

The Origins Of Virtue By Matt Ridley

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how new ideas emerge one of the biggest most dangerous myths that we believe today is that we have full command and control of our world but have you ever considered that our world goes through evolution or that our world evolves on its own in fact evolution doesn't apply just to biology anymore there is an evolution of everything the changes we experience in technology language morality and society are gradual incremental and even spontaneous the changes follow a narrative going from one stage to the next without an end goal in mind you see we traditionally believe that many of the greatest achievements in the world started from the top down that is changes came from great leaders and minds who aimed to make a difference but that is not necessarily true instead our world has evolved from the bottom up and achievements such as the industrial revolution cell phones and the creation of the internet were never planned they simply happened through the evolution of everything author matt ridley argues that evolution can explain just about every change we have experienced in society as you read you'll learn how dna and language are similar how money became monopolized by the government and how our traditional views on education should no longer be accepted do you want more free book summaries like this download our app for free at quickread.com app and get access to hundreds of free book and audiobook summaries disclaimer this book summary is meant as a preview and not a replacement for the original work if you like this summary please consider purchasing the original book to get the full experience as the original author intended it to be if you are the

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building on his national bestseller the rational optimist matt ridley chronicles the history of innovation and how we need to change our thinking on the subject innovation is the main event of the modern age the reason we experience both dramatic improvements in our living standards and unsettling changes in our society forget short term symptoms like donald trump and brexit it is innovation that will shape the twenty first century yet innovation remains a mysterious process poorly understood by policy makers and businessmen alike matt ridley argues that we need to see innovation as an incremental bottom up fortuitous process that happens as a direct result of the human habit of exchange rather than an orderly top down process developing according to a plan innovation is crucially different from invention because it is the turning of inventions into things of practical and affordable use to people it speeds up in some sectors and slows down in others it is always a collective collaborative phenomenon involving trial and error not a matter of lonely genius it happens mainly in just a few parts of the world at any one time it still cannot be modeled properly by economists but it can easily be discouraged by politicians far from there being too much innovation we may be on the brink of an innovation famine ridley derives these and other lessons from the lively stories of scores of innovations how they started and why they succeeded or failed some of the innovation stories he tells are about steam engines jet engines search engines airships coffee potatoes vaping vaccines cuisine antibiotics mosquito nets turbines propellers fertilizer zero computers dogs farming fire genetic engineering gene editing container shipping railways cars safety rules wheeled suitcases mobile phones corrugated iron powered flight chlorinated water toilets vacuum cleaners shale gas the telegraph radio social media block chain the sharing economy artificial intelligence fake bomb detectors phantom games consoles fraudulent blood tests hyperloop tubes herbicides copyright and even life itself

mr ridley s best and most important work to date there is something profoundly democratic and egalitarian even anti elitist in this bottom up approach everyone can have a role in bringing about change wall street journal the new york times bestselling author of the rational optimist and genome returns with a fascinating argument for evolution that definitively dispels a dangerous widespread myth that we can command and control our world human society evolves change in technology language morality and society is incremental inexorable gradual and spontaneous it follows a narrative going from one stage to the next and it largely happens by trial and error a version of natural selection much of the human world is the result of human action but not of human design it emerges from the interactions of millions not from the plans of a few drawing on fascinating evidence from science economics history politics and philosophy matt ridley demolishes conventional assumptions that the great events and trends of our day are dictated by those on high on the contrary our most important achievements develop from the bottom up the industrial revolution cell phones the rise of asia and the internet were never planned they happened languages emerged and evolved by a form of natural selection as did common law torture racism slavery and pedophilia all once widely regarded as acceptable are now seen as immoral despite the decline of religion in recent decades in this wide ranging erudite book ridley brilliantly makes the case for evolution rather than design as the force that has shaped much of our culture our technology our minds and that even now is shaping our future

our summary is short simple and pragmatic it allows you to have the essential ideas of a big book in less than 30 minutes by reading this summary you will learn that

