

Humanity ought to steer the future using the philosophy of functionalism

Functionalism: belief in or stress on the practical application of a thing.

Nature seems to work on the basis of survival of the fittest. In other words, the mechanism of natural selection. There seems to be no reason why this principle would not also be operative in an extra-terrestrial sense. That means that humanity is competing with other organisms for survival in a dangerous and competitive universe.

Natural selection: the process whereby organisms better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring, believed to be the main process that brings about evolution.

The best functioning organisms will tend to survive, which ought to be our main goal in crafting policies. Methodologies can be established that pick the best practices. Experiments and contests are just two of many such filters.

There are many hindrances to the establishment of best policy as evaluated by function. Sociological, political, cultural, economic, idiosyncratic to name a few. For instance, tradition frequently dictates that we conduct ourselves in a certain less than optimal way, because that is 'the way it has always been done.' Or, perhaps a certain policy is in place because it benefits a certain powerful political constituency regardless of its less than optimal benefit generally.

The solution is to believe the truth. The truth in this case is judged by the metrics of the practical application of a thing. Theoretically, if you have two groups, one of which is steered by functionalism, and another steered by policies derived by less optimal methods, the first group would sur

pass the second group. This could mean the difference between survival or failure.

The practical application of a thing is not dictated by ossified rules, but by dynamic ones, since predictably the environment is ever changing. We would be constantly experimenting with different proposed policies, trying to discover even more optimal paths. We would even be experimenting with different ways to devise and test.

Again, the goal is to optimize our adaptability through functionalism, not through ossified tradition and culture, nor through inefficient political and economic considerations.

To summarize, natural selection and survival of the fittest are likely the operative principles of the universe. The best way that Humanity should steer the future is through the philosophy of functionalism, which means properly evaluating and adopting the optimal practical application policy. Predictably, the group that establishes the best policies will do better, which could mean the difference between success and failure.

To encapsulate what is stated in this paper: Humanity ought to steer the future using the philosophy of functionalism because that will predictably bring about the highest probability of success given that natural selection is a universal principle.