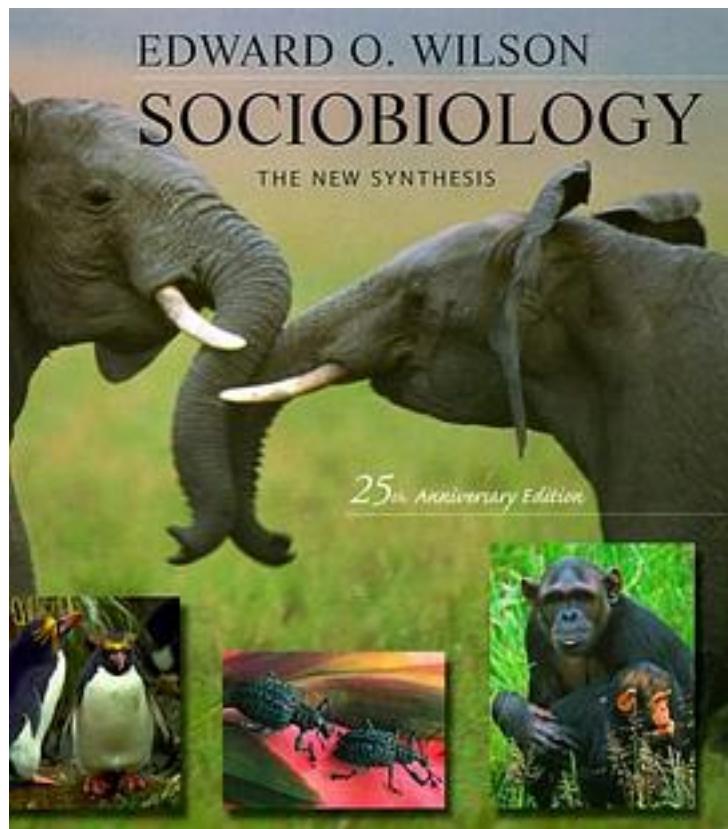


Sociobiology



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著者:Edward O. Wilson

出版者:Belknap Press

出版时间:2000-3-4

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780674002357

E.O. Wilson defines sociobiology as "the systematic study of the biological basis of all social behavior," the central theoretical problem of which is the question of how behaviors that seemingly contradict the principles of natural selection, such as altruism, can develop. *Sociobiology: A New Synthesis*, Wilson's first attempt to outline the new field of study, was first published in 1975 and called for a fairly revolutionary update to the so-called Modern Synthesis of evolutionary biology. *Sociobiology* as a

new field of study demanded the active inclusion of sociology, the social sciences, and the humanities in evolutionary theory. Often criticized for its apparent message of "biological destiny," Sociobiology set the stage for such controversial works as Richard Dawkins's *The Selfish Gene* and Wilson's own *Consilience*.

Sociobiology defines such concepts as society, individual, population, communication, and regulation. It attempts to explain, biologically, why groups of animals behave the way they do when finding food or shelter, confronting enemies, or getting along with one another. Wilson seeks to explain how group selection, altruism, hierarchies, and sexual selection work in populations of animals, and to identify evolutionary trends and sociobiological characteristics of all animal groups, up to and including man. The insect sections of the books are particularly interesting, given Wilson's status as the world's most famous entomologist.

It is fair to say that as an ecological strategy eusociality has been overwhelmingly successful. It is useful to think of an insect colony as a diffuse organism, weighing anywhere from less than a gram to as much as a kilogram and possessing from about a hundred to a million or more tiny mouths.

It's when Wilson starts talking about human beings that the furor starts. Feminists have been among the strongest critics of the work, arguing that humans are not slaves to a biological destiny, forever locked in "primitive" behavior patterns without the ability to reason past our biochemical nature. Like *The Origin of Species*, Sociobiology has forced many biologists and social scientists to reassess their most cherished notions of how life works.

It's been 25 years since E. O. Wilson wrote *Sociobiology*, naming a new science and starting it off with a bang--and a firestorm of protest. "Nurture!" and "Nature!" came the cries from every corner of the academic world, as the book became a *causus belli* for sociologists, feminists, human geneticists, and psychologists.