the slow unprogrammed evolution of societies is what really makes them progress and not the voluntarist projects of an elite you will also learn that darwinism is only one specific theory of evolution we must free ourselves from creationism evolution is more important than revolutions the importance of so called great men is a myth the first step towards electric lighting dates back to 1712 the work is under the auspices of adam smith as much as darwin matt ridley is an iconoclastic author who happily cultivates a certain british eccentricity and british matt ridley is british to the core sitting in the house of lords as 5th viscount ridley moreover in the anglo saxon world his work has been widely debated unleashing passions the oppositions that his theses have met are fierce as are the supports of his supporters another reason to read his work indispensable to the modern honest man buy now the summary of this book for the modest price of a cup of coffee

what makes us who we are in february 2001 it was announced that the genome contains not 100 000 genes as originally expected but only 30 000 this startling revision led some scientists to conclude that there are simply not enough human genes to account for all the different ways people behave we must be made by nurture not nature yet again biology was to be stretched on the procrustean bed of the nature nurture debate

we are taught that the world is a top down place generals win battles politicians run countries scientists discover truths artists create genres inventors make breakthroughs teachers shape minds philosophers change minds priests teach morality businessmen lead businesses environmentalists save the planet not just individuals but institutions too goldman sachs the communist party the catholic church al qaeda these are said to shape the world this is more often wrong than right top downery is the source of most of our worst problems in the past why hitler won an election why the sub prime bubble happened why africa lingered in poverty when asia did not why the euro is a disaster and will be the scourge of this century too and although we neglect defy and ignore them bottom up trends still shape the world the growth of technology the sanitation driven health revolution the quadrupling of farm yields so that more land could be released for nature these were largely emergent phenomena so was the internet the mobile phone revolution and the rise of asia in this wide ranging highly opinionated non fiction narrative ridley draws on anecdotes from science economics history politics and philosophy and examples drawn from the scientific literature from historical narratives and from personal anecdotes

why are people nice to each other what are the reasons for altruism matt ridley explains how the human mind has evolved a special instinct for social exchange offering a lucid and persuasive argument about the paradox of human benevolence

sex is as fascinating to scientists as it is to the rest of us a vast pool of knowledge therefore has been gleaned from research into the nature of sex from the contentious problem of why the wasteful reproductive process exists at all to how individuals choose their mates and what traits they find attractive this fascinating book explores those findings and their implications for the sexual behaviour of our own species it uses the red queen from alice in wonderland who has to run at full speed to stay where she is as a metaphor for a whole range of sexual behaviours the book was shortlisted for the 1994 rhone poulenc prize for science books animals and plants evolved sex to fend off parasitic infection now look where it has got us men want bmws power and money in order to pair bond with women who are blonde youthful and narrow waisted a brilliant examination of the scientific debates on the hows and whys of sex and evolution independent

shortlisted for the bbc samuel johnson prize for non fiction 2011 life is on the up

ridley is spot on when it comes to the vital ingredients for success sir james dyson building on his bestseller the rational optimist matt ridley chronicles the history of innovation and how we need to change our thinking on the subject innovation is the main event of the modern age the reason we experience both dramatic improvements in our living standards and unsettling changes in our society it is innovation that will shape the twenty first century yet innovation remains a mysterious process poorly understood by policy makers and businessmen alike matt ridley argues that we need to see innovation as an incremental bottom up fortuitous process that happens as a direct result of the human habit of exchange rather than an orderly top down process developing according to a plan innovation is crucially different from invention because it is the turning of inventions into things of practical and affordable use to people it speeds up in some sectors and slows down in others it is always a collective collaborative phenomenon involving trial and error not a matter of lonely genius it still cannot be modelled properly by economists but it can easily be discouraged by politicians far from there being too much innovation we may be on the brink of an innovation famine ridley derives these and other lessons from the lively stories of scores of innovations from steam engines to search engines how they started and why they succeeded or failed

