

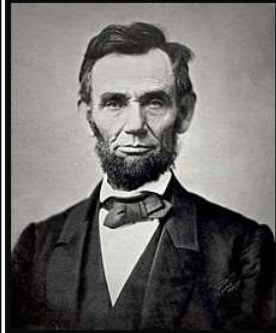
INDIVIDUAL LEVEL THEORIES

Human Nature Theory and Cognitive Theory



INDIVIDUAL LEVEL THEORY #1

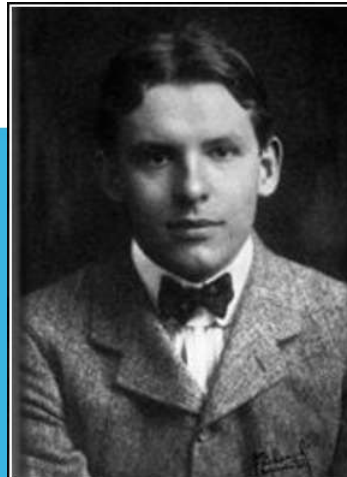
Human Nature Theory



Human action can be modified to some extent,
but human nature cannot be changed.

(Abraham Lincoln)

izquotes.com



Human nature is like water. It takes
the shape of its container.

— Wallace Stevens —

AZ QUOTES

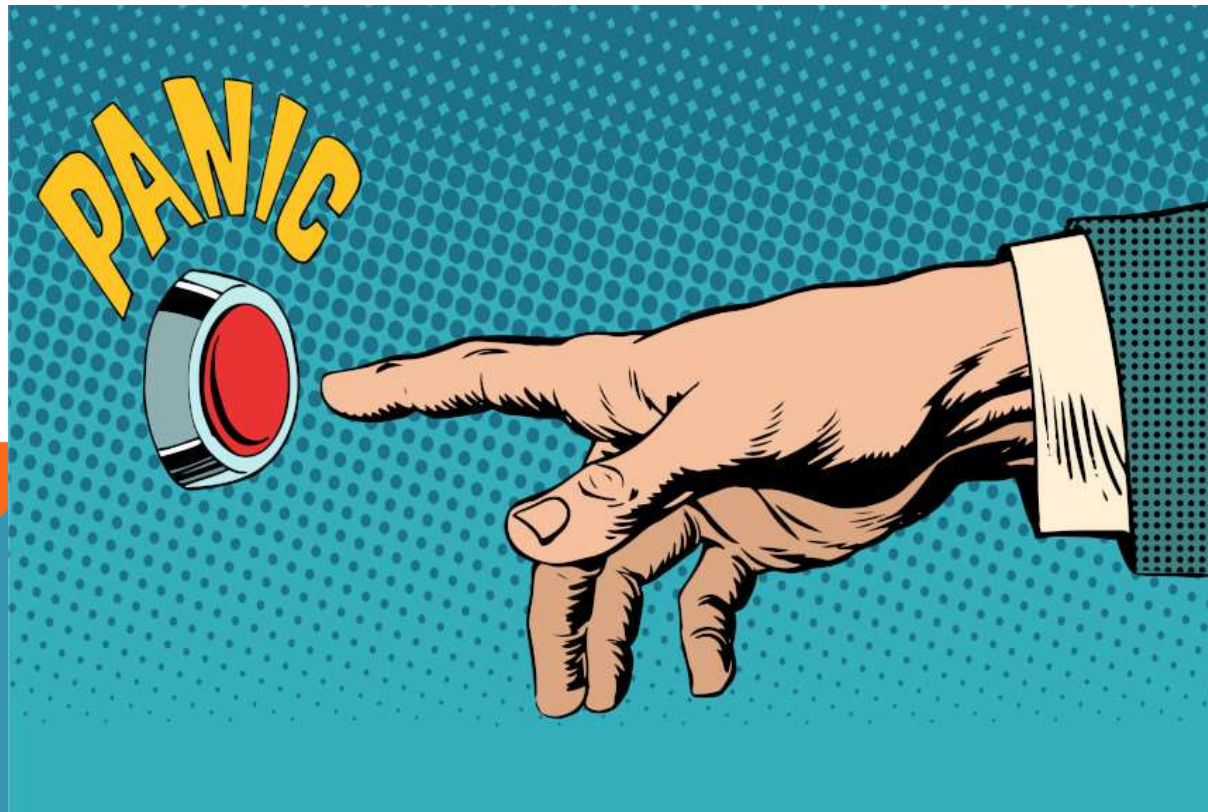
HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Human nature refers to the qualities and traits shared by all people, regardless of ethnicity, gender, and culture. **Human nature theorists** assert that the behavior of states is fundamentally patterned after the behavior of humans themselves.



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Human nature theorists argue that, on a basic level, human nature and the nature of other species as well, is often guided by instinct.



