

The Manufacture Of Evil: Ethics, Evolution, and the Industrial System

By Lionel Tiger



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It is widely held that humanity is now in a terrible tangle of moral, ethical, and social confusion. IN this ambitious new book an eminent anthropologist explains why we are in a this unsatisfactory state, where we are going, and what can be done about it.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Rutgers anthropologist Tiger (Men in Groups, etc.), believes that our ethics are biologically rooted in the extended family circle, but that industrialization, a very recent development, has weakened the family, isolated individuals, fostered exploitation and loss of craftsmanship. Today's evils, he argues, stem largely from an impersonal, vast industrial system that thwarts social and parental instincts and mutes our biologically conditioned morality. As many as one-fourth of North American women will never become mothers, he notes, and more people are living alone than ever. A "psycho-industrial complex" that holds sway in the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. treats social life and the human psyche as products to be manipulated by Pavlovian conditioning, ideology, advertising or some combination thereof. Tiger offers no solutions, but his evolutionary perspective is innovative and provocative.

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From Library Journal

This latest book by Tiger, an anthropologist, takes up the subject of evil as an outcome of the industrial system, and how we, as primates, coexist with it. What does Tiger mean by the term "evil"? He tells us it is the "miserable outcomes nobody desires" such as alienation, impersonality, and materialism. And why does he use this term? He says: "Partly of course because the term is showy. It attracts attention. It conveys the scale of the issue." These remarks capture the essence of this worka topic of epic proportion discussed in a tone that is often not far from glib. There is a mind-boggling array of subject matter, from allusions to Peking Man, to an anecdote about the sociology of summer living on Fire Island. A rambling, eclectic discourse. Joan W. Gartland, Detroit P.L.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Reid:

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Robert Bell:

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Kenneth Grimes:

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Randolph Urban:

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