



Unnatural Selection: Why the Geeks Will Inherit the Earth

By Mark Roeder

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Unnatural Selection: Why the Geeks Will Inherit the Earth By Mark Roeder

Unnatural Selection is the first book to examine the rise of the "technocentric being"—or geek—who personifies a distinct new phase in human evolution. People considered geeks often have behavioral or genetic traits that were previously considered detrimental. But the new environment of the Anthropocene period—the Age of Man—has created a kind of digital greenhouse that actually favors their traits, enabling many non-neurotypical people to bloom. They resonate with the technological Zeitgeist in a way that turns their weaknesses into strengths. Think of Mark Zuckerberg versus the towering, Olympics-bound Winklevoss twins in the movie *Social Network*.

Roeder suggests that the rise of the geek is not so much the product of Darwinian "natural selection" as of man-made—or unnatural—selection. He explains why geeks have become so phenomenally successful in such a short time and why the process will further accelerate, driven by breakthroughs in genetic engineering, neuropharmacology, and artificial intelligence. His book offers a fascinating synthesis of the latest trends in these fields and predicts a twenty-first century "cognitive arms race" in which new technology will enable everyone to become more intelligent and "geek-like."

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Editorial Review

Review

“*Unnatural Selection* paints a compelling picture of human adaptability, identifying new traits within all of us that are helping us to survive and succeed in a climate-controlled world dominated by information. This is not just wishful thinking for geeks—technology is changing the landscape of society, and Roeder describes how humanity is changing along with it.”

—Daniel H. Wilson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Robocalypse* and *Robogenesis*

“Everyone knows that the kinds of people that would have been rejected as social outcasts in the 1950s—the shy science nerds, persnickety math geeks, obsessive recluses who turned their parents' garages into labs—have transformed the way we live in the past twenty years, quietly rising to positions of great power in the process. In this provocative book, Mark Roeder explains how they have become a social force driving a new kind of human evolution.”

—Steve Silberman, editor, *Wired* magazine

“It is becoming evident that our great technical achievements have far outstripped our capacity to evolve socially and emotionally, leaving us unable to connect with ourselves and with others, lonely yet terrified of true intimacy and lacking the tools to form meaningful relationships. In *Unnatural Selection*, Mark Roeder has brought scholarship and prescience to understanding this dehumanizing challenge and in then finding a ‘middle way’ to use technology for our benefit and not be used by it. This is a most important book for our times.”

—Peter A Levine, PhD, bestselling author of *Waking the Tiger: Healing Trauma*, and *In an Unspoken Voice: How the Body Releases Trauma and Restores Goodness*

“Roeder’s excellent book is thought-provoking and enjoyable—it provides a fresh perspective on human progress.”

—Simon Baron-Cohen, professor of developmental psychopathology, University of Cambridge, UK, director of the Autism Research Centre, and Fellow of Trinity College

“An entertaining and engrossing read. Roeder smartly integrates evolution, genetics and cognitive science to show how the rise of the geek is inevitable— and well under way. It’s a fabulous book about human destiny.”

—Rob Brooks, professor of evolutionary biology and prize-winning author of *Sex, Genes, and Rock 'n Roll: How Evolution Has Shaped the Modern World*

"A thoughtful, contemplative treatise told with wit and wisdom."—*Publishers Weekly*

About the Author

Mark Roeder writes about the powerful undercurrents and ideas that are reshaping the modern world, and is also the author of *The Big Mo: Why Momentum Now Rules Our World*. He draws on extensive global experience in digital technologies, systems, and consumer behavior as a former senior executive at UBS Bank, Zurich Financial Services, and Westpac Bank. He is now a consultant with Chicago-based David Hale Global Economics and a Delphi Fellow contributor to Big Think. He was born in London and divides his

time between Europe and Australia.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brian Lopez:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled Unnatural Selection: Why the Geeks Will Inherit the Earth. Try to the actual book Unnatural Selection: Why the Geeks Will Inherit the Earth as your good friend. It means that it can being your friend when you truly feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , we need to make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Shawn Marsh:

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Conrad Degregorio:

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