

# 245801X

*Codpiece Land; Brogue; Safety Equations; “A Cooperative Species” by Bowles and Gintis*

## 0.01 Almost-Pandora Land

A land where they discovered a malevolent force (short-term benefits but long-term risks) and put it back in the box and forgot about it.

## 0.02 Codpiece Land

In a land far away, the men for generations had struggled with a problem. Codpieces arose as a solution due to:

1. Fashion favouring tight clothing
2. Men liking women
3. Men liking breezy privates
4. Men liking to keep their liking of women a secret to all but the women they like

## 0.03 Let’s Go

We shall not cease from exploration

And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

T. S. Eliot, *Four Quartets* (1943) via “The Knowledge: How to Rebuild our World from Scratch” by Lewis Dartnell

## 0.04 Reasons reason will fail

After all, it is hard for a talky collective to function well unless members are allowed to openly disagree with one another. But when the group was stressed and threatened by **dominators, outsiders, or famine**, the collective view mattered less, and people reverted to more general Machiavelian social strategies.

Overcomingbias, *Forager v Farmer, Elaborated* (2017)

## 0.05 The move to local everything

FYI just set my gmail to forward all my spam via POP because I realised that I couldn't check for spam false positives via Thunderbird alone.

## 0.06 The Knowledge

Just finished "The Knowledge: how to rebuild our world from scratch" by Lewis Dartnell. It gets very dry, but I also realised today that we'll have a tough time feeding the planet without fossil fuels because making fertilisers is so energy intensive.

## 0.07 Baggage Land

In one land, there live virtuous people who have taken the maxim, "you can't run from your baggage" to heart. Their children hear lots of stories about people who tried to run from their baggage and who suffered terribly.

They term Baggage, anything that reminds them of times they acted unvirtuously.

As such, the people organise their lives to keep their baggage close, but not interfering with their lives. Trustful couples will have discreet, but not hidden, Baggage Cabinets full of baggage. Distrustful couples have openly displayed His and Hers Baggage Cabinets that are empty (the real baggage is hidden elsewhere).

Once a person reaches the age of majority, no one, not even the government can compel them to expose their baggage. In

severe cases, perhaps when there's been a theft, the government may ask a person to hand over something they suspect is hidden in there. If the suspect refuses or claims innocence, they can then be exiled along with their baggage (no one wants that shit).

Humans being what they are, they sometimes try to get rid of their baggage through familiar tropes like ignoring that time you hurt your friend, or throwing a murder weapon into a lake. These, my friends, are the situations of which Baggage Land's cautionary tales are built...

## 0.08 Planophilia

I wanna make my own skill tree.

Oh yeah, I have to know where I'm going first.

## 0.09 Brevity

I  
am  
afraid of dy-  
ing,  
of dy-  
ing,  
of dy-  
ing.  
I  
am  
afraid of dy-  
ing,  
that's why I  
can't  
shut  
my  
mouth.

## 0.10 Contemplative

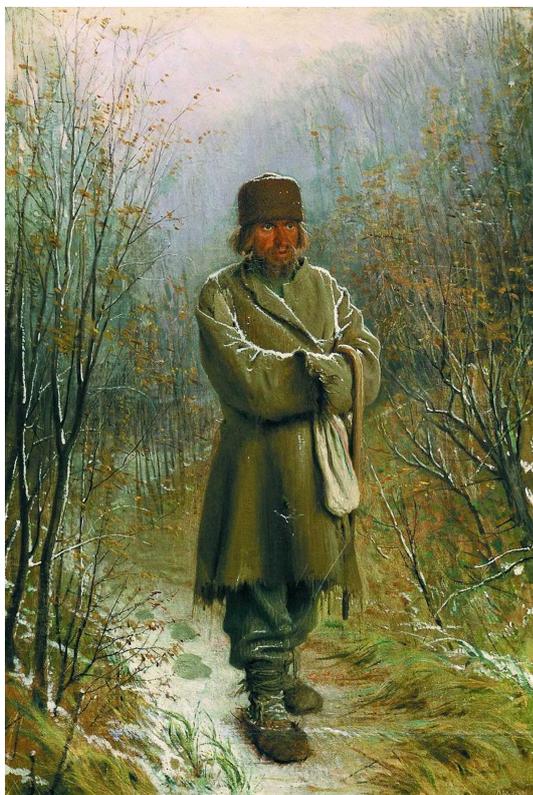


Figure 0.1: Ivan Kramskoi, *Contemplation* (1874)

