpages. It's hard to consider this book at face value when you find research that presents locusts and a dozen species of grasshoppers having a similar genetic materials, expressing itself differently exclusively based on serotonin levels. It's even harder to take it significantly when he promises that people must teach our kids altruism, for it is certainly not to be found in their genetic material. This is the first of his books I've read, .", the fig, "lichenization", and organelle endosymbiosis) supplied in "The Selfish Gene", that one must often end and consider, at size and at leisure, the questions which it provokes or which Dawkins rhetorically poses. For example, a people of purely altruistic people isn't "evolutionarily stable" just because a mutant gene for selfishness will pass on like wildfire, and vice versa: a population of purely selfish people is vulnerable to mutant genes for cooperation. When it doesn't, such as for example Mendel's experiments with manipulating characteristics of bees and his inadvertent creation of a vicious breed that he had to exterminate, Dawkins easily ignores the obvious. This is a wonderful book, even beautiful in many respects, from its initial beginning (at the "beginning") with the purely chemical/physics "evolution" of the primordial soup (cast suggestively in the form of biological evolution); Dawkins attempts to make the subject matter understandable to virtually any non-science but reasonably well-educated reader. An excellent work from 50 years back that's long past its deadline, and still becoming peddled to those that need a straightforward explanation of development, one where little technology is needed.. to the delicious End Notes to the very first eleven chapters, which provide much supporting and fascinating material. Could be named the "Indifferent Gene" Fantastic service!. Good Good a population of purely altruistic individuals is not "evolutionarily stable" just because a mutant gene for selfishness will spread like wildfire, and vice versa This book thoroughly convinced me of its central claim--that genes, not organisms, are the self-replicating entities upon which natural selection acts. Gene-driven evolution is, to this day, considered to be an umbrella all other evolution research must be categorized as, and this is the crux of the issue. Edifying Astounding An older undertake a different concept It's an interesting undertake the replication tool we call genes. Dawkins builds his focus on scientists who arrived before him, drawing heavily and frequently on the research when it fits him. Therefore some "steady" ratio must exist, where any upsurge in either selfishness or altruism gets punished by organic selection. Overall it's fairly readable but I came across the mathematics encircling the relatedness of bugs to be very difficult, although the explanation for the existence of sterile worker ants is fascinating. Terrific Read One of favorite reads, extremely insightful and well written. I recommend it. Pet behaviors, both on an individual level and on a species level, are

analyzed when it comes to what goes on to the genes "for" those behaviors, and various predictions are created that grow to be correct. to the properly prolonged notion of "gene" itself, needed by underlying scientific reality;



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