

# Egoism

**Noun Description:**

- **Concern for one's own interest and welfare.**



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



Wrocław University  
of Science and Technology



# Behram ÇELEN

<http://behran.org>



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



Wrocław University  
of Science and Technology

## Egoism:

- Egoism is the theory that one's self is, or should be, the motivation and the goal of one's own action.
- Altruism is the opposite of egoism.



## Types of Egoism:

- Descriptive and Psychological Egoism
- Normative Egoism
  - ◆ Rational Egoism
  - ◆ Ethical Egoism
    - Conditional Egoism

## Descriptive and Psychological Egoism

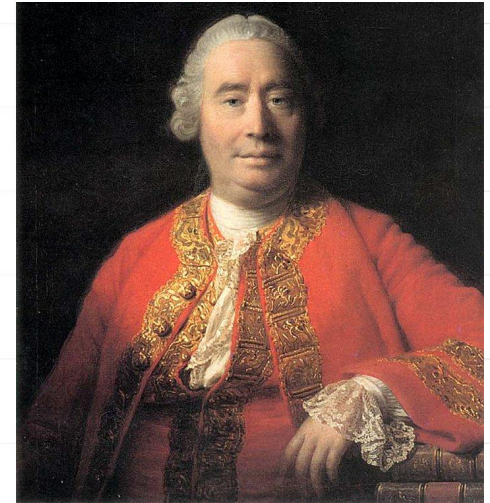
- Called “psychological egoism”
- Human nature as being wholly self-centered and self-motivated

What proposition is there respecting human nature which is absolutely and universally true?



# David Hume

- Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals.
- Self-interest opposes moral sentiments that may engage one in concern for others
- Psychological egoism attempts to reduce human motivation to a single cause, which is a 'fruitless' task



# Normative Egoism

- Ought to promote the self above other values.
- Befriend himself before he can befriend others.



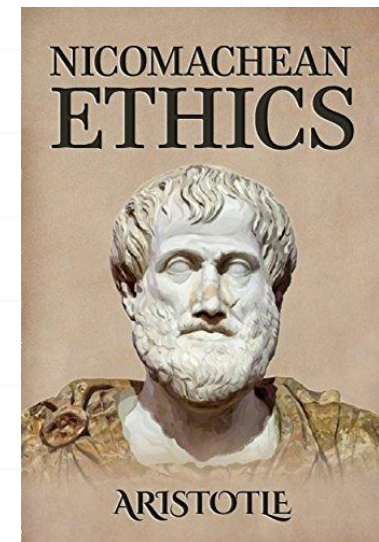
# Herbert Spencer



- Ethics has to recognize the truth, recognized in unethical thought, that egoism comes before altruism.

# Nicomachean Ethics (Book)

- A man must befriend himself before he can befriend others.



# Rational Egoism

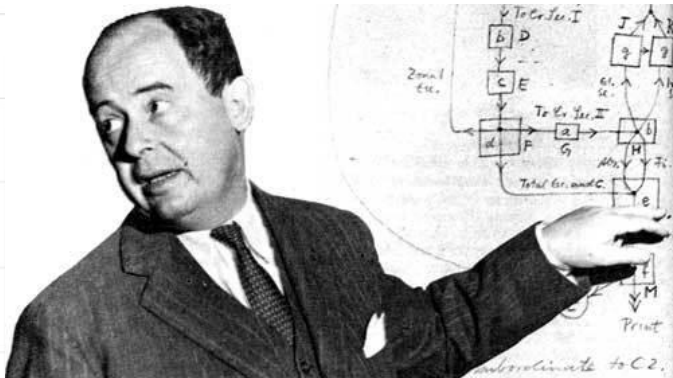
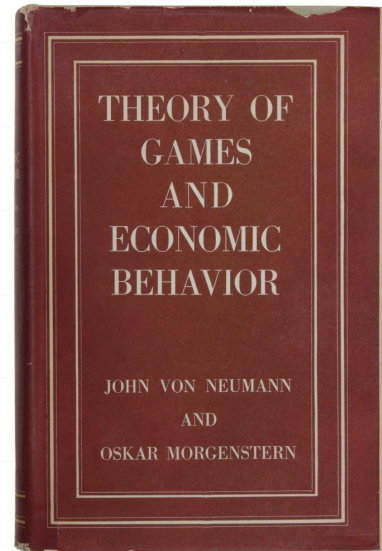
- The promotion of one's own interests is always in accordance with reason.
- Prisoner's Dilemma

# Ayn Rand - Novelist

- The actor must always be the beneficiary of his action and that man must act for his own rational self-interest.
- Selfishness is a proper virtue to pursue.