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

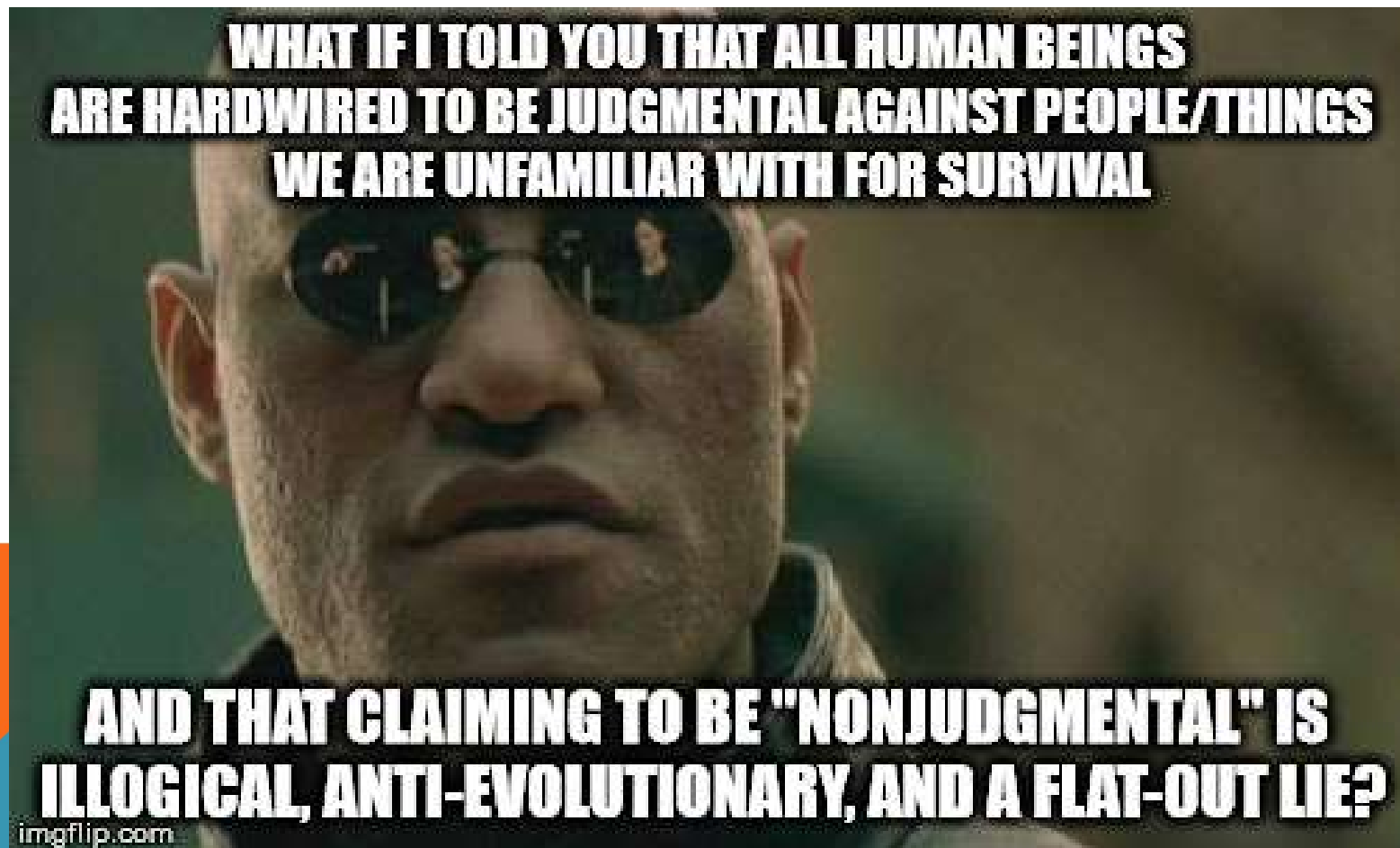
This is instinct and definitely “aggressive” according to Lorenz.
However! Is this “*intraspecific*” or “*interspecific*” aggression?



What is the “kill inhibition mechanism”?

HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Instinct could be defined as an *innate impulse* that is prompted in response to specific environmental conditions.



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Aristotle saw the nature of man as essentially divided into two parts (good and evil) and therefore saw life and relations between people as also divided.

IRRATIONAL PASSIONS WOULD
SEEM TO BE AS MUCH A PART
OF HUMAN NATURE AS IS
REASON.

- ARISTOTLE -

HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Aristotle believed that the human race can emphasize one facet over the other (peace over war), but this does not negate the presence of the less desirable side of existence.

ALL HUMAN ACTIONS HAVE
ONE OR MORE OF
THESE SEVEN CAUSES :
CHANCE, NATURE, COMPULSIONS
HABIT, REASON, PASSION, DESIRE

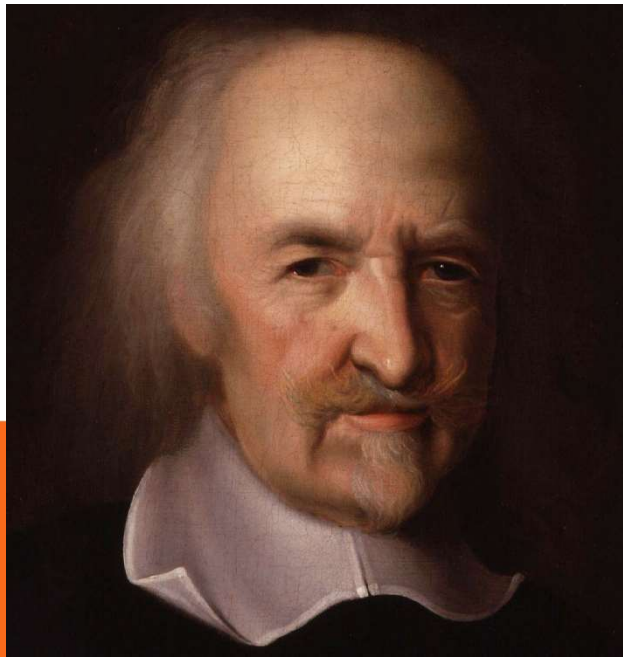
Aristotle



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HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Thomas Hobbes in his classic work *Leviathan*, asked us to imagine the wretchedness of human existence in a “state of nature” when there was no central government able to control the baser instincts of humans and to provide order.



