

# The Role of Evolutionary Intelligence in Decision Making



Richard Barrett

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## Introduction

Despite what Darwin tell us, evolution was never about species, it was always about consciousness. The continuance of 3.8 billion years of evolution on Earth now rests on the shoulders of the evolution of human consciousness.<sup>[1]</sup>

At the heart of this idea is the scientific understanding that we live in an energetic world, and that our material world is a property of our limited senses. We view the world not as it is, but as we are: we are only able to perceive a small band of energetic frequencies which we interpret as our material reality.

The energetic theory of evolution postulates that there are four planes of being—the energetic plane, the atomic plane, the cellular plane, and the plane of creatures. Evolution progressed by entities at each plane of being creating a stable energetic platform from which the next plane of being could develop.

Each stable energetic platform was created in three stages: first, individual entities learned how to become viable and independent in the energetic framework of their existence; then, these entities learned how to bond to form viable, independent energetic group structures; and finally, these viable, independent energetic group structures learned how to cooperate to create a higher order entity that became the stable energetic platform for the emergence of the next plane of being.

The only entity able to create a sufficiently stable energetic platform at the atomic plane was the carbon atom.

The only entity able to create a sufficiently stable energetic platform at the cellular plane was the eukaryotic cell. And, potentially, the only entity that appears to be able to create a sufficiently stable energetic platform at the plane of creatures is *Homo sapiens*.

## Evolutionary Intelligence

None of this would have been possible without evolutionary intelligence: ***the ability of an entity to continuously adapt to changes in its environment, so it can thrive and prosper.*** To do this, an entity must be able to do four things:

**Gather information:** The entity must be conscious of the changes that are occurring in its environment: it must be able to sense changes.

**Process information:** The entity must be able to draw together the different strands of information perceived by its sensing mechanisms to create an overall picture of the changes that are occurring in its environment.

**Make meaning of the information:** The entity must be able to analyze how the overall picture of the changes that are occurring affect its ability to maintain its internal stability and external equilibrium—enable it to meet its most important (survival, safety and security) needs.

**Decide what to do:** The entity must be able to choose a response or action to the changes that are occurring that allows it to maintain (or regain) its internal stability and external equilibrium.

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If an entity is unable to maintain its internal stability and external equilibrium it will not be able to thrive and prosper; it will struggle to function and will eventually disintegrate or decompose into its component parts. This is true for all entities, from atoms, to molecules, to cells, to organisms, to creatures, including *Homo sapiens* and all human cultural/societal group structures such as nations.

## Two types of adaptation

If we look at evolution from the Big Bang to the present day, we notice two types of adaptation: physical adaptation and mental (psychological) adaptation. As far as life on Earth is concerned, prior to the appearance of *Homo sapiens*, these two types of adaptation progressed in parallel: physical adaptation led to species evolution, and species evolution was usually accompanied by psychological evolution—an expansion of conscious awareness and intelligence.

However, once *Homo sapiens* arrived on the evolutionary scene, evolution stopped being about physical adaptation and became all about psychological adaptation—personal psychological evolution and collective psychological evolution. Personal psychological evolution led to new stages of collective psychological evolution, and new stages of collective psychological evolution generated changes in the human cultural/societal environment that fostered new stages of personal psychological evolution.<sup>[2]</sup>

Thus, as evolution progressed—from elementary particles to protons, neutrons, and electrons, to atoms, to molecules, to cells, to multicellular organisms, to creatures, to human beings and their cultural and societal constructs—the complexity of the functioning of the minds of each of these entities was more or less “forced” to increase in parallel with the level of complexity of their environments if they were to meet their survival, safety and security needs in our three-dimensional material world.

Because of this hierarchy of mind complexity, the mind of a cell is more complex than the mind of a molecule. Why? Because a cell lives in a more complex environment than a molecule, and if the molecules that make up a cell cannot maintain their internal stability and external equilibrium, the cell cannot maintain its stability.

Furthermore, if the cells that make up a creature or a human being cannot maintain their internal stability and external equilibrium, the creature or human cannot maintain its stability. Similarly, if an individual human cannot maintain its internal stability and external equilibrium, the family it is part of will have difficulty maintaining its stability, and so on; if communities cannot maintain their internal stability and external equilibrium, then nations cannot maintain their stability. In other words, the whole of our human experience depends on the ability of all the entities we depend on for our existence at each lower plane of being (level of existence) maintaining their internal stability and external equilibrium—living in harmony with themselves and their environment.

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## The role of evolutionary intelligence

When faced with a change in its environment, an entity must first consider if the change is threatening—potentially destabilizing—or not. If it judges, based on memories of past experiences, that the change is not potentially destabilizing, it does nothing. If it judges, based on past experiences, that the change is potentially destabilizing, it must decide how to respond or react to preserve or regain its stability. If it has experienced a similar change previously and found a solution to maintaining its stability, it will use that solution again. This is called an instinctive response. However, if it is a new threat, one it has never experienced before, evolutionary intelligence is triggered.

