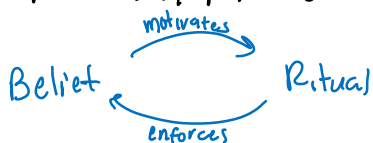


Spirits for Norm Enforcement

- Mentawai society: Sirkamainan water spirit enforces meat sharing norms
 - punishments, illnesses for those who do not follow
 - ↳ need to hire expensive shaman to cure problem
 - ↳ rituals very common
 - functionally equivalent to a god, but domain is far more limited
 - ↳ each spirit has a very specific role



World Religions

Belief, ritual are adaptive

- stable community
- more prosociality
 - ↳ outcompetes other belief systems
 - ↳ adaptive radiation via group selection

Group Selection:

Cumulative culture increases group success via dual inheritance.
 Cultures go extinct via conflict, invasion, conversion...

The importance of the supernatural

- in large, anonymous societies, kin network norm enforcement breaks down
- a supernatural being is needed to police the entire society
 - ↳ no escape from omnipotent, moralistic individual

Moralizing High Gods (MHG)

- exist in successful world religions
- powerful, supreme
- enforce moral codes (supernatural punishment)
- religious revenue: one of MHG ⇒ prestige based leadership

Phylogeny:

group selection

- Complexity of societies evolved after moralizing gods in
- proto-Austronesian early cultures
- MHG's evolved independently of other societies

Ontogeny:

- gender competitive styles (egalitarian leveling)

Mechanism:

- language for low-risk competition

Function:

- food-shaming decreases variance, increases nutrition

Agriculture

- pre-agricultural gods were all-powerful, but not moral
- Bible used as a user manual for Neolithic
 - ↳ lay foundation for patriarchy
 - ↳ idea of individual property and inheritance: punishment for stealing
 - ↳ how to handle natural disasters (flood, famine...)
 - ↳ divine punishment by God for wicked acts

The Free Rider Problem

- prejudice against atheism on the basis of distrust
- stronger belief in God \Rightarrow increased distrust
- God enforces social norms
- free-riders have no threat of punishment
 - ↳ counteracted by world religions:
 - indoctrination during childhood
 - public adherence to group norms
 - CREDs used to control population behavior

