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The Social Contract Naturalized

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There are two philosophical traditions in social contract theory. One approaches the social contract in terms of rational decision. It asks what sort of contract rational decision makers would make in a preexisting "state of nature". This is the tradition of Thomas Hobbes - and of John Harsanyi and John Rawls. There is an alternative tradition -the tradition of the social contract naturalized- whose great exponent was David Hume. This tradition asks different questions. How can the existing social contract have evolved? How may it continue to evolve? Questions and issues from the rational choice tradition are transformed when the social contract is considered from a naturalistic evolutionary point of view.