

Stewart Kauffman (1939-)

His major thesis is that the universe has an important built-in feature: the automatic generation of order. For me this would explain why there is an apparent continual increase of complexity as well.

All the elements in the periodic table, the organic processes that convert sunlight to energy and produce the oxygen atmosphere, the symbiosis that makes my digestion possible, the seemingly endless elaborations created by human minds, all this could stem from Stewart's simple notion that order is a standard trait or feature of reality.

I consider the mind/consciousness of humans to be the epitome of order generation—an order generator that enhances its own nature. This evolution of consciousness proceeds by fits and starts impeded by a persistent habit of thinking that each advance is an endpoint.

But there are no endpoints!

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Kauffman, Stewart (1995). *At Home in the Universe*. Oxford university Press, Oxford, New York.