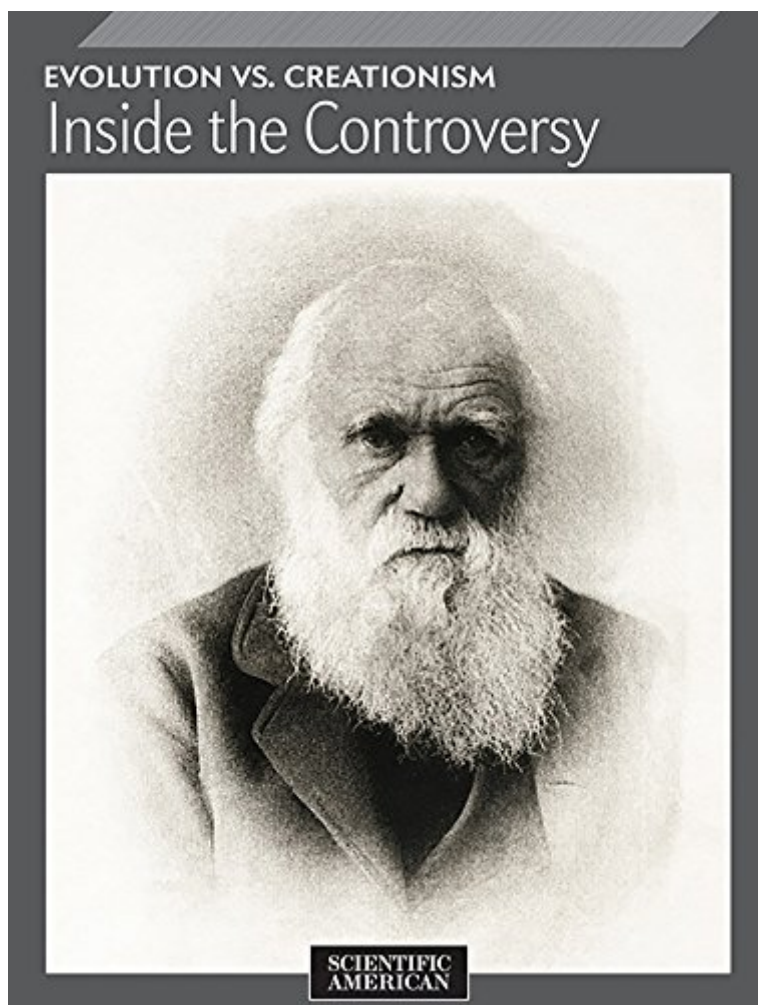


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Evolution Vs. Creationism: Inside The Controversy



Synopsis

Charles Robert Darwin's 1859 landmark book, "On the Origin of Species," introduced the theory of biological evolution to the masses and kicked off a controversy of ideas that persists to this day. Darwin knew he would face religious opposition to a theory of creation that differed from the story in Genesis, but he probably didn't imagine how long that opposition would last. More than 150 years after "Origin," the fight over teaching evolution rages on. Creationists, or those who hold the belief that the universe and all life was made by divine creator, have tried to use a myriad of tactics either to ban the teaching of evolution entirely or to have creationism and/or intelligent design taught alongside it in public schools. In this eBook, "Evolution vs. Creationism: Inside the Controversy," we take a close look at the rise of Darwinism, the arguments and opposition by the creationist movement, whether faith and science can coexist and what could happen if the U.S. continues on an anti-science trajectory. In "The Origin of Darwinism," author C.D. Darlington provides historical context by looking at how the work of other scientific pioneers laid the foundation for "Origin" and how Darwin's own ideas "evolved" over time. "A Witness at the Scopes Trial" is a fascinating first-hand account of the 1925 court case where Tennessee biology teacher John Thomas Scopes was tried for teaching evolution. John Rennie's "15 Answers to Creationists Nonsense" is a thoughtful, concise refutation of the main arguments against evolution, such as "Evolution is just a theory." On the flip side, in "Should Science Speak to Faith?" scientists Laurence M. Krauss and Richard Dawkins discuss whether science and faith can coexist. With this eBook, we went from deep in our archives to current events to examine the revolutionary impact of Darwin's theory and the controversy that continues today.

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Customer Reviews

This is a hodgepodge of articles from Scientific American Magazine, transcripts from its podcast, and posts from the SciAm blog. In terms of technical content, this compendium is first rate.

Darlington's article on "The Origin of Darwinism" dated 1959 and Grant's article on his research on Darwin's finches in the Galapagos dated 1991 are both excellent scientific articles. Fay-Cooper Cole's personal account of the 1925 Scopes Trial is by far the most interesting in this collection as it provides useful historical context (not to mention a fascinating eyewitness account). Nicholas Matzke's interview with his description on the phylogenetics of creation bills in state legislatures is very telling. But the editorial quality of the book is only mediocre. There are many typos. Transcripts are not particularly well-edited, and there are glaring omissions. Gary Stix's introduction to Section 5 mentions two essays that aren't present in the Kindle edition of this book at all. The teaching of creationism in public schools has become somewhat of a political sideshow. (Though creationism continues to exist in home school texts and charter schools.) But creationism's anti-science offshoots - climate change denialism, rhetoric from anti-vaxxers, stem cell research hysteria - remain. And just this week, we learned how firmly entrenched anti-science thinking is at the federal level as Republicans attack the validity of science itself as a basis for public policy. So in this regard, "Evolution vs. Creationism" is still worth a read. Recommended.

