

Capitalism and Socialism, Hayek on Spontaneous Order

As you're reading the selection from Friedrich Hayek's *The Fatal Conceit* consider the questions below.

1. What holds together “primitive” groups of human beings according to Hayek? How does this differ from our present order?
2. What rules of conduct does Hayek especially credit for “the existence of mankind in its present size and structure?”
3. Why would following the dictate to “treat all men as neighbors” have prevented humanity from being fruitful and multiplying?
4. What makes the “emergent order” spontaneous?
5. How are the rules that emerge spontaneously different from those we might design using our reason?
6. What role do instincts play in Hayek's argument? Are they generative of good things? Do they need to be suppressed?
7. How do Hayek's ideas about instinct compare to Smith's idea of human nature? Is capitalism an expression of human nature, as Smith suggests, or does it require suppressing it, as Hayek does?
8. Do you think new social rules really ‘evolve,’ as Hayek suggests?