Evolution and Philosophy: Does evolution make might right?

by [John S. Wilkins](mailto:john@wilkins.id.au)

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A number of critics see the ………… of selection theory in other than ……… contexts as forcing malign political and ………… commitments. A prime example of this is sociobiology, which is supposed to result in such things ……… eugenics, racism, and the death of the welfare state. Sociobiology, and the more recent evolutionary psychology ……….., seeks to explain human behavior in terms of the ……….. of human evolution. Gould especially has been vitriolic in his attacks on sociobiological …………... It is thought by some to result in a completely selfish ethic known as rational egoism.

Another ………… view is "Social Darwinism", which holds that social policy should allow the weak and unfit to fail and die, …………. that this is not only good policy but morally right. The only real connection between Darwinism and Social Darwinism ………. the name. The real source of Social Darwinism is Herbert Spencer and the ……….. going back to Hobbes via Malthus, not Darwin's own writings, though Darwin gained …………. inspiration on the effects of population growth from Malthus.

The claims made ………… Social Darwinists and their heirs suffer from the ethical fallacy known as "the naturalistic fallacy" (no connection to naturalism in explanations and the study of knowledge mentioned above). ………… is the inference from what may be the case to the conclusion that it is therefore right. ……………., while it is certainly true that, for example, some families are prone to suffer diabetes, ………… mine is, there is no license to conclude that they should not be treated, any more than the fact that a child has a broken arm ……….. a bicycle accident implies that the child should have a …………. arm.

In fact, diverse political and religious ………… characterize social musings based upon evolutionary biology. For example, the 19th ………….. Russian anarchist aristocrat Pyotr Kropotkin wrote a book called Mutual Aid, ………… which he argued that evolution results more in cooperation than ………….. does in harsh competition. His views are echoed in recent use of games theory ………. show that, in some cases at least, cooperation is a stable strategy for certain populations to adopt.

………….. theory doesn't exclude Purpose from Life, although it does remove the need for purposive design from a lot of ………. living realm (i.e., all but the genetically engineered bit of the living realm). This apparent confusion is resolved ………. we ask of evolutionary theory two questions: one, is there a design ………… in the structure of living organisms? Two, is there a universal purpose to life in general? ……….. answers No to the first question. Design is not directly evident in living things, although ………. is a marvelous complexity and adaptivity of life to its environment. To the second question, science of any ………. answers: Insufficient Information. That kind of answer you get elsewhere - from a personal commitment or religious belief in some revelation.