

# 1. Choice

Choice is defined, in the Oxford Dictionaries Online, as:

1. An act of choosing between two or more possibilities“.
- 1.1 [mass noun] The right or ability to choose.
- 1.2 A range of possibilities from which one or more may be chosen.
- 1.3 A thing or person which is chosen.



“What does choice look like in today's world?” | Krystal D'Costa | May 3, 2016 | Scientific American at <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/anthropology-in-practice/what-does-choice-look-like-in-today-s-world/>

## 1.1 What are the conditions for choices?

Broadly speaking, on any path forward, we can choose from:

| Condition                      | Choice path |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Placid                         | Random      |
| Placid-clustered environment   | Best!       |
| Disturbed-reactive environment | Both~       |
| Turbulent fields               | More?       |

If time only moves one direction, we may never know the results of a path not chosen. If we don't choose, the choices may be made for us.

## 1.2 What if there's a mismatch between conditions and choice paths?

Collapse?

|          | ←← Environment | →→               |                    |                 |
|----------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Strategy | Placid         | Placid-clustered | Disturbed-reactive | Turbulent field |
| Random   |                |                  |                    |                 |

|      |  |                                               |                                      |                                          |
|------|--|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Best |  | ✓                                             | Can be pre-empted by competitors     | Can be decimated by external factors     |
| Both |  | Wastes resources through misplaced suspicions | ✓                                    | Can be damaged by other parties flailing |
| More |  | Raises questions on value of integration      | May be betrayed by alliance partners | ✓                                        |

## 1.2 Choose as an individual; or choose with a group?

Each human being may be part of a family, a community, and/or a nation. Human beings have free will.

## 1.3 What is the context for the choice?

We make choices in context. We shape contexts.

Contexts can change.

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