JE,

Jonathan Haidt just arrived in NYC for 11th months at NYU. I want you to =eet him.

He's perhaps the sharpest of the younger psychologists. His EDGE piece =What Makes People Vote REpublican" is the all-time EDGE most-read =eature. "Morality is not just about how we treat each other (as most =iberals think); it is also about binding groups together, supporting =ssential institutions, and living in a sanctified and noble way. When =epublicans say that Democrats "just don't get it," this is the "it" to =hich they refer."

Haidt's theory: there are five value virtues that matter in a society =ut liberals only see two of them: harm/care and fairness/reciprocity) =Social conservatives do indeed rely upon those two foundations, but =hey also value virtues related to three additional psychological =ystems: ingroup/loyalty (involving mechanisms that evolved during the =ong human history of tribalism), authority/respect (involving ancient =rimate mechanisms for managing social rank, tempered by the obligation =f superiors to protect and provide for subordinates), and =urity/sanctity (a relatively new part of the moral mind, related to the =volution of disgust, that makes us see carnality as degrading and =enunciation as noble). These three systems support moralities that bind =eople into intensely interdependent groups that work together to reach =ommon goals. Such moralities make it easier for individuals to forget =hemselves and coalesce temporarily into hives, a process that is =hrilling, as anyone who has ever "lost" him or herself in a choir, =rotest march, or religious ritual can attest."

Jon delivered his eagerly awaiting book yesterday, due to be published =ext January (Pantheon). He is eager to have people read it, and advise =im of a couple of points. Here are links to a a pdf and and epub =ersion of the manuscript:

https://www.brockman.com/Projects/Books/2012/Haidt-Righteous Mind =Nook).epub
https://www.brockman.com/Projects/Books/2012/Haidt-Righteous Mind =iPad).epub
https://www.brockman.com/Projects/Books/2012/Haidt-Righteous Mind.pdf

He writes:

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From: Jonathan Haidt <​██████████████>
Date: July 25, 2011 12:13:16 PM EDT
To: John Brockman <​███████████████>
Subject: the book!

I'd love to get your opinion on ch. 12 and the conclusion.

In particular, the last third of ch. 12 is now me going out on a limb =nd saying what i think each side is right about.

I think it's important to do this, to apply the ideas of the book to =urrent disputes.

But do i risk pissing off lberals in particular? I think i make 3 strong =oints for the left, but then 3 strong points for libertarians and =ocial conservatives.
If you get a chance, please let me know what you think.

I should get the ms back from proofreader in 3 weeks.
At this point my main concern is: What am i forgetting? What will be the =bvious criticism leveled by commentators, particularly from the left, =nd the new atheists. What criticism can i head off by acknowledging it =n a few sentences at some point in the book.

I'd love to hear your and Katinka's opinions on that. Also, do you have =nyone who could read the ms fresh, in the next 3 weeks? Anyone else in =our office, or any friends? People I sent it to have all raved about =t, but they are my friends, they want to like it. What do people think =ho don't know me?

Thanks John.

Call any time. My work landline is below.

jon

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Jonathan Haidt
  Professor, Dept. of Psychology, University of Virginia From July 2011 through June 2012:
  Kaufman Scholar in Residence, Stern School of Business, NYU =████████

haidt@virginia.edu
www.people.virginia.edu/~jdh6n (All publications available here) www.HappinessHypothesis.com Test your morals at www.YourMorals.org

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