bracingly intelligent lucid balanced witty too a scrupulous and charming look at our modern understanding of genes and experience oliver sacks armed with extraordinary new discoveries about our genes acclaimed science writer matt ridley turns his attention to the nature versus nurture debate in a thoughtful book about the roots of human behavior ridley recounts the hundred years war between the partisans of nature and nurture to explain how this paradoxical creature the human being can be simultaneously free willed and motivated by instinct and culture with the decoding of the human genome we now know that genes not only predetermine the broad structure of the brain they also absorb formative experiences react to social cues and even run memory they are consequences as well as causes of the will

we are taught that the world is a top down place acclaimed author matt ridley shows just how wrong this is in his compelling new book we are taught that the world is a top down place generals win battles politicians run countries scientists discover truths artists create genres inventors make breakthroughs teachers shape minds philosophers change minds priests teach morality businessmen lead businesses environmentalists save the planet not just individuals but institutions too goldman sachs the communist party the catholic church al qaeda these are said to shape the world this is more often wrong than right tear down the sky hooks is about bottom up order and its enemy the top down twitch the endless fascination human beings have for design rather than evolution for direction rather than emergence top downery is the source of most of our worst problems in the past why hitler won an election why the sub prime bubble happened why africa lingered in poverty when asia did not why the euro is a disaster and will be the scourge of this century too and although we neglect defy and ignore them bottom up trends still shape the world the growth of technology the sanitation driven health revolution the quadrupling of farm yields so that more land could be released for nature these were largely emergent phenomena so was the internet the mobile phone revolution and the rise of asia in this wide ranging highly opinionated non fiction narrative ridley draws on anecdotes from science economics history politics and philosophy and examples drawn from the scientific literature from historical narratives and from personal anecdotes

résumé the evolution of everything how new ideas emerge de matt ridley matt ridley est un auteur iconoclaste qui cultive avec bonheur une certaine excentricité britannique et britannique matt ridley l est jusqu au bout des ongles puisqu il siège à la chambre des lords comme 5e vicomte ridley d ailleurs dans le monde anglo saxon son ouvrage a très largement fait débat déchaînant les passions les oppositions que ses thèses ont rencontrées sont farouches tout comme le sont les soutiens de ses partisans une raison supplémentaire de prendre connaissance de son ouvrage indispensable à l honnête homme moderne en lisant ce résumé vous apprendrez que l évolution lente des sociétés non programmée est ce qui les fait réellement progresser et non pas les projets volontaristes d une élite

chan and ridley write with an urgency that inspires gripping depictions of what viruses are how infectious disease laboratories work and wonderfully lucid descriptions of bats they powerfully recount how dangerous pathogens can both leak from a lab and emerge in nature new york times book review understanding how covid 19 started is crucial for the future of humankind viral is the most incisive and authoritative book about the search for the source of the virus a new virus descended on the human species in 2019 wreaking unprecedented havoc finding out where it came from and how it first jumped into people is an urgent priority but early expectations that this would prove an easy question to answer have been dashed nearly two years into the pandemic the crucial mystery of the origin of sars cov 2 is not only unresolved but has deepened in this uniquely insightful book a scientist and a writer join forces to try to get to the bottom of how a virus whose closest relations live in bats in subtropical southern china somehow managed to begin spreading among people more than 1 500 kilometres away in the city of wuhan they grapple with the baffling fact that the virus left none of the expected traces that such outbreaks usually create no infected market animals or wildlife no chains of early cases in travellers to the city no smouldering epidemic in a rural area no rapid adaptation of the virus to its new host human beings to try to solve this pressing mystery viral delves deep into the events of 2019 leading up to 2021 the details of what went on in animal markets and virology laboratories the records and data hidden from sight within archived chinese theses and websites and the clues that can be coaxed from the very text of the virus s own genetic code the result is a gripping detective story that takes the reader deeper and deeper into a metaphorical cave of mystery one by one the authors explore promising tunnels only to show that they are blind alleys until miles beneath the surface they find themselves tantalisingly close to a shaft that leads to the light

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