

Contents

Introduction	xvii
E.O. Wilson and Julie Vargas	
1 “Selection by Consequences”: The Essential	
B.F. Skinner	1
The Behavioral Century	2
Skinner’s New Paradigm	7
The Vocabulary of Operant Conditioning	8
Reinforcers, Cues, and Operant Shaping	10
Beyond a Technology of Behavior	13
Selection by Consequences	15
2 Human Sociobiology: The Essential E.O. Wilson	21
The HMS Beagle to the Modern Synthesis	23
Sociobiology and the New Synthesis	27
Human Sociobiology	30
Gene-Culture Coevolution	33
Additional Considerations	37
Consilience	39
3 A Consilient View of B.F. Skinner and E.O. Wilson: The Operant	
Foundation of Sociobiology	43
Radical Behaviorism	46
Aligning Skinner and Wilson	50
The Dilemma of Free Will	54
Language and Culture	56
Units of Culture	57
Culturgens and Epigenesis	58
The Operant Basis of Sociobiology	59
A Conversation	60
4 Conversation Between B.F. Skinner and E.O. Wilson	61
Notes	79

5 To What Beginning?	87
Skinner's Technology of Behavior	88
Wilson's Consilient Worldview	89
6 The Challenge: A More Integrated Approach to Human Nature	93
Skinner and Wilson	95
Enlarging the Conversation	95
Mirror Neurons and Imitation	98
Developmental Plasticity and Evolution	100
Rational Behaviorism and Emergents	103
Final Thoughts	106
Epilogue: Some Historical Notes and Indications of the Future	107
Acknowledgments	117
Glossary	119
Bibliography	129
Index	135