

RATIONALITY IN A COMPETITIVE SOCIETY

. Libertarians and contractarians suppose that all human beings are rational at least in what concerns their own interests. This belief involves a confusion between rationality and knowledge. One person may be quite rational and yet ignorant of social mechanisms.

. The privileged are not particularly interested in promoting either research in social science or the diffusions of its results, for the disclosure of the (often violent or corrupt) mechanisms of acquisition of privilege may provoke moral indignation and political fight against the maintenance of privilege. This is the reason that dictatorships usually discourage the social sciences and censor the press, ever eager to disclose scandals.

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