

# Why Can't We All Just Get Along?

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Henry Lieberman and Christopher Fry  
MIT

# Rodney King, 1991

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# Can we all get along?

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(WARNING: Extreme Optimism Ahead)

Yes!

What will make it possible is advances in:

Mathematics

Computer Science

Psychology

# Math: The tradeoff between Competition and Cooperation

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First of all, recognize that there *is* a tradeoff!

Our society is now too focused on *competition*

Technological advances will shift the balance in favor of *cooperation*

Technological advances will make it easier to cooperate!

We'll all live happily ever after



# Our society is focused on competition

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Politics: Between parties, candidates

Economics: Between products, companies


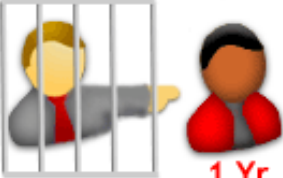


*Fundamental Theorem of Capitalism:*

Everybody does what's best for them

Results best for society

“Competition brings out the best” Does it?

# The Prisoner's Dilemma

		Henry	
		Not Guilty	Guilty
Dave	Not Guilty	 2 Years	 5 Years 1 Yr.
	Guilty	 5 Years 1 Yr.	 3 Years

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# Individual view: *Defect*

## Group view: *Cooperate*

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The TRAPS Inequality:

*Temptation > Reward > Punishment > Sucker*

Many (most?) social, political economic problems  
are described by this pattern

War, capitalism, pollution, racism....

Local vs. Global, Short term vs. Long term

# War

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	He doesn't attack / revenge	He attacks / revenge
I don't attack / revenge	<b><i>Reward:</i></b> Peace, Prosperity	<b><i>Sucker's payoff:</i></b> Military defeat
I attack / revenge	<b><i>Temptation:</i></b> Military Victory	<b><i>Punish:</i></b> Mutually assured destruction

# Commercial Competition (e.g. Advertising)

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	He doesn't advertise	He advertises
I don't advertise	<i>Reward:</i> Mutual profitability	<i>Sucker's payoff:</i> Low sales
I advertise	<i>Temptation:</i> High sales	<i>Punish:</i> Mutual bankruptcy

# Pollution

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	He doesn't pollute	He pollutes
I don't pollute	<b>Reward:</b> Sustainability	<b>Sucker's payoff:</b> Lower profitability
I pollute	<b>Temptation:</b> Higher profitability	<b>Punish:</b> Ecological collapse

# Racism, Sexism, ...

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	He doesn't discriminate	He discriminates
I don't discriminate	<b><i>Reward:</i></b> Diversity, Harmony, Prosperity	<b><i>Sucker's payoff:</i></b> Disgruntled minority
I discriminate	<b><i>Temptation:</i></b> Racial, ethnic, class privilege	<b><i>Punish:</i></b> Racial, ethnic, class strife

# Evolutionary theory

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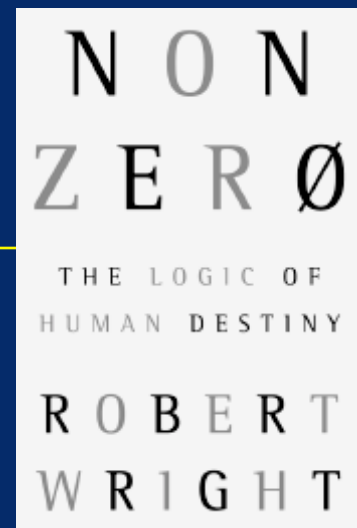
Survival of the fittest is circular!

So what does evolution select for?