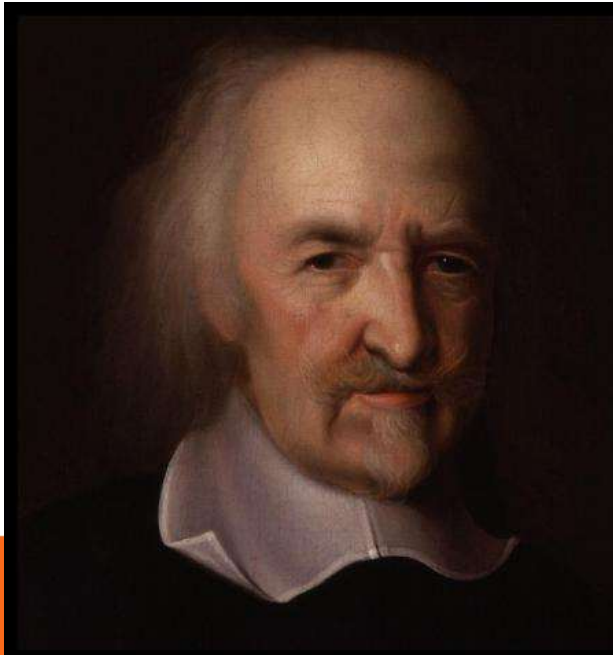
The State of Nature

- “*Homo lupus hominis*”
- The state of nature is a state of war: the war of every man against every man
- Hence, life is “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short.”

HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Hobbes points to three specific causes of conflict that are endemic to human nature:

1. Competition
2. Diffidence
3. Glory



“ in the nature of man, we find three principall causes of quarrel. First, Competition; Secondly, Diffidence; Thirdly, Glory. The first, maketh men invade for Gain; the second, for Safety; and the third, for Reputation. ”

Thomas Hobbes (Leviathan)

HUMAN NATURE THEORY

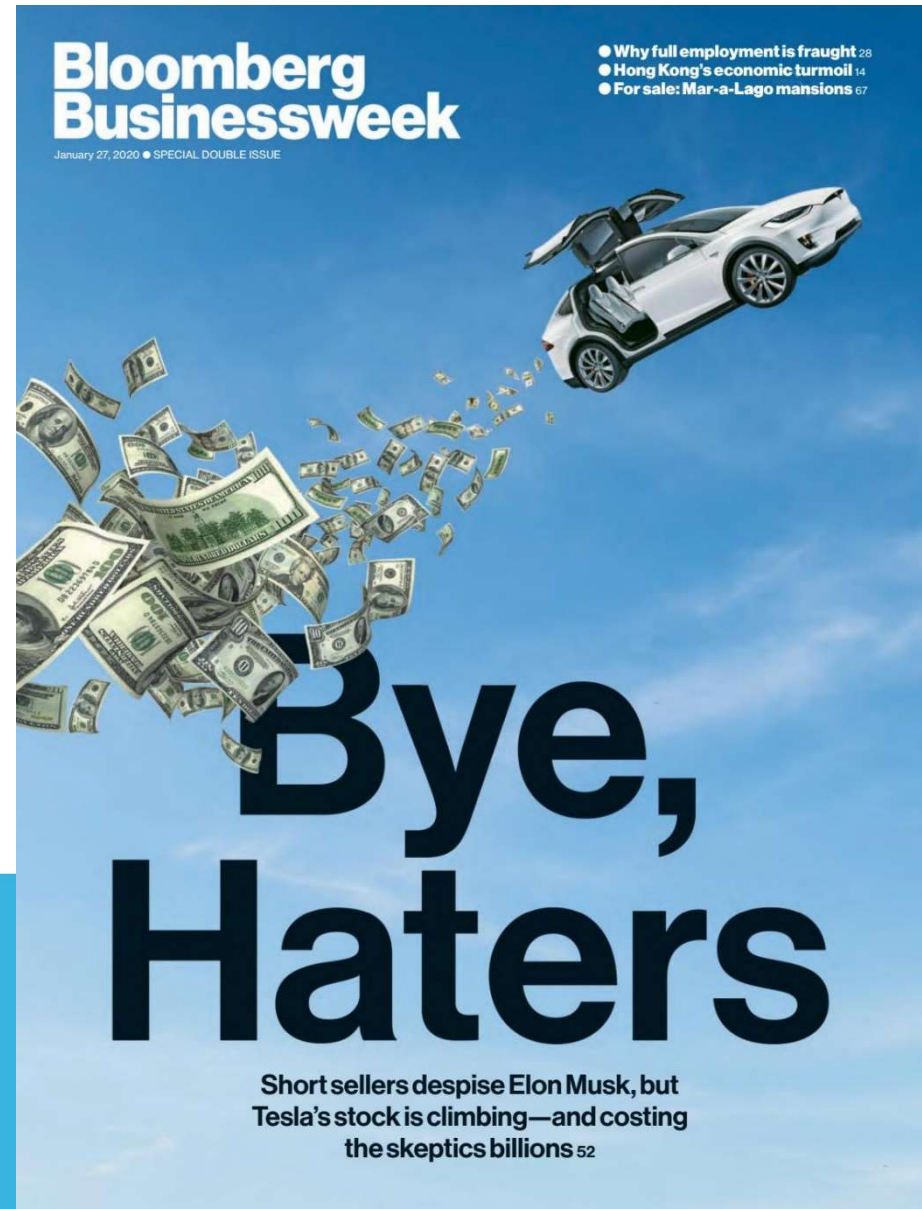


Competition

represents the perpetual struggle between humans for resources, power, or anything else that might represent some sort of gain.

HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Diffidence arises from a perception of equality or a sense of self-satisfaction that occurs when individuals attain a particular set of goals or ends.



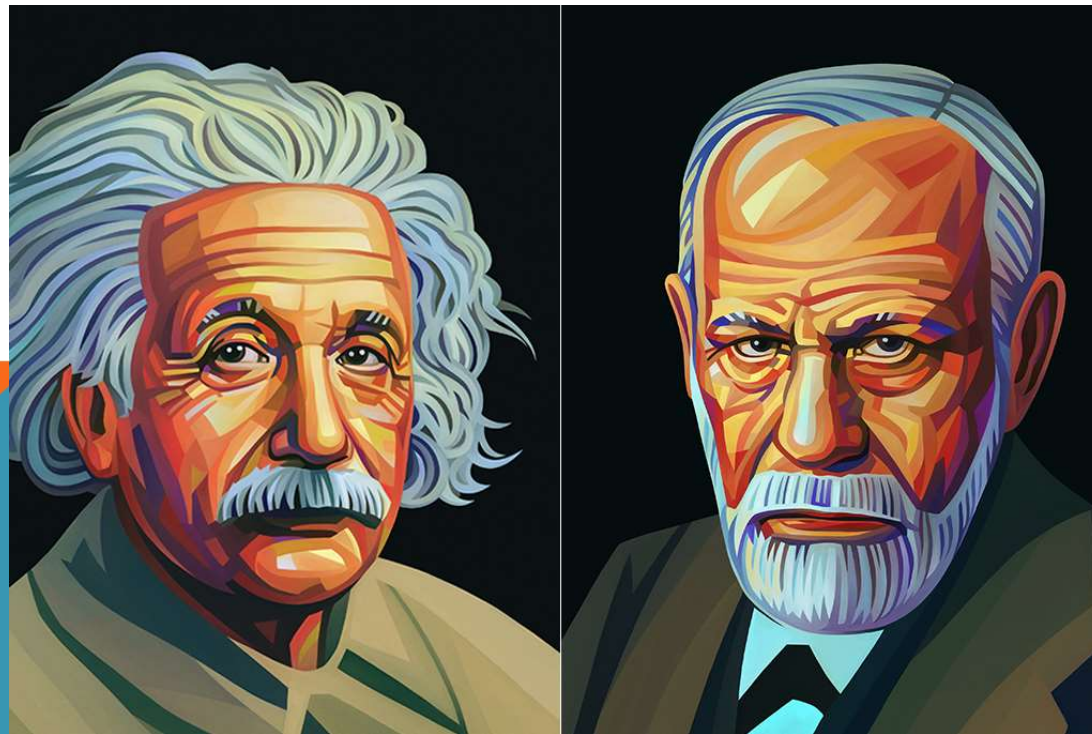
HUMAN NATURE THEORY

The quest for **glory** in human nature is the third portion of Hobbes' trilogy about the unavoidable violence of existence. He defines glory as the quest for a preservation of honor, respect, or reputation as it refers to the individual, or as it reflects on the family, friends, name, associated with the individual.



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Sigmund Freud argued that the natural violence of the human animal can actually be “overcome by the transference of power to a larger unity” or group. In his letter to **Albert Einstein** addressing the scientist’s question about how future wars could be avoided, **Freud** stated that transferring power to a central authority reduces the possibility of violence.



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Despite Freud's hopeful acknowledgment, the enduring theme for human nature theorists is that humans are by nature – and can be generally counted on to be – violent and aggressive. Human nature theorists suggest that these traits, so instinctive to men and women, are thereby carried over to our relations on an international level.



HUMAN NATURE THEORY



With violence, as with so many other concerns, human nature is the problem, but human nature is also the solution.