--Mary Ellen Curtin (amazon.com)

This book entralls and enchants...If you have this book...you can begin getting your mind ready for the illuminations about human society.

--Lewis Thomas (Harper's)

Rarely has the world been provided with such a splendid stepping stone for an exciting future of a new science.

--John Tyler Bonner (Scientific American)

Its contents do indeed provide a new synthesis, of wide perspective and great authority...Wilson's plain uncluttered prose is a treat to read, his logic is rigorous, his arguments are lucid.

--V. C. Wymne-Edwards (Nature)

This book will stand as a landmark in the comparative study of social behavior. (Quarterly Review of Biology)

Sociobiology is an excellent book, full of extraordinary insights, and replete with the beauty and poetry of the animal kingdom. (Times Literary Supplement)

It is impossible to leave Wilson's book without having one's sense of life permanently and dramatically widened.

--Fred Hapgood (The Atlantic)

作者介绍:

Edward Osborne Wilson (born June 10, 1929) is an American biologist, researcher (sociobiology, biodiversity), theorist (consilience, biophilia), naturalist (conservationist) and author. His biological specialty is myrmecology, the study of ants.

Wilson is a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction. He is known for his career as a scientist, his advocacy for environmentalism, and his secular-humanist and deist ideas pertaining to religious and ethical matters.

As of 2007, he is Pellegrino University Research Professor in Entomology for the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University and a Fellow of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry. He is a Humanist Laureate of the International Academy of Humanism.

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书评

爱德华. 威尔逊的故事 一、塑形岁月

如果一个小男孩在 7 岁的时候瞎了一只眼睛，8 岁时父母离异，然后被送入一个严厉而乏味的寄宿军校，稍大了一点，发现自己比身边的伙伴都要矮小瘦弱，并且不得不跟着父亲与继母满美国乱跑，以至于无法在短时间内融入当地孩子群中，被迫忍受...

forcode：昨天晚上极度疲倦和郁闷之中，翻看南方周末，读到郑也夫老师的文章：《威尔逊:最后的博物学家》，精神为之一震，所有的不爽马上烟消云散。在北大社会学系的所有老师里，我的兴趣应该和郑也夫老师最接近。在考研复试之后，我曾经旁听了他开的全校公选课：“生物学对社...

一般都认为本书是威尔逊《社会生物学：新的综合》的缩写本，其实不然，这只是它的一个来源，其他还有道金斯的《自私的基因》、其他社会生物学资料。因此准确地讲是一本编译书，很有趣的是书的扉页写的是“阳河清编”，但这前言和后记中都说是“李昆峰”编的，不知何故。整本书...

记得中学的时候，读过一本书名字叫《新的综合》，书薄薄的，看封面与书名，根本联想不到它的内容，不过打开之后却被吸引了，这是我对基因了解的启蒙书刊，除了书中

的知识，记忆中的就是那简洁的封面与小32开的装帧。
现在知道，这本书正是《社会生物学——新的综合》最早的摘...

【儿时最想读的书系列】：重读《社会生物学：新的综合》乱感
这本汉译出版不久就第一时间阅读。后来又有了电子版，放在笔记本里也好多年了。
很入迷地阅读。从出版到现在，一晃竟然八年过去了。二〇〇八年还是很入迷地读书的
啊！现在无目的碎片化阅读占用了太多时间，很久没有...

人的一切观点其实都脱不开他的价值观，人对一切材料的处理都受其价值观的影响，况且，人对生物学的事实材料真的占有了多少呢？人有没有了解生物界方方面面所有状况的1%呢？
爱德华威尔逊身为生物学家，直接跳出来在前言里说，他赞同保守主义(在当代西方社会的语境中，大约就是...

互助教育学生

前几次读到理查德·道金斯的《自私的基因》，作者将进化论选择单位从个体扩大到创造个体人上，提出一系列例如利他和利己行为的概念，以及关于自私的解释，是人类用生物学解释社会学的第一次尝试。那么，今天这本《社会生物学》，又给我深深...

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