

"This magnificent book reveals the critical role of synergy in evolution and in all of biology, including especially in humankind. Synergy is fundamental in so many areas of science and knowledge. And in his final chapter, on how to change our current dysfunctional course as a species and avoid the destruction of our planet, Peter Corning offers us a unique and hopeful new vision."

Anthony Trewavas, FRS

Emeritus Professor, Institute of Molecular Plant Science, University of Edinburgh and
author of *Plant Behaviour and Intelligence*

"Peter Corning's approach is wise and he is astonishingly well read. The scope of his excellent book is broad and ambitious, running from the origins of life to modern economics in human societies. Many of his examples are described in clear and fascinating detail ... He writes extremely well and I read every word with great pleasure and interest ... I am full of admiration and strongly recommend it."

Sir Patrick Bateson, FRS

Emeritus Professor of Biology, Cambridge University
President of the Zoological Society of London and
the author of (among others) *Behaviour, Development and Evolution*

"This is an important book. It offers a solution to a problem that has been central to evolutionary biology for half a century, with implications that reach down to the foundations of evolutionary theory. Corning argues that the huge and disproportionate advantages that arise when labor is combined could account for the rise of ever higher levels of organization in the history of life. The book is also well written, a pleasure to read."

Daniel W McShea

Professor of Biology, Duke University and
co-author of *Biology's First Law*

"Peter Corning's book is a marvelous addition to the growing literature about the emerging alternative to gene-centric neo-Darwinism in evolutionary biology. We would not exist were it not for the cooperative behaviour of living organisms, from microorganisms to the largest mammals and trees. The progressive evolution of multiple levels of organisation in living systems has harnessed blind chance. This book tells you how (and why) this occurred."

Denis Noble, CBE, FRS, FRCP, FMedSci

Burden Sanderson Chair of Cardiovascular Physiology, Oxford University, Emeritus, and
author of (among others) *The Music of Life*

"Evolution is the story of the development of complex organic and social systems. The key to understanding this complexity, Peter Corning shows, is synergy — fitness-enhancing cooperation among heterogeneous parts. *Synergistic Selection* draws on the broad history of evolutionary thinking and is buttressed by contemporary empirical evidence. It is an eloquent refutation of the standard story of 'selfish genes.' While abounding in biological detail, *Synergistic Selection* is easily accessible to a lay audience."

Herbert Gintis

External Professor, Santa Fe Institute and
co-author of (among others) *A Cooperative Species*

"Peter Corning's new book presents a grand view of evolution and highlights the role of synergy in the accelerating complexity of our modern world. From this vantage point, he is able to cast new light on some of the major challenges of our century — from economic inequality and political governance to climate change."

Geoffrey Hodgson

Research Professor of Business Studies, University of Hertfordshire
editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Institutional Economics* and
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"A brilliant, timely, and much needed contribution."

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