Beyond kith and kin
How culture transformed human cooperation
Look at this lead pencil. There’s not a single person in the world who could make this pencil...
Ache & Hiwi foragers

Kaplan et al 2000
There is nobody in this country who got rich on their own.

Nobody.
Steward, J. 1933. 
Ethnography of the Owens Valley Paiute
So, it must be reciprocity
Size matters
Turkana war parties are large
Free riding is common

loot sharing system failed

desertion

battlefield cowardice

Proportion of force-raids
War parties include many strangers
Free riders are punished by community
Why punish?
Norm content depends on equilibrium selection mechanisms
Much more cultural variation than genetic variation among contemporary nations

Bell et al, PNAS 2009
Religious belief enhances survival of utopian communities

Redrawn from Sosis 2000
More committed religious communes survive longer

Redrawn from Sosis 2004
Extinctions common in New Guinea

Redrawn from Soltis et al 1995
Nuer expansion an example of cultural group selection.
Nuer expansion an example of cultural group selection.
Nuer expansion an example of cultural group selection.
Send them to Battersea to be cut for the Simplex.

The Fundamental Doctrines of Christianity Subverted.

KING'S COLLEGE: to wit—a practical Essay.

The Duke, when marshalled in the tented field, to an aspiring enemy would resign to yield; Shall he when dignified by Royal favor submit to insult by each? No never!
\[ rb - c > 0 \]

Kinship

Reciprocity
Norms shape small-scale cooperation
Better monitoring
More serious consequences
Adjudication
Locally adapted rules
5000 fence posts and nardoo cakes
Thanks to...

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