

# Contents

- 1 Introduction . . . . . 1**
- 2 Evolution . . . . . 7**
  - 2.1 A Selective Overview . . . . . 7
  - 2.2 Society as a System . . . . . 14
  - 2.3 Technology and Its Influence on the Evolution of Society . . . . . 21
  - 2.4 Some Further Thoughts on the Evolution of Society . . . . . 29
- 3 The Individual—The Basic Component of Society . . . . . 37**
  - 3.1 The Good Life . . . . . 37
  - 3.2 Intelligence . . . . . 40
  - 3.3 External Circumstances . . . . . 43
  - 3.4 Freedom . . . . . 46
  - 3.5 Will . . . . . 49
  - 3.6 Survival . . . . . 50
  - 3.7 Identity—Intelligence as Belief . . . . . 52
  - 3.8 Evaluation and Selection—Intelligence as Process . . . . . 59
  - 3.9 Identity Elements and Social Structures . . . . . 64
- 4 Interaction . . . . . 69**
  - 4.1 The Social Environment . . . . . 69
  - 4.2 Interaction and Adaptive Action . . . . . 75
  - 4.3 Basic Features of the Binary Interaction . . . . . 78
  - 4.4 Interaction as Persuasion . . . . . 84
  - 4.5 Interaction Strength and the Social Bond . . . . . 89
  - 4.6 The Role of Technology . . . . . 96
    - 4.6.1 Messages, Facts, and Information Technology . . . . . 96
    - 4.6.2 Fluctuations and Stability . . . . . 100
    - 4.6.3 The Good Society . . . . . 104

<b>5 Models</b>	109
5.1 Individuals as System Elements	110
5.1.1 Notation and Preliminary Issues	110
5.1.2 Equal Individuals	111
5.1.3 Non-equal Individuals	114
5.1.4 A More Elaborate Model	116
5.2 Propagation	122
5.2.1 Propagation and Diffusion	122
5.2.2 A First Model	124
5.2.3 A Second Model	129
5.3 Stability	132
5.3.1 Some Initial Thoughts	132
5.3.2 A First Model	137
5.3.3 A Second Model	141
<b>6 Implications and Conclusion</b>	147
6.1 A Measure of The Good Society	147
6.2 Rethinking the Role of Political Parties	151
6.2.1 Motivation	151
6.2.2 The Political Process and Collective Intelligence	154
6.2.3 Role and Purpose of Political Parties	157
6.2.4 A Proposal	160
6.3 Wealth, Power, and Instability	163
6.3.1 Freedom as a Root Cause	163
6.3.2 The Current Paradigm: Neoliberalism	166
6.3.3 Concentration of Wealth—A Source of Instability	171
6.3.4 The Road to a New Paradigm	173
6.3.5 Arguments for the New Paradigm	176
6.4 Conclusion	178
<b>Appendix A: Evaluating the Measurement Model</b>	183
<b>References</b>	223
<b>Index</b>	231

The Social Bond

How the interaction between individuals drives the  
evolution of society

Aslaksen, E.W.

2018, VIII, 235 p. 50 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-68740-7