

TEN
EVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL SCIENCE

Swiftly now, by the 1930s—as shown by Hitler’s self-justifying references to survival of the fittest Darwinism and Joseph Goebbels’ genius for propaganda—the evolution of our species was driven radically backward by the predatory manipulation of the mind space of Germany and the World at Large.

What among the Neo-Darwinians began as a scholarly discourse about eugenics explodes into the mass experiment of Hitler and the Nazis. In other words, what looked like something no bigger than the proverbial cloud no bigger than a man’s hand against the horizon in one mind space became a hurricane in another. On one small island of the global mind space were the Neo-Darwinians, secure in the amoral isolation of their truncated theory, speaking and writing of comfortably bodiless abstractions. Out in the mind space of the World at Large, however—that is, in the real world of politics, economics, mass ignorance, and regressive religion—were those looking for scientific justification for a reign of terror and ultimate uncontested power.

So through the change in meanings and consequences from mind space to mind space the disaster erupts. Natural selection and variation for the theorists, becomes survival of the fittest for the mind at large, becomes *Deutschland uber alles* and all its lesser versions for the power-mad pack of circling wolves. (See The Controversial Connection in ending Reflections for a vital semiotic analysis in visual language terms).

Now the flow of the relevant stream of mind moving from the past, through the present, into the future can be seen in the configuration on the next page..

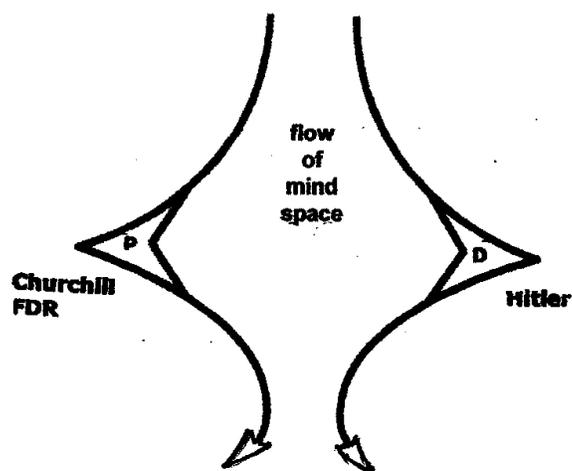


Figure 10.1
P-attractor versus *D-attractor* in
 Political, Economic, Cultural, and Moral Evolution

However strange this configuration may look at first, visually it is just the round mind space of previous Lewinian figures stretched out to simulate the flow and spread of global mind space—as if we were mapping the semiotic shrinking and the swelling of a river moving through both space and time.

In chapter nine we introduced the case developed by cultural evolution theorist Riane Eisler for two models at work in shaping the cultural evolution of our species. On one hand is the impact of a “partnership” model, systems, and ethos driven by the ideals of “power *with* others”; on the other is the impact of a “domination” model, systems, and ethos driven by the ideals of “power *over* others.”

In chapter eight we introduced the basic concept of the *attractor* from chaos theory.

In Figure 10.1 we now wed the two to simulate the thrust of partnership versus domination attractors, or *P-attractors* versus *D-attractors*.

Now in the swelling of the flow of global mind space into the years of World War II—advancing the threat in one direction, responding to it in the other—we see how the mind space for the world at large was in effect pulled out on either side by the armies, economies, allies, and all else symbolized by the names of Hitler in one direction, Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt in the other.

Behind the visual rightward political thrust of the Hitlerian and fascist ethos more generally was the *D-attractor* mindset, driven by a vision of the “perfection” of our species

through enslavement, suppression, sterilizing, or slaughtering all who fell short of or opposed the Nazi vision of the *ubermensch* or superman.

Now throughout Europe, America, and Asia all that was struggling to become something more than political, economic, and religious lip service to *P-attractor* ideals suddenly becomes vividly meaningful.

To counter the expanding thrust of the Hitlerian *D-attractor* all that over thousands of years has mainly driven the evolution of our species became mobilized behind the expanding thrust of the *P-attractor*.

Behind the thrust of the Rooseveltian, Churchillian, and democratic ethos more generally was the counter vision. Behind it was the vision of the advancement of our species, and life on earth, through the child-raising, family dynamics, schooling, and enlightened political and economic public policies of freedom conditioned by equality—or, in terms of basic morality, doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

The result was what in chaos theory is called a *bifurcation*—or more concretely, as seen next—a swelling of mind to become a *split* into different directions, in this case one thrust driving us forward, the other bent on driving us backward in evolution.