*Positive sum games*

(Information) resources are getting more abundant

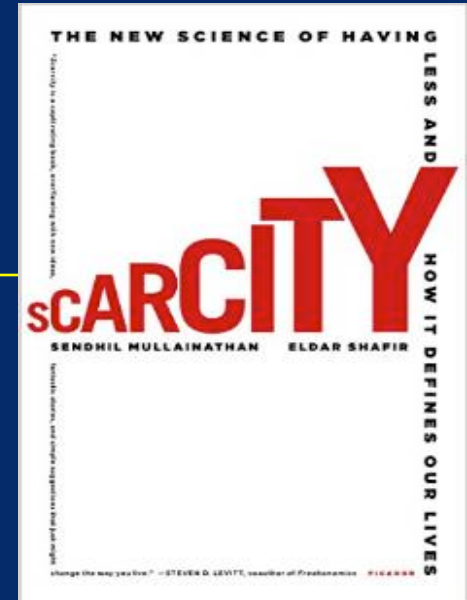
(Information) resources can turn into material resources





# Scarcity

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Competition when resources are scarce

Cooperation when resources are abundant

# Computer Science: AI + 3D Printers

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Will robots eat us for breakfast? No!

Will robots take our jobs? Yes!

AI + 3D Printers will solve Scarcity

Jobs disappear -> Universal Basic Income

You deserve it!

Productivity of dead people

*Makerism* replaces Capitalism/Communism

# Psychology

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Advances in psychology, mental health

Positive psychology, CBT, ...

Better processes for making decisions

Consensus process, cooperative mindset

Scientific community as an example of how to  
organize cooperation

# What to do?

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Deliberate

Fabricate

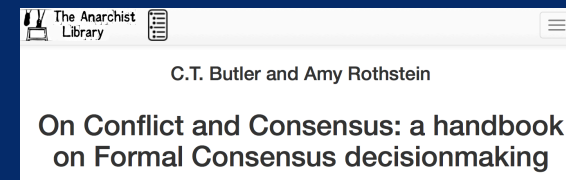
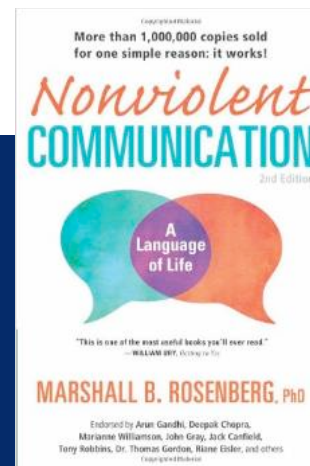
Cooperate

Educate

# Deliberate

## Justify decision support system

Assessment	Type	Point Title	Info
con 0.66	?	Should I buy a car?: most :	
pro 1	👍	Yes, It'll be easier to get around town	
con 1	👎	No, it'll contribute to global warming	
con 1	👎	No, it's faster to bike in Boston	