Yet he is not thinking; he is “contemplating.” If any one touched him he would start and look at one as though awakening and bewildered. It’s true he would come to himself immediately; but if he were asked what he had been thinking about, he would remember nothing. Yet probably he has, hidden within himself, the impression which had dominated him during the period of contemplation. Those impressions are dear

to him and no doubt he hoards them imperceptibly, and even unconsciously. How and why, of course, he does not know either. He may suddenly, after hoarding impressions for many years, abandon everything and go off to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage for his soul’s salvation, or perhaps he will suddenly set fire to his native village, and perhaps do both. There are a good many “contemplatives” among the peasantry.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky,  
*The Brothers Karamazov* (1880)

### 1.1 Dream Themes

- Let’s make a ritual where a group can anonymously create, and eventually destroy, a common resource which everyone can enjoy. This’d let people help the community without bragging. And it’d also let people defect in a low-stakes setting.
- The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a knotty problem... a Gordian knotty problem.
- If your third attempt to purposely harm someone fails, then go and repent, for you must have angered one of the gods.
- Can every human on earth, even for just a moment, be happy at the same time?
- What if by law no one could be killed, or tortured, for the greater good?



Figure 0.2: Ivan Kramskoi, *Christ in the Desert* (1872)

- Let our elected leaders live like the poorest of us for the duration of their tenures (family not included) to incentivize them to make life for everyone better.
- I think Friend 2231 is wiser than me.

## 1.2 Brogue

Rules for playing Brogue:

- Test potions when near water with a lot of beach area in case there's steam
- Don't test potions when you're trying to ascend since you might get a potion of descent.
- Test enchantments when near an exit or a pit since you might summon monsters.
- Getting a strike in on an Ogre might push them off balance. This gives you a chance to run.
- I must monitor my Allies' stats during fights
- If you step into a room with lots of sleeping enemies you'd rather not tackle, book it in the other direction until you're in a safe/defensible location. Don't ever go back to check if anyone noticed you.
- Use darts *only* for Acid Mounds and Centipedes.
- Beware of bait

- It seems like the blast from any wand/staff, not just a wand/staff of firebolt, will light a spider's web on fire.
- When you've received a health warning, check your health on every turn
- Switch weapons depending on which kind of monster you're fighting e.g. whip and darts for Goblin Conjurers.
- You don't wanna experiment with even known-good potions during a fight. Identify everything ASAP since you never know when it'll save you from death.
- Don't test unknown wands on monsters in case you have a wand of polymorphism
- When fleeing, do not flee to uncharted territory because it may be a dead-end.

Seed 153,399,952 has lots of enchantments and a staff of conjuring in the first 5 levels.

## 1.3 Rejoining Humanity

Inspired by watching *The Mummy* last night, I realised that I had the potential to have "the power over life and death" by making lots of money. In that case, I should get close with my family members (at the very least) so I'll have more people I can trust to have my back and to try out different interaction styles in a low-stakes manner, before accidentally destroying the world because of a misunderstanding of how humans work.

## 1.4 Turn the Other Cheek

When you have power over someone who harmed you, and they're not threatening your life, please voluntarily choose to not retaliate.



Idea: go over the conflicts of the world and set up your new government so it can avoid those kinds of conflicts, and can also smoothly slide out of such conflicts if they should arise.



In Easy-Fork Land, people are so conflict-averse that for even the smallest differences in opinion, people will move out and create a new city where they don't have to deal with the wrong people. As such, a child cannot attain majority until they can successfully start a new city by themselves or with friends.