Evolutionary intelligence contains three decision-making algorithms. The algorithm chosen by the entity depends on two factors: the level of psychological development of the entity, and its physiological and psychological ability to engage with the second and third algorithms of evolutionary intelligence—to bond with other entities and/or for the group structure it is part of to cooperate with other group structures. The three algorithms and the questions that dictate which algorithm an entity uses are as follows:

**Becoming viable and independent:** Can I (the entity) overcome this threat by becoming stronger or more resilient and thereby return to stability?

**Bonding to form a group structure:** Can I (the entity) bond with another entity that is facing the same threat, to form a temporary or permanent group structure that is strong enough or resilient enough to overcome the threat so both of us can return to stability?

**Cooperating to form a higher order group structure:** Can we (the entities that are part of a group structure) cooperate with another group structure in a temporary or permanent higher order group structure that is strong or resilient enough to overcome the threat, so we (all group structures and all entities contained therein) can return to stability inside the new, higher order group structure?

Viewed from this perspective we can make the following statements:

1. The purpose of conscious awareness is always the same—to enable an entity to maintain its internal stability and external equilibrium by finding ways to overcome threats to its existence and/or meet its most important needs. Evolutionary intelligence is a property of consciousness.
2. Consciousness and evolutionary intelligence are fundamental characteristics of all entities found in our three-dimensional material world. Not only is the world we live in energetic and conscious; it is also intelligent.
3. Evolutionary intelligence gives purpose and direction to evolution.

So, as humans, whenever we encounter a threatening situation we have never experienced before, or a situation in which we find it difficult to get our needs or desires met, evolutionary intelligence steps in to provide a way for us to overcome the threat and/or get our needs or desires met.

In other words, evolutionary intelligence is the source code of human motivation. Every single decision we make, be it a conscious, subconscious, or unconscious, has the same objective—to get our most important needs or desires met so that we can maintain our energetic stability. Evolutionary intelligence allows us to satisfy:

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- The needs of the body, so we can stay alive.
- The needs of the ego, so we can survive, keep safe, and feel secure in our physical and cultural framework of existence—our deficiency needs; and
- The desires of the soul, so we can find fulfillment in this lifetime—our growth needs.

Your ego cannot meet its survival, safety, and security needs if your body cannot stay alive, and your soul cannot satisfy its desires if your ego cannot create the conditions that allow you to survive, keep safe, and feel secure. Only when the body is in good health, and we have mastered our deficiency needs (survival, safety, and security needs), are we able to focus on mastering our growth needs—our soul's desire for fulfillment—self-expression, connection, and contribution.

In the words of Abraham Maslow: "Our deficiency needs are prepotent to our growth needs. We get anxious and fearful if our deficiency needs are not met, but when we *believe* they have been met, we give them no further consideration."

I have italicized the word "*believe*," because it doesn't matter how rich you are, how loved you are, or how much you are held in the esteem of others, if you don't believe you have enough, you don't believe you are loved enough, or you don't believe you are enough, then you will not consider your deficiency needs have been met. You will still be anxious and fearful, and you will never be able to give your full attention to your growth needs.

***There is hardly any activity we undertake that does not involve trying to satisfy our body's needs, our ego's needs, or our soul's desires: sleeping, keeping fit, achieving goals, relaxing to music, singing in a choir, raising kids, writing a book—they are all attempts to satisfy a body need, an ego need, or a soul desire.***

Even when we are helping others to get *their* needs met, we are attempting to satisfy either our need to find meaning and purpose (our soul's desire for self-expression), our need to make a difference (our soul's desire for connection), our need to be of service to others (our soul's desire for contribution), or alternatively we are hoping that by helping others to get their needs met, the beneficiaries of our actions will reciprocate at some point in the future and help us to get our needs met.

Every time we fail to meet the needs of our body, the needs of our ego or the desires of our soul, we experience psychological instability. Every time we experience psychological instability, our evolutionary intelligence kicks in to try to help us regain our energetic stability by helping us to get our needs or desires met. If we are unable to get our needs or desires met, we experience either instability in our body (physical dysfunction) or instability in our mind (mental dysfunction such as anxiety, stress, or some form of upset). The whole of human history can be explained by our human attempts to satisfy our bodies or egos needs, or our soul's desires.

## Gender differences

Traditionally men have tended to use the first algorithm for making decisions: they try to overcome threats by being, stronger or more powerful. Women on the other hand, have tended to use the second and third algorithms for making decision: they try to overcome threats by bonding with each other to create a group structure that is strong or resilient enough to overcome the threat.

This difference is due mainly to historical reasons: men were relied on to protect their communities, whereas women focused on keeping the community together.

Consequently, women tend to make better leaders than men: they are more inclusive in their decision making.

It is interesting to note that the most evolved nations on the planet – those with the highest levels of wellbeing – have women leaders.

## Bibliography

1. Richard Barrett, *The Evolutionary Human: How Darwin Got It Wrong*. ↑

2. In my other works, I refer to the stages of collective psychological evolution as worldviews. I postulate that each new worldview (stage of collective psychological development) provides the contextual framework for human individuals to meet the needs of the next stage of their personal psychological development. ↑