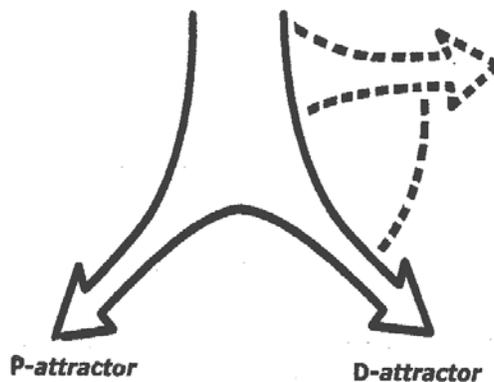


Figure 11.2
Mid-20th Century Bifurcation

In 1945 Germany, Italy, and Japan were defeated; Hitler and Mussolini killed; for a time much was made of the great evolutionary lesson embedded in World War II.

Driven by the *P-attractor* ethos, the United Nations and the World Court were formed. In 1947, accelerating the liberation of colonies, Gandhi and Nehru gained

independence for India. In 1948, with formation of Israel, the Jews Hitler set out to eliminate finally gained a patch of earth they could defend and call their own. But already implacably underway was the resurgence of the D-attractor thrust, with Stalin and the expansion of a new split for the global mind space into the nuclear-arming opponents of the Cold War.

Here, beyond evasion, the thinkers and leaders for our species were forced to realize we are not sweet peas or fruit flies. Nor are we cowed and dutiful humanoids with fate dependent either on the will of God or blind chance for Natural Selection and Random Variation. The threat of subjugation or death in the gas chamber or the gulags made it beyond question evident we are organisms with minds capable of a *choice* of positive or negative direction.

As W.E.Henley caught the ideal in *Invictus*, “I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.”

But here was the heart-rending tragedy for millions and a grim moral for the story. So firmly stuck within the Darwinian first half and the clutch of the D-attractor paradigm was most of the mind space for both natural and social science that the political and economic implications for evolution theory—and thereby national and global policy—bounced like rubber bullets off the armor of the prevailing mindset. And so for lack of the guidance that an up-dated, integrated, *progressive* theory and story of evolution could have provided, once again our history became the slaughter of more millions of our species and development of the atom and hydrogen bomb as “peace-makers.”

Does this seem too extreme a charge, too big a leap in speculation?

Yes, of course, much else was involved. But let’s take the next step and see what happens.

How closely does the configuration on the next page roughly approximate the political, economic, social, moral, and spiritual course of post-WWII real world cultural evolution up through the last years of the 20th century into the 21st century?

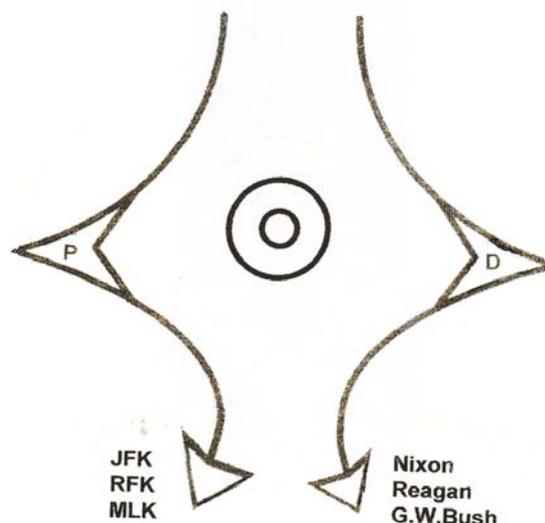


Figure 10.3
The Political, Economic, Social, Moral, and Spiritual Course
of Post-WWII Real World Evolution

Here, transcending the hot house world of an isolated evolution theory, can be glimpsed how science and society was and still is manipulated by D-attractor leaders and D-attractor followers to serve D-attractor ends.

Now can be seen what lies behind what otherwise has seemed to be the dark magic of some giant invisible hand whereby, as in a puppet show, the engineering of the “proper” human and the “proper” shaping of human evolution is advanced.

In the stream of progressive mind space for America and the world at large symbolized, among others, by President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, and the stream of mind space symbolized, among others, by Presidents Nixon, Reagan, and G.W. Bush, aren’t we looking at the fundamental question of evolutionary direction for the 21st century?

Surely by now it’s evident we will continue to limp and stagger into the future as long as we lack the wider comprehension and warning of Darwin’s completed theory and all the progressive *social* as well as natural science that both corroborates and advances it.

Isn’t it evident we shall fall short, and invite oblivion, until we build the fully human, political, economic, and moral action-oriented theory and story now seeking form within the vision of Darwin’s second revolution.

Despite many decades of philosophical and scientific dissent, science and society still remain primarily locked in the paradigm-preserving dictum that science must be inflexibly objective, neutral, above the fray. But the bedrock systems dynamics of partnership systems and the P-attractor versus domination systems and the D-attractor underline the evolutionary requirement that if all that we value as humans is to survive, *we must choose sides, and for the better side, fight.*

This was and is the task to which science turned during the final decades of the 20th century.