This thing happens to me when on 4chan. In a thread, someone will use some clever epithet against some 4chan minority (e.g. jews) and I'll smirk because it is funny. But further down the thread, someone will use a clever epithet for black people, and then I feel bad, even though I might at the very same time appreciate the cleverness of the epithet.

## 1.5 Futarchy Paper Re-read

While many, perhaps most, policy disputes arise from conflicting ends, important disputes also arise from differing beliefs on how to achieve shared ends.

p. 151

Futarchy is only for setting policy when there is consensus on the goal.



Please do not use any group identifiers or demonyms as an epithet. You never know if the person you're talking to secretly likes that group.



Thanks to past-me (in California) who let me spend as much money as I needed until I became happy.

## 1.6 Global Challenges Essay

One may doubt...that lethal intergroup conflict today contributes to the altruism, civic-mindedness or other social preferences that could underpin the more cosmopolitan forms of cooperation required to address global challenges such as climate change and epidemics.

Bowles and Gintis, *A Cooperative Species* (2011)

Perhaps we shouldn’t get rid of conflicts. Could we get 80% of the benefits by making conflicts non-lethal, though?



If we imagined each country in the world as a person, how could we get them to cooperate on tackling global catastrophic risks? And how could we prevent murder i.e. genocide?

Perhaps “genocide” is OK as long as we only kill the “people” not the individual persons.

(This’d let us keep lethal inter-group conflicts—which may be useful for our survival as a species—without putting individual humans, like me, in danger)

## 2.1 “A Cooperative Species” by Bowles and Gintis

In the pages that follow we advance two propositions. First, people cooperate not only for self-interested reasons but also because they are genuinely concerned about the well-being of others, try to uphold social norms, and value behaving ethically for its own sake... Second, we came to have these “moral sentiments” because our ancestors lived in environments, both natural and socially constructed, in which groups of individuals who were predisposed to cooperate and uphold ethical norms tended to sur-

vive and expand relative to other groups.

p. 1

I’m trying to build a society that continues to function even if some of its members don’t behave i.e. a fault-tolerant society, in the technical sense.

By *cooperation* we mean engaging with others in a mutually beneficial activity.

p. 2

Rather, we seek to explain why we are not purely selfish—why the social preferences that sustain altruistic cooperation are so common. Proximate answers to this question are to be found in the way that our brains process information and induce the behavioral responses that we term cooperation.

p. 3

[W]e will advance three reasons why these altruistic social preferences supporting cooperation out-competed unmitigated and amoral self-interest.

First, human groups have devised ways to protect their altruistic members from exploitation by the self-interested.

Second, humans adopted prolonged and elaborate systems of socialization that led individuals to internalize the norms that induce cooperation...

Third, between-group competition for resources and survival was and remains a decisive force in human evolutionary dynamics. Groups with many cooperative members tended to survive these challenges and to encroach upon the territory of the less cooperative groups

p. 4

Why then did humans rather than chimps, lions, or meerkats, develop such exceptional forms of cooperation?

Central to our reply are the...capacities that made us especially good at all of the above, and more. These capacities allow us to formulate general norms of social conduct, to erect social institutions regulating this conduct, to communicate these rules and what they entail in particular situations, to alert others to their violation and to organize coalitions to punish the violators. No less important is the psychological capacity to internalize norms, to experience such social emotions as shame and moral outrage, and to base group membership on such non-kin characteristics as ethnicity and language, which in turn facilitates costly conflicts among groups. Equally essential was the developmental plasticity of humans and our long period of maturation...Also important is the unique human capacity to use projectile weapons, a consequence

of which is to lower the cost of coordinated punishment of norm violators within a group, to reduce the costs of hunting large animals...and to render intergroup conflicts more lethal.

p. 5

So cooperation makes us more powerful. Power makes us steal from other groups. Being stolen from encourages cooperation.