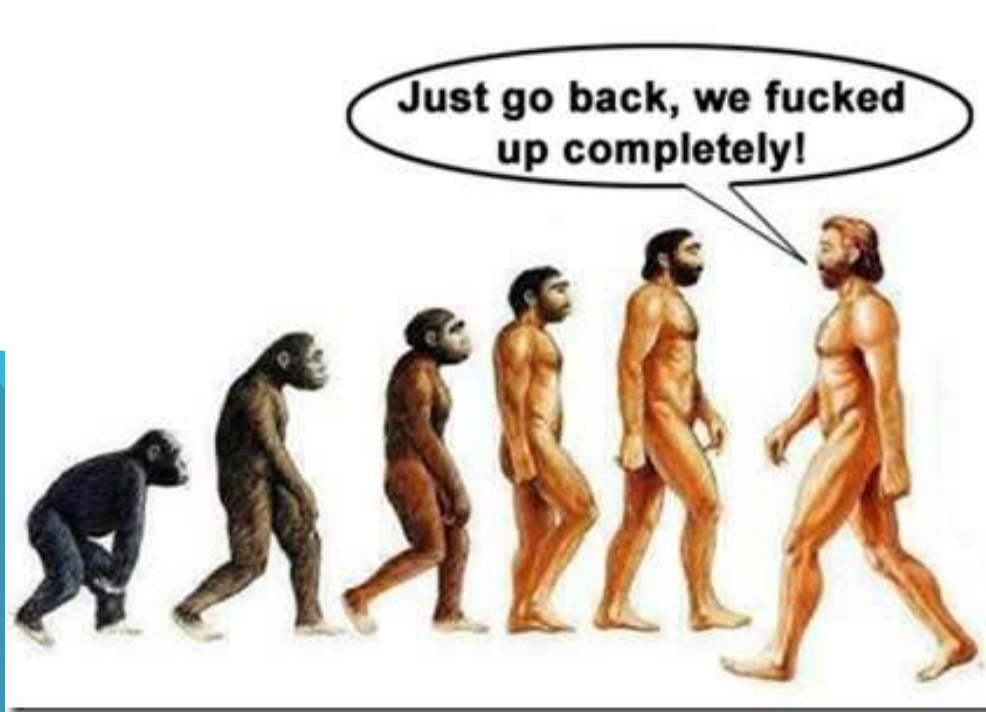
— *Steven Pinker* —

AZ QUOTES



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

The Components of Human Nature Theory



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Focus of Analysis

Human nature;

Innate patterns of
human behavior;

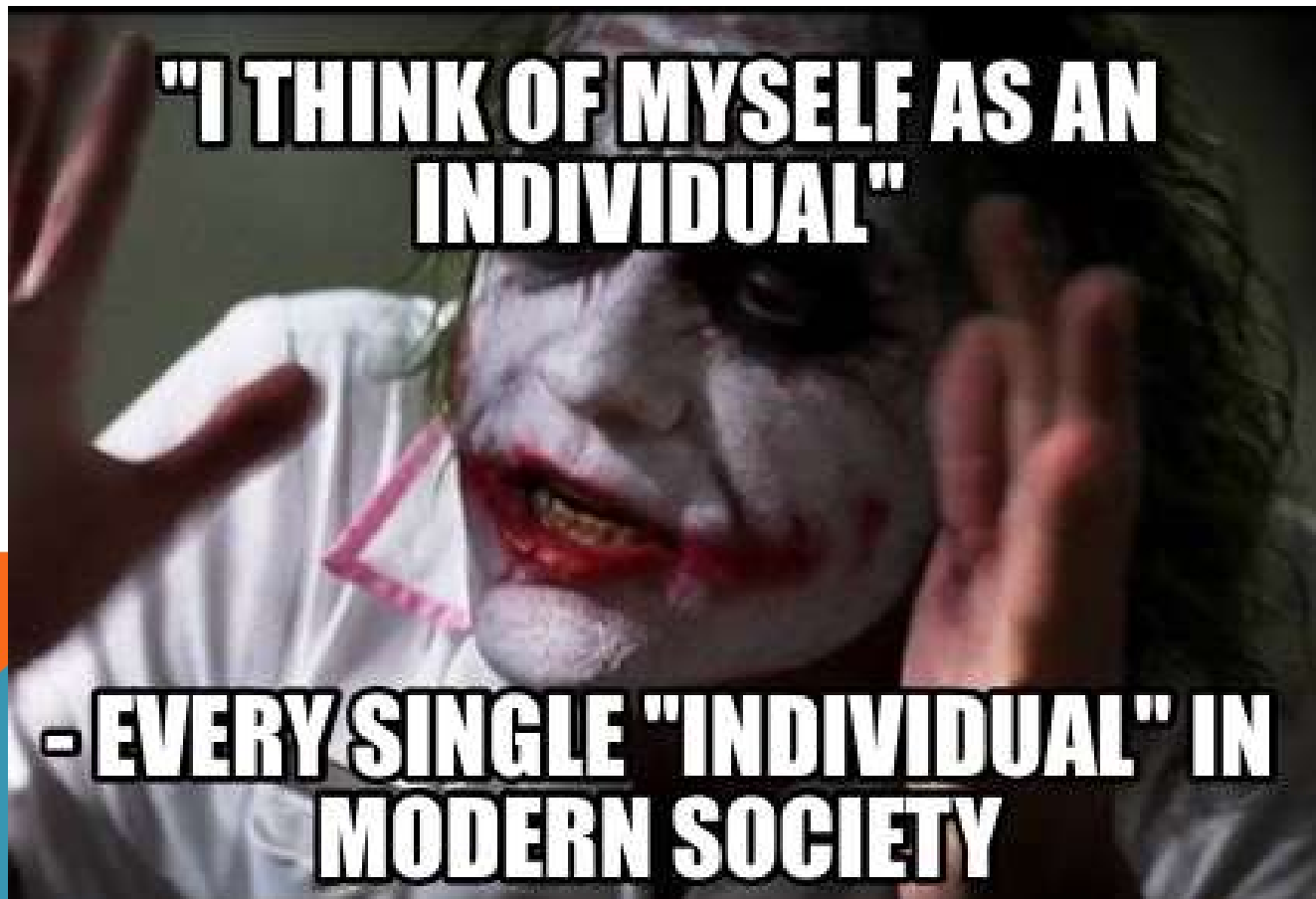
Instinct



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Major Actors

Individual



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Behavior of States

Guided by fundamental human characteristics



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Basis of a State's Foreign Policy