Henry Lieberman

# Fabricate



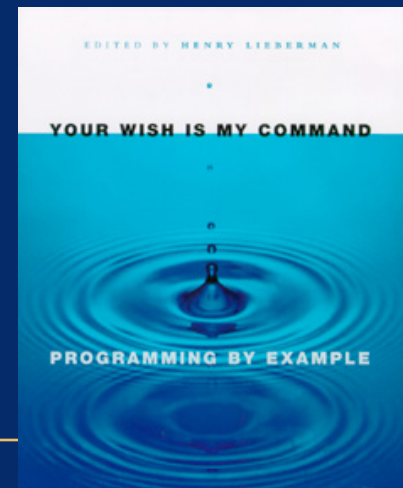
MakerBot Thingiverse

 **FREE SOFTWARE**  
FOUNDATION



Open Source Initiative

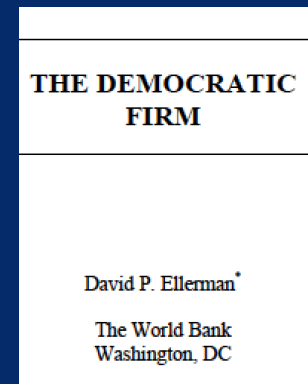
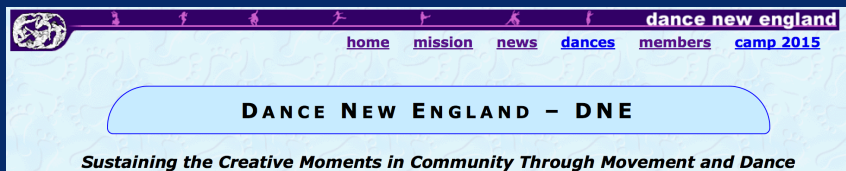
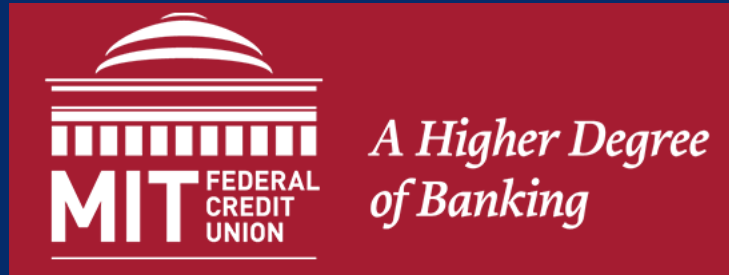
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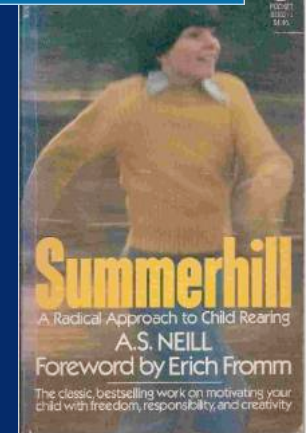
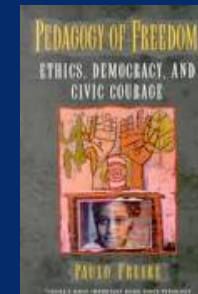
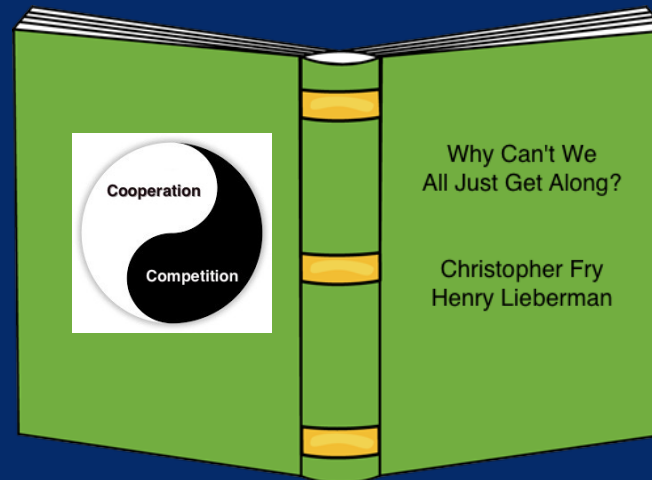
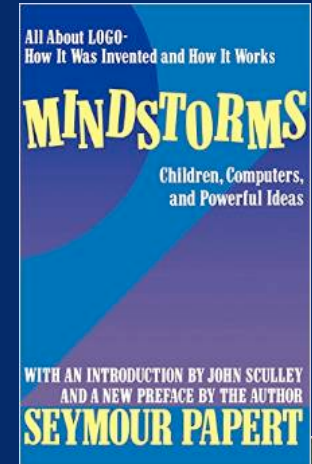
Henry Lieberman

# Cooperate

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# Educate



Henry Lieberman



# History of the World (log scale)

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<u>Year</u>	<u>System</u>	<u>Technology</u>	<u>Effects</u>
-100000	Hunter-Gatherer society	Spears	Blood
-10000	Agricultural society	Farming	Sweat
-1000	Feudalism	Swords	Tears
Now	Capitalism and Communism	Factories	Exploitation
+10	Makerism and Hackerism	Hacking	Freedom
+100			

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