The experiments confirmed that self-interest is indeed a powerful motive, but also that other motives are no less important. Even when substantial sums of money are at stake, many, perhaps most, experimental subjects were found to be fair-minded, generous toward those similarly inclined, and nasty toward those who violate these prosocial precepts.

p. 6

What if we had an RPG-like program which could simulate your society. You can then see if an action you want to take would be good or bad for your neighbours. And you can be sure that your neighbours will come to the exact same conclusion using the same inputs.

The Americans...are fond of explaining almost all the actions of their lives by the principle of self-interest rightly understood, how an enlightened regard for themselves constantly prompts them to assist one another...In this respect I think they frequently

fail to do themselves justice; in the United States as well as elsewhere people are sometimes seen to give way to those disinterested and spontaneous impulses that are natural to man; but the Americans seldom admit that they yield to emotions of this kind.

Alexis de Tocqueville,  
*Democracy in America* via p. 8

LOL that's me to a Tee.

We define *culture* as the ensemble of preferences and beliefs that are acquired by means other than genetic transmission

p. 13

I want tools for transmitting culture precisely, and for shaping that culture.

To readers who share our horror of road rage and honor killings, the claim that visceral reactions are among the proximate motives for generous, fair-minded and civic actions may seem surprising.

p. 185

Pain is one of the six so-called basic emotions, the others being pleasure, anger, fear, surprise, and disgust. Shame is one of the seven so-called social emotions, of which the others are love, guilt, embarrassment, pride, envy, and jealousy. Basic and social emotions are expressed in all human

societies, although their expression is affected by cultural conditions... Antonio Damasio calls an emotion a "somatic marker," that is, a bodily response that "forces attention on the negative outcome to which a given action may lead and functions as an automated alarm signal"

p. 187

Perhaps explicitly teach people what emotions to feel (and what not to feel) under different circumstances.



Man, I'm so glad I met that Dutch guy who worked on generator plants. He told me that to maintain constant power, they need 4 plants, any two of which can supply enough power. That way you can survive 2 simultaneous generator failures.

### 3.1 Free Writing

Make a cryptocurrency that I can show off easily, which can't be easily stolen, and which others without it can't credibly show off. That would be a competitor to gold since gold is dual-use, but current cryptocurrencies can only be used as a store of value.



Friend 5641 is a pessimist and I'm an optimist.



Hausa is the language of power in Nigeria just as French is one of the languages of power globally.



I'm going to take over the world. Anyone who agrees with me on a certain creed is automatically part of my country. Meaning that I won't fear death when I'm in any citizen's house.



If Tuvalu is a country, then you need only \$7,000,000 per annum to own a country.



Put a minimum price on safety per sq km.



If you pay back your ENTIRE debt, plus 1% more for not keeping your word, then I'll forget.



Members promise to punish anyone who brings up a properly repaid debt.



Let's measure the value of my time in units of safety.



Publish a safety map of the world.



When you're asked how safe something is, you answer in units of safety.

You can only talk about safety in the past. Estimated safety is CHILL (chances in long living). Past preventable deaths per population per interval in spacetime is UH (Unchecked Habits). Avoid talking about future UHs; instead talk about estimated UHs per interval in spacetime. (I want to make it linguistically difficult to be verbally imprecise about the estimated unchecked habits in a future interval in spacetime).



I need to go on different (safe) rides to get intuitions for motion in 3-space.



Let's create a racetrack so people like Friend 9 161 can show off their skills. But also people who just enjoy driving can do so, too. And we can teach people how to drive.



Let's have laws to govern only certain industries e.g. secrecy laws only in finance.



Every member has to brag with 1% of their money every 1,000 days.



Hey, let's encourage people to go to confession (either to your priest, imam, or the NSA). That way God may work wonders.



The clubhouses will be instantly recognisable.



I told Friend 9 960 to stop being hungry.



In Galactic, there are no words for truth or falsity, only contradiction and NOT contradiction.



That guy ( ' | ) . . .



Why won't anyone come out and tell the US that building and maintaining a border wall is just too expensive.



If we hold the birth rate at 0, and assume 0 preventable deaths, what death rate,  $r$ , will let us have 273,800 years of chill before we have only 10,000 people (a millionth of our current population) left? 0.1 deaths per thousand people per annum ( $r = 0.0001$ ).

