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## EVOLUTION, MORALITY AND THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY

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# Evolution, Morality and the Fabric of Society

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**Abstract:** Recent interest in the evolution of the social contract is extended by providing a thoroughly naturalistic, evolutionary account of the biological underpinnings of a social contract theory of morality. This social contract theory of morality (contractevolism) provides an evolutionary justification of the primacy of a moral principle of maximisation of the opportunities for evolutionary reproductive success (ERS), where maximising opportunities do not entail an obligation on individuals to choose to maximise their ERS. From that primary principle, the moral principles of inclusion, individual sovereignty (liberty) and equality can be derived. The implications of these principles, within contractevolism, are explored through an examination of patriarchy, individual sovereignty and copulatory choices, as well as overpopulation and extinction. Contractevolism is grounded in evolutionary dynamics that resulted in humans and human societies. The most important behavioural consequences of evolution to contractevolism are reciprocity, cooperation and empathy, and the most important cognitive consequences are reason and behavioural modification.

**Keywords:** social contract, ethics, morality, sociobiology, naturalism

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