My review of this book is getting very lengthy, so I decided to do my review in parts by adding to it as I read it, so here the first part: In my understanding is that Natural Selection was the key in which others before Darwin did not grasp in their Theory of Evolution including Darwin's grandfather. He came close, but didn't make the connection. Darwin Theory is quite simple, mutation and migration along with Genetic Recombination in the Meiosis Process which Darwin never knew, causes variation within a population which is the substrate for Natural

Selection for choosing those that are favored for an environment and against those that are not. Plate Tectonics plays a role in continuously making major changes in the environment along with minor changes like droughts, El Niño, and climate changes, that governs Evolution in the direction that it must take to sustain life. A very good case is the 40 year studies of Darwin's finches by the Grants in the Galapagos showed that Charles Darwin didn't get his theory entirely right. Darwin required immense time in the changing of characteristics, while the Grants study showed that the drastic changes of environments, such as droughts and El Niño can make changes in beak sizes and shapes in a few years or decade. As the environment, oscillated between wet and dry climates, so did the beaks sizes and shapes. Anti-evolutionists jumped on this that Darwin's Theory was wrong. No, as I watched the program of the Grants and Darwin Theory, the Grants was using Evolution quite frequently and if Charles Darwin was alive today, he would have been joyous of their study which confirmed his theory. The Stokes Trial was the best thing that happen to Evolution in this country, even though Stokes lost his case. I think it brought out the bigotry of closed minded people. It opened the minds of younger generation to question authority and have them think of another way for life and people.

1. Evolution is only a theory. It is not a fact or a Scientific Law. My response would be a theory is based on facts. For example, scientists gather facts and from these they make a conclusion or an idea which is defined as a Hypothesis. This along with the idea, facts, and data are submitted to the Scientific Community for peer review. The Scientific Community job is to find flaws, mistakes, make arguments against it along with adding facts that may have been omitted, and even come up with their own Hypothesis. If this survives the gauntlet of the Community, then it is promoted to a Theory. A Theory is only an idea generated by intelligent people. Ideas along with theories are not facts. The Cell Theory, Atomic Theory, Plate Tectonics and the Theory of Relativity are not facts because they are only ideas. Facts can only come from the observable universe. This process may take years or decades. After the promotion, it is constantly tested with new discoveries, facts or ideas. Also, the Cell Theory, Atomic Theory, Plate Tectonics and the Theory of Relativity are not facts. There is no Theory that is a fact. All Theories are ideas generated by intelligent Men. An idea cannot be a fact for the simple reason human thought can either be truthful or untruthful and the only way to determine this is to put it to the test. Facts can only come from the observable universe. Why isn't Evolution a Scientific Law? The Scientific Community chooses to keep it a Theory so that they can continue testing it. Since Darwin submitted his Theory in 1859, how many new sciences and discoveries have been made since his submittal? I can mention a few like Plate Tectonics, DNA, Cell Theory, along with a more complete fossil record and other new discoveries

that were used to test Darwin Theory and so far, it has passed every test. Also, there are still natural phenomenon that have not been resolved yet such as the Origin of Life. Until science solves all the mysteries of nature and if Darwin Theory can pass all future tests, then we can make it a Law. "Evolution is unscientific, because it is not testable or falsifiable. Well there happens to be a book that explains the complete process of Evolution. Explainable processes are testable or falsifiable either directly or indirectly. Circumstantial Evidence is completely indirect evidence used in a court of law either for conviction or acquittal. I don't believe a judge would allow an eye witness to be seated on a jury. No one has seen an atom directly during World War II. But that didn't stop them from using the Atomic Theory along with Einstein's equation by testing it on couple cities in Japan. This claim is only trying to drag Evolution down to the level of Intelligent Design ID and/or Creationism which are unscientific, non-testable or non-falsifiable processes. Until someone can produce a book that fully explains ID and/or Creationism processes such as what parameters did they use, how do they function and operate? Until then I can safely say, "Intelligent Design and/or Creationism are unscientific, because they are not testable or falsifiable." "No body has ever seen a new species evolve." No one seen the Big Bang Theory. No one seen the formation of the Moon. No one seen an atom during WWII as explained in the previous paragraph and using it in killing hundreds of thousand of people. Unobservable Theories are quite common in science which are thoughts based on facts. The accepted theory for the formation of the Moon is purely produced by computer programed with natural laws, but it is the best explanation produced so far.

Greatly enjoyed this book.

The best. What we need to teach.

Good insight as to how the creationists think

This book was a real disappointment!! It spent far to much time on Darwin's biography and far to little time on facts proving evolution.

Great!

This is a collection of interesting articles and interviews related to the fight between science and religion, particularly in the USA. Most of it is about the debate of the teaching of evolution on schools and about whether intelligent design can be considered scientific or not; but there are some articles that cover the problem of science and religion from other perspectives, for example, from the political point of view of the two major US parties. The material is quite interesting and some of the interviews were enlightening. However everything is from the perspective of the defenders of science. All interviews and all articles are written by people that wanted to defend the science point of view and as such this collection is totally partialized and it is of little value to get an objective point of view on the problem. I might well agree that the arguments from the science community are solid and make all the sense in the world, but my critique is that this collection, given its name, should have included a few interviews and articles from the defenders of religion such that we, the readers, could form an opinion of our own.

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