We might need 4 groups of 10,000 people, for redundancy. FYI the book, "The Knowledge: How to Rebuild our World from Scratch" says we need about 10,000 people to restart civilisation.



One of Lloyd's leading underwriters, Cuthbert Heath, famously instructed his agent in San Francisco to "pay all of our policyholders in full, irrespective of the terms of their policies".

Wikipedia. *Lloyd's of London*



Don't chastise people for bad driving while they're still driving or they may become self-conscious and make more mistakes. But it is OK to express fear if you feel like you're in danger.

## 3.2 Global Challenges Essay

So we can encourage cooperation by either 1) having a common enemy, or 2) desiring lots of resources that we can only get via cooperation.

## 3.3 This life

"This life, is it lonely? No family. . ."

"No. But, you do have a purpose."

"Right."

Predestination (2014)

## 4.1 Flippy-floppy

In Galaktika, flip-flopping is encouraged because it shows you change your mind when given new evidence. Flip-flop-flipping is discouraged because it shows you make decisions without understanding the evidence for it.

Also, the process of offering, acquiring, remembering, asking for forgiveness, and forgiving debts is ritualised since debts can cause problems in relationships.

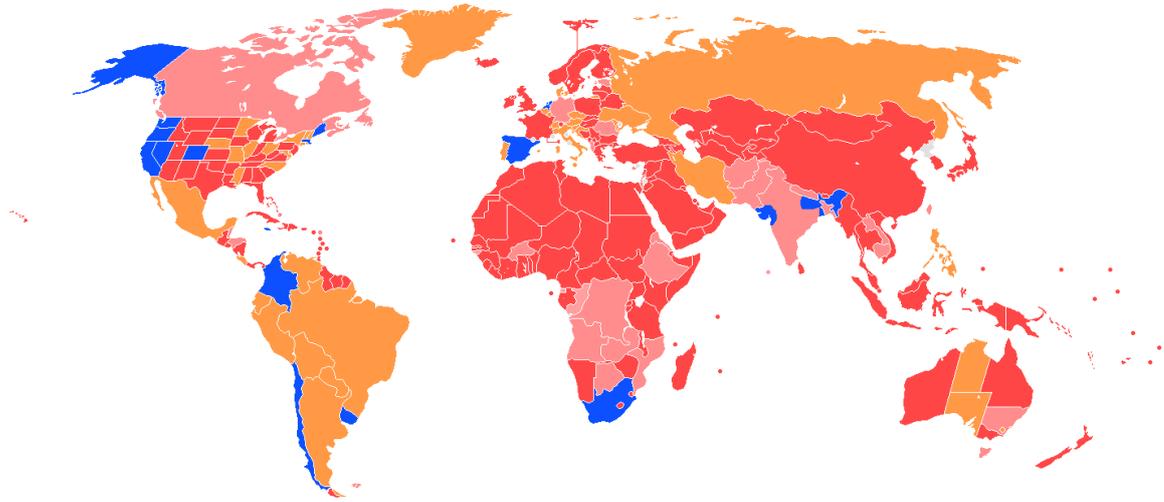


Figure 3.3: Wikipedia. *World laws on possession of small amounts of recreational cannabis*. Blue: Legal or essentially legal; orange: illegal but decriminalised; light pink: illegal but often unenforced; dark pink: illegal; grey: no information

## 4.2

Who is not here?

## 4.3 The lips, they tremble

In the past few days, I've noticed my lips trembling slightly when I'm doing other things. It could be that old age means I can't hold my face in shape anymore. Or that I'm learning how to smile again :)



From chat with Friend 9960 about rules in college and secondary school: make the laws of your society follow common sense as much as possible so no one is incentivised to deviate.

## 4.4 Safety Equations

Why should past safety (empirical safety) be a linguistically different concept from future safety (estimated safety)? Well, remember that puzzle Friend 6867 showed me, asking why we'd prefer a doctor with more deaths on his record to one with fewer deaths?