Collective protection of individual against more violent tendencies of human nature



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Key Concepts

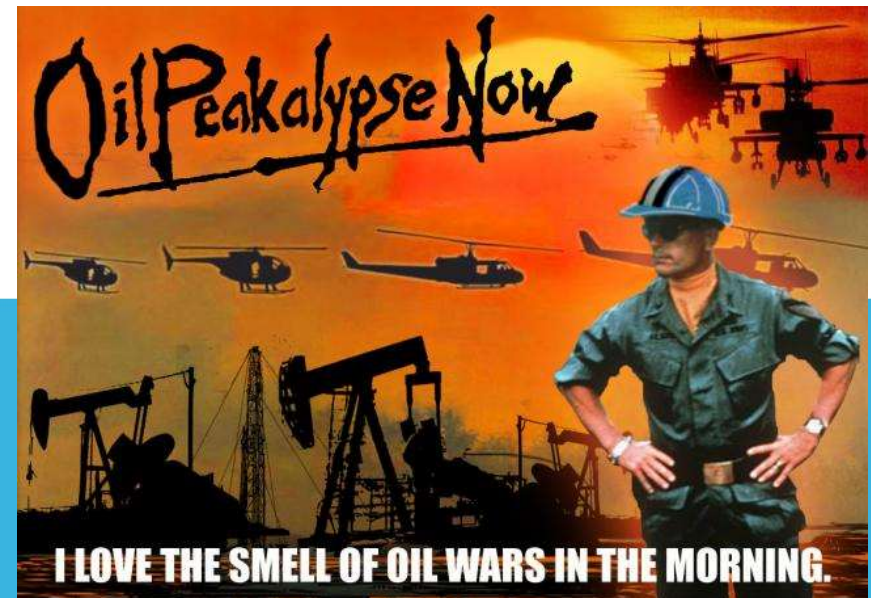
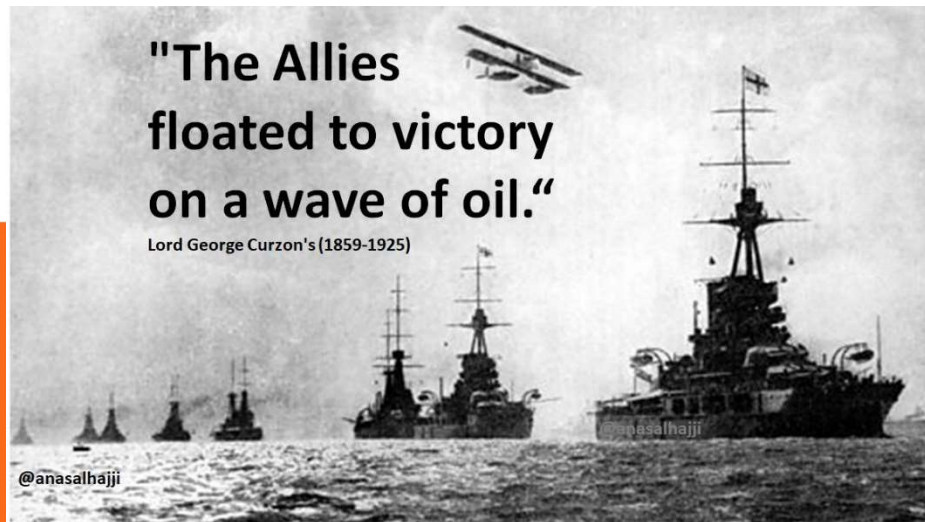


HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Key Concepts

Competition

Competition is a term used to represent the perpetual struggle between humans for resources, power, or anything else that might represent some sort of gain. According to **Thomas Hobbes**, competition is one of the three specific causes of conflict that are endemic to human nature. The other two causes are diffidence and glory.

