

PREFACE

Writing about sociocultural evolution is always a complicated enterprise, because the subject is not only difficult in a scientific way but also in a political one. In particular since the events of September 11, 2001 the debates about the differences between cultures and their evolutionary developments have left the fields of pure scientific research once and for all. However, there have probably never been scientific discourses that did not touch the realms of political discussions - Darwin, Marx, the atomic physicists and the recent debates about genetic engineering are just a few examples.

The aim of this book is not to take part in these debates but it is written as a contribution to the foundations of evolutionary theories in the social sciences. The readers will have to judge if I have succeeded with it. Perhaps essays like this one will help to clarify the problems we all have to face just now in regard to intercultural discourses. Theoretically and mathematically grounded insights into cultural development as the source of many political problems will not solve them immediately but may serve as signposts to how to deal with them in the long run.

No book could have been finished without the help of others. It is my pleasure to thank Udo Butschinek and Jörn Schmidt for reading a first version of this book and giving me a lot of critical advice in particular with respect to my English. The same thanks go to two native speakers from Kluwer Academic Publishers. All mistakes in the final version are of course my responsibility alone. Magdalena and Christina Stoica did a very nice job with the picture at the beginning of the book; Christina Stoica had a lot of difficulties with the layout, which she managed in an admirable way. In particular I am very grateful to Bernd Röske for his work on the pictures in Chapter 3. My thanks go also to Helga Andresen who inspired me to play with Bateson's concepts of competence and meta competence in a geometrical fashion. Prof. Leinfellner gave me some valuable advice for the final version. Finally, I wish to thank Charles Erkelens and Jolanda Voogd from Kluwer Academic Publishers: it was a pleasure to co-operate with them and to renew the pleasant experiences I had with respect to my last book.

An Essay Concerning Sociocultural Evolution
Theoretical Principles and Mathematical Models

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2002, VII, 242 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4020-0750-7