Conjecture: No human can think rationally (i.e. avoid contradictions) in a certain place at a certain time unless their chill there and then is 0 or 1 (i.e. the chance in long living for them for that interval in spacetime is 0 or 1.)

Unchecked habits leading to truncated living for a person in a certain interval of spacetime can be advertised as follows e.g. living in S. Korea killed 6/1,000 people (0.006uh) last year.

So in Galaktika, we have to publicly track deaths and suicides in our homes so

that visitors can calculate their chill in our homes.

## 4.5 Walking Marriage

I want a walking marriage like the Mosuo of China. Still iffy on kids, though, but if I had them, I'd like that matrilineal arrangement as well.

How would I behave if I submitted myself to a higher power?



Yesterday, still kinna feeling the effects of the cannabis from the day before, I had candid conversations with Friend 342 (about intellectual girls) and with Friend 5641 (about the point of life). I think I now find it easier to look them in the eyes while talking.

Idea: if you wanna become a mathematician, write your 100x100 times table (doing the computations with pen and paper only). This is the most basic skill.



Remember that documentary I saw once, where the voiceover was saying that a tribe of moose- or livestock-keepers only had numbers for 1, 2, and many? I was confused how they could count like that, but I'm realising that I've done a similar thing with thinking that things are either true, false, or maybe.



Today while morning-sleeping and dreaming, I felt like I was gonna have one of those paralysis attacks and I felt

my heart racing. But then I kinna told myself to just calm down, and so I just lay and noticed my heart start to calm down and could also feel the sleep-paralysis dissipating until I could properly wake up. No freaking out involved!

## 6.1 Global Challenges Essay

Create a UN body whose job is to ensure that all decision-makers publicly predict how their policies will affect the lifespan of humanity.



Freemasonry seems like an ancient version of the Galaktikan culture I'm trying to create.



However, one pitfall that must be addressed here... is that of guilt. We have grown up in a culture in which we can be extremely hard on ourselves, causing ourselves astounding amounts of pain to little good effect. If we can learn to substitute wise remorse, a remorse that simply says, "Well, that didn't work, and this is unfortunate. I should try my best to figure out why and hopefully do something better next time," we will be much more able to train

successfully in living a good and useful life.

Daniel Ingram, *Mastering the Core Teachings of the Buddha* (2007)

so on until you've maxed out your mental calmness-meter.

Slatestarcodex, "Meditative states as feedback loops" (2017)

## 7.1 Global Challenges

### Essay

To make sure decision-makers are aware of how their decisions will affect global chill, they are encouraged to say the chill creed at the beginning of each decision-making session (you may not recite it if you don't believe it; there's nothing wrong with not believing in it).

The chill creed: I believe that humanity's chance in having at least [members] alive by [date] is [chill]. I'm aiming for a chill of 1. (If there is more than one decision-maker present, you may add, "Do you agree?")

After reciting the chill creed, the speaker may make a very brief comment on how chill has changed since the last session.

I barely miss alcohol.

♣

The free war was intended as a last resort, which would only end when the invader had finally retreated. The official doctrine stated that all Swedish citizens were to, without exception, consider any order to surrender to be false, regardless of its origin. This was even printed in all phone books, which also contained instructions for the civilian population in case of war.

The Strategy Bridge, "Trigger-Happy, Autonomous, and Disobedient: Nordbat 2 and Mission Command in Bosnia" (2017)

## 8.1 Free Writing

Alternative chill creed: May the decisions I take today help us live as long as God/our ancestors/our nation wants. Do you agree?

♣

To create a Signify key-pair without a passphrase use: `signify-openbsd -G -p free.pub -s free.sec -n`

♣

For example, the fourth jhana is a state of ultimate calm. Seems like maybe if you become calm, then being so calm is kind of calming, and that's even more calming, and

♣

Approximately 40% of adults are not securely attached.

David S. Narang, "Leaving Loneliness" (2014)

## 9.1 Dream Themes

How can I get a chill of 1? One idea: become like bacteria.