**THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE**

**BY STEVEN PINKER**

**Notes about the author Steven Pinker:**

**Pinker supports his claims and conclusions with historical evidence and with results from numerous animal and human experiments, all of which are referenced, and he uses many graphs and pictures to help the reader understand the topics.**

**Pinker often presents the counterarguments against his position. You could not find a more honest or fair author.**

**(I love that Pinker put all his footnotes at the end of the book rather than at the bottom of each page).**

**Humanity was birthed from insanity. Pacification has been a long, painful process influenced by many different factors.**

**Violence includes: war, homicide, genocide, slavery, child abuse, superstitious killing (human sacrifice, witchcraft, etc.), torture, capital punishment, honor killings (duels, adultery, etc.), terrorism, wife-beating, animal cruelty, infanticide, and others. Pinker's categories of violence are predation, dominance, revenge, sadism, and ideology.**

**Pinker credited "The Civilizing Process" by Elias as being the best-supported theory that explains the decline in violence.**

**The main factors contributing to the decline in violence are:**

**1) the leviathan (especially democracies), 2) commerce,**

**3) feminization, 4) expanding circles of sympathy, and**

**5) reason.**

**The last 2 are powered by literacy and increased intelligence.**

**Also evolution contributes to the selection of peaceful genes.**

**SUMMARY:**

**This book should be required reading in every high school.**

**GRADE A**

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