

TRUST

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Human life would be impossible without trust: all human activities, whether good or evil, require trust. Because no individual is self-sufficient, and nobody can permanently stand on guard on what she cares for, we presume that everyone is trustworthy unless proved otherwise. Systematic distrust is reasonable only in Manhattan after dark, or in the company of certified thugs. "We inhabit a climate of trust as we inhabit an atmosphere and notice it as we notice air, only when it becomes scarce or polluted" (A. Baier 1986 p. 234).

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