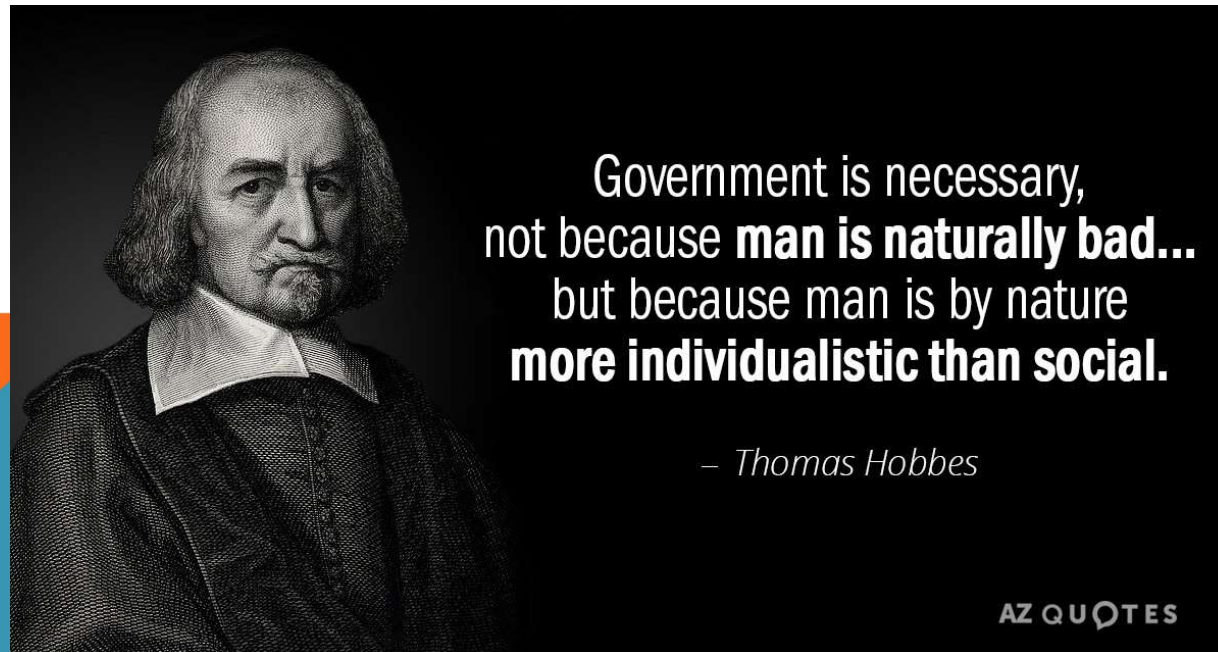


HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Key Concepts

Diffidence

Diffidence is one of the three causes of conflict, according to **Thomas Hobbes**, that are endemic to human nature. Diffidence arises from a human's perception of equality or a sense of self-satisfaction and occurs when individuals attain a particular set of goals or ends.



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Key Concepts

Glory

Glory is defined by **Thomas Hobbes** as the quest for and preservation of honor, respect, or reputation as it refers to the individual or as it reflects on the family, friends, name, and so forth, associated with that individual. According to Hobbes, glory is one of the three causes of conflict that are endemic to human nature.

The three main reasons for war are: the rivalry, mistrust and lust for glory

~ Thomas Hobbes ~



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Key Concepts

Human Nature

Human nature refers to the qualities and traits shared by all people, regardless of ethnicity, gender, culture, etc. Human nature theorists assert that the behavior of states is fundamentally patterned after the behavior of humans themselves. Human nature, then, can provide clues about when and why states might behave in a particular fashion.



IT IS NOT THE STRONGEST
OF THE SPECIES THAT SURVIVE
NOR THE MOST INTELLIGENT
BUT THE ONE
MOST RESPONSIVE TO CHANGE

Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882)



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Instinct Theory

- Emerging in the late 1800s, instinct theories contended that certain human behaviors are innate and due to evolutionary programming
- A complex, *inherited, unlearned behavior* that is rigidly patterned throughout a species
- Animals display automatic and innate behavior patterns called **fixed action patterns to environmental stimuli**
- William James listed 37 instincts.
- Criticism: Instinct theories merely describe and label behaviors rather than actually explaining them.

Key Concepts

Instinct

Instinct is an innate pattern of behavior characteristic of species, including humans. To varying degrees, humans and other species are preprogrammed to respond in a certain manner when confronted with a particular set of circumstances.

HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Key Concepts

State of Nature

State of nature refers to **Thomas Hobbes'** pessimistic view of life prior to the creation of a central government or authority to control the baser instincts of humans and provide order. Under these conditions the life of humans would be "solitary, poore, nasty, brutish, and short."



The world is a Hobbesian state of nature in which the struggle for domination is the very essence of international life.

Charles Krauthammer

HUMAN NATURE THEORY

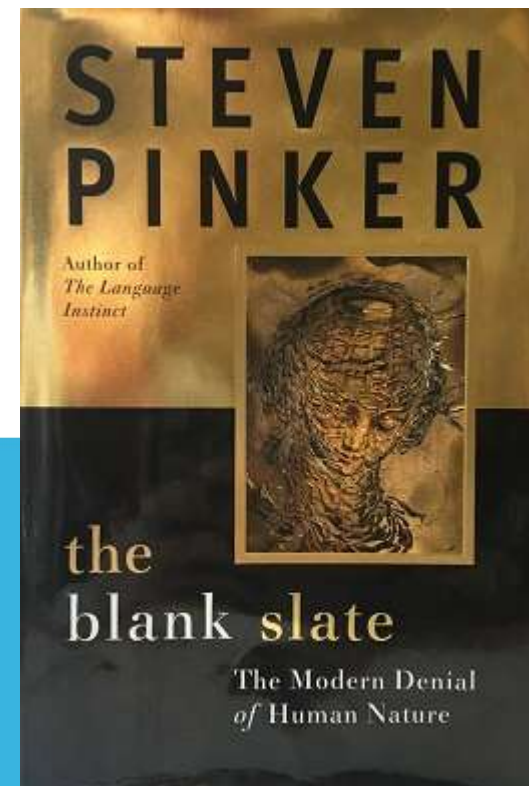
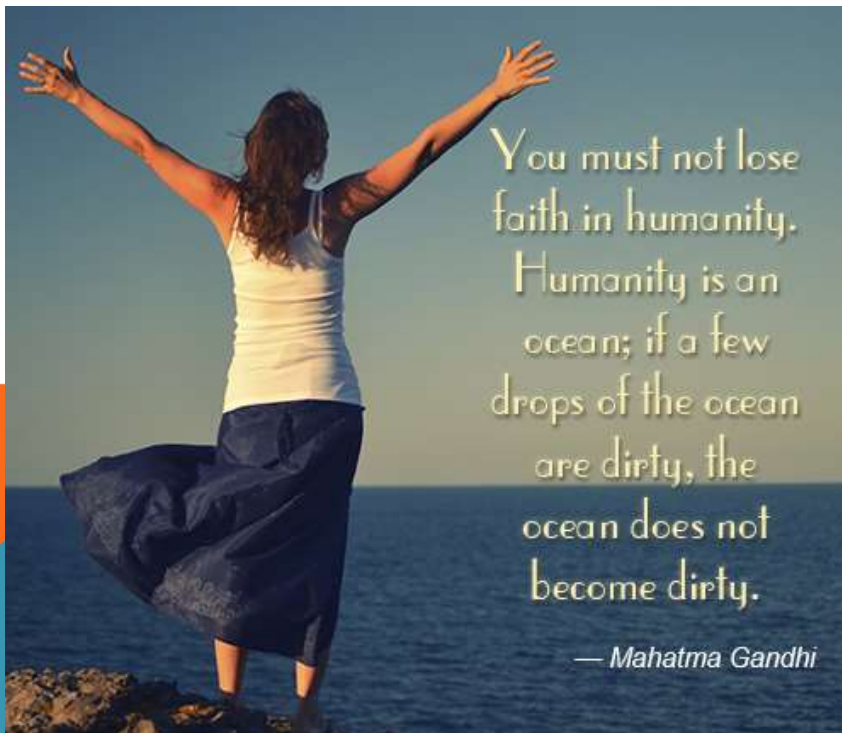
Critiques of Human Nature Theory



