

EVOLUTIONARY ETHICS: KROPOTKIN (1924)

K wished to build "a new, realistic moral science" based on modern science and at the same time permeated with "higher feelings and brighter hopes".

The Darwinists have exaggerated competition; yet "the other aspect of Nature", namely mutual aid, exists as well and it was recognized by Darwin in The Descent of Man. The struggle exists only between species; within each species the rule is mutual aid. Moreover, it is the predominant fact of nature.

While the struggle for life leads sometimes to progress and at other times to regresso, mutual aid always leads to progressive evolution. (Objection: people may get together in political parties, churches, mafias, etc., to stop progress. The converse is true: cooperation is necessary for social (not biologoval) progress.)

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