# Game Theory



# Prisoner's Dilemma



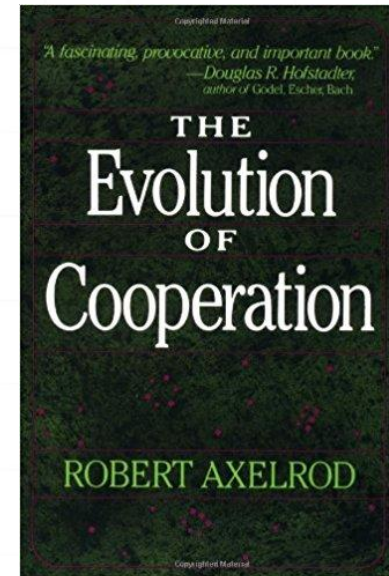
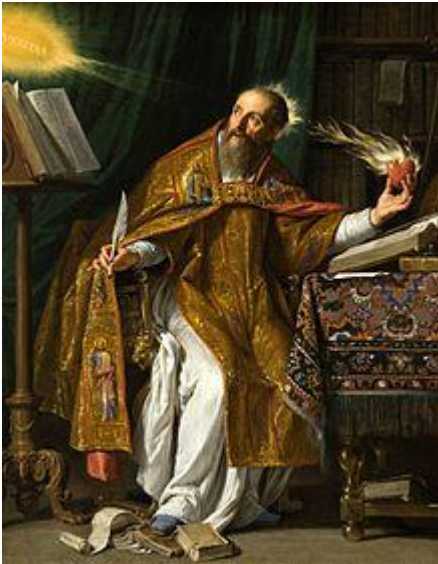
# Prisoner's Dilemma

		Prisoner B	
		<i>Confess</i>	<i>Don't confess</i>
Prisoner A	<i>Confess</i>	5,5	$\frac{1}{2}, 10$
	<i>Don't Confess</i>	$10, \frac{1}{2}$	2,2

Two criminals, A and B, face different sentences depending on whether they confess their guilt or not.

Robert Axelrod

Love, and do as you will

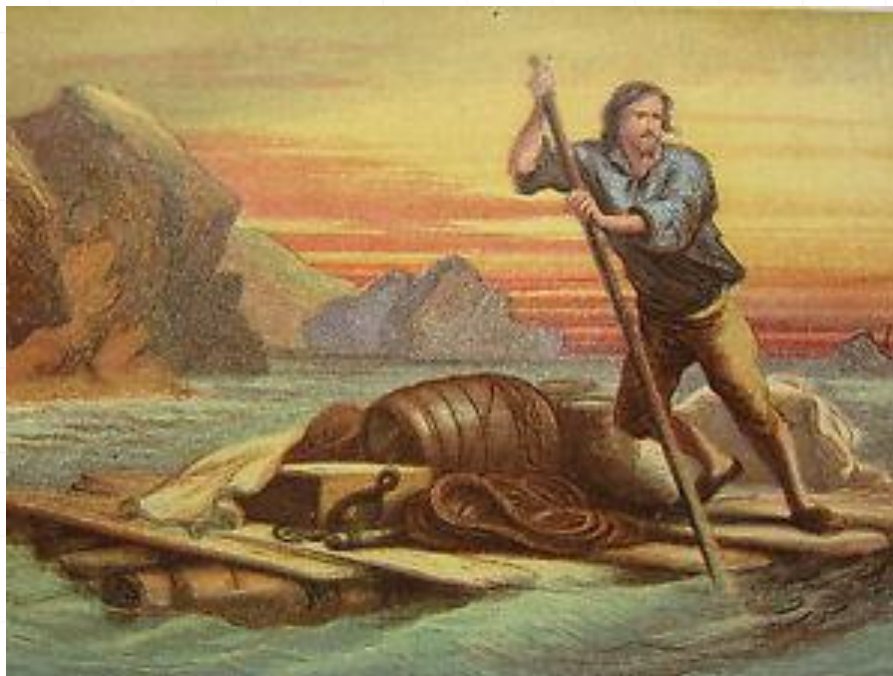




# Ethical Egoism

- the promotion of one's own good is in accordance with morality.
- the individual aims at her own greatest good

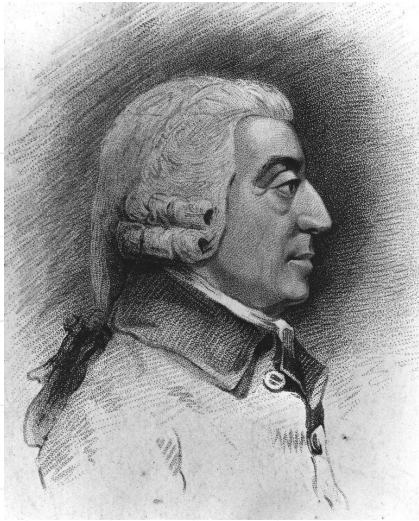
# Robinson Crusoe



# Conditional Egoism

- Morally acceptable if it leads to morally acceptable ends

# Wealth of Nations - Adam Smith



- It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest. We address ourselves, not to their humanity but to their self-love, and never talk to them of our own necessities but of their advantages

# Public Good Theory



## Conclusion

- All actions necessarily benefit the agent's environment.
- Some are born to rule and others are born to be ruled. - Aristotle

# References;

- <http://www.iep.utm.edu/egoism/>
- Sidgwick, Henry. The Methods of Ethics. MacMillan: London, 1901.
- <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/egoism/>
- Baier, K., 1958, The Moral Point of View, Ithaca: Cornell.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaz2\\_y692T4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaz2_y692T4)
- Shaver, R., 1999, Rational Egoism, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Thanks for Listening



[behramcelen@gmail.com](mailto:behramcelen@gmail.com)

You can find this presentation in  
[github.com/behram](https://github.com/behram)