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Critiques of Human Nature Theory

Critics of **human nature theory** argue that it does not delve deeply enough into the driving forces of foreign policy and global politics. For instance, if we assume that the human animal is by nature competitive and prone to violence leads us to several questions including:



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Critiques of Human Nature Theory

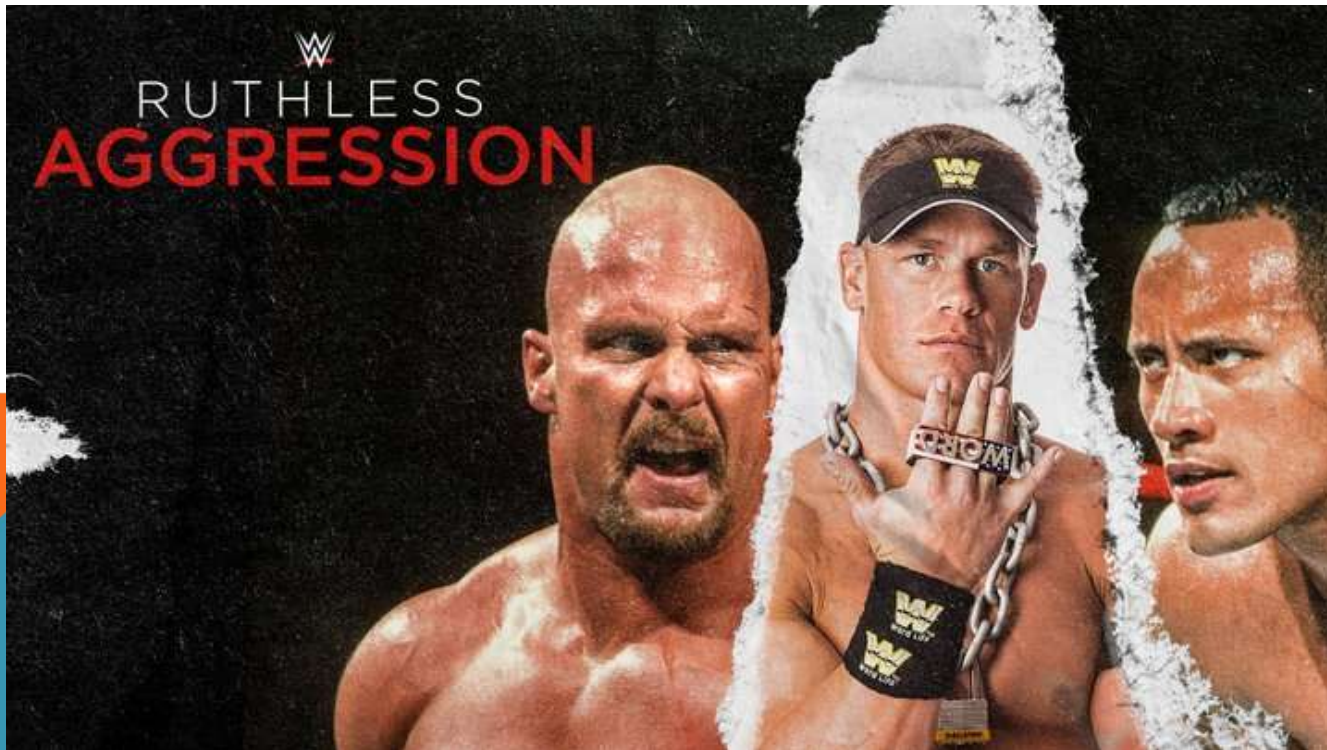
First, does **human nature theory** provide a sufficient explanation of the complex character of international relations? Does it have the analytical depth necessary to understand IR in our world today?



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Critiques of Human Nature Theory

Also, can we assume that human beings' natural aggression and lust for power or even Aristotle's notion of the conflict between good and evil in individuals, represent the driving forces behind not only the behavior of states but behind all of these other events, as well?



HUMAN NATURE THEORY

Critiques of Human Nature Theory

Finally, since “we” don’t decide whether or not to go to war with another nation, should we take a closer look at individual leaders, and their particular features, and unique ambitions?



(a perfect segue to moving into our theory!)