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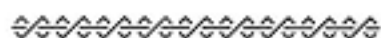
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Chapter One



WARS AND RUMORS

“**E**volution Wars” declares an August 2005 cover of *Time* magazine. In a parody of the Sistine Chapel, the bearded figure of God points down at a chimpanzee contemplating the subtitle of the cover story: “The push to teach ‘intelligent design’ raises a question: does God have a place in science class?”¹

In March 2006, the American Association for the Advancement of Science issued an urgent “call to arms for American scientists, meant to recruit troops for the escalating war against creationism and its spinoff doctrine, intelligent design.”²

Controversy over Darwinian evolution has been simmering for decades, and now it has erupted into a full-blown culture war between Darwinism and intelligent design. Pennsylvania State University anthropologist Pat Shipman calls intelligent design “horribly frightening” and writes: “I know that I and my colleagues in science are being stalked with careful and deadly deliberation. I fear my days are numbered.” According to Marshall Berman, past president of the New Mexico Academy of Science, intelligent design “threatens all of science and society.” Brown University Darwinist Kenneth R. Miller says, “What is at stake is, literally, everything.”³

This sounds like more than a war of words—and it is. But it turns on the meanings of some key words, so let’s begin by looking at them.

Guess what?

- ¶ The controversy is not over evolution—which can mean simply “change over time”—but Darwinism, which claims that design in living things is just an illusion.
- ¶ Intelligent design is not biblical creationism, but a scientific theory based on evidence from nature and consistent with everyday logic.
- ¶ Some Darwinists pretend they’re just selling students on change over time when they’re really peddling much more.

Evolution

“Evolution” has many meanings. In its most general sense it simply means “change over time.” The present is different from the past. No sane person rejects evolution in this sense.

Refining the meaning slightly, anthropologist Eugenie C. Scott writes: “What unites astronomical, geological, and biological evolution is the concept of change through time. But . . . not all change is evolution, so we must distinguish evolution as being cumulative change through time.”⁴


Nobody rejects evolution in this sense, either. Our grandparents had a perfectly good word for it: they called it “history.”

In biology, evolution takes on additional meanings. Some biologists define it as “a change in gene frequencies over generations.” Like “change over time” or “cumulative change over time,” evolution in this sense is uncontroversial. My genes are different from my parents’, and

my children’s genes are different from mine. So what?⁵

Charles Darwin’s term for biological evolution was “descent with modification.” When used in a limited sense, however, even this is uncontroversial. Like a change in gene frequencies, descent with modification happens every time a child is born. Breeders have been using artificial selection to produce descent with modification for centuries—within existing species. Natural selection has also been observed to do the same in the wild—but again, only within existing species.

So nobody in *any* field quarrels with “change over time” or “cumulative change over time.” And nobody in biology doubts



Darwin + ism =

Darwinism consists of the following claims: (1) all living things are modified descendants of a common ancestor; (2) the principal mechanism of modification has been natural selection acting on undirected variations that originate in DNA mutations; and (3) unguided processes are sufficient to explain all features of living things—so whatever may *appear* to be design is just an illusion.


“change in gene frequencies” or “descent with modification” within existing species. Even hypotheses that some closely related species (such as finches on the Galápagos Islands) are descended with modification from a common ancestor are not particularly controversial; they generate more debate among evolutionary biologists than they do among biblical creationists, since Genesis states only that God created certain “kinds.”

But Charles Darwin claimed far more than any of these things. In *The Origin of Species* he set out to explain the origin of not just one or a few species, but *all* species after the first—in short, all the diversity of life on Earth. The correct word for this is not evolution, but Darwinism.

Darwinism

Darwin wrote in *The Origin of Species*: “I view all beings not as special creations, but as the lineal descendants of some few beings” that lived in the distant past. Darwin believed that living things have been modified primarily by natural selection acting on random variations—survival of the fittest. “I am convinced,” he wrote, “that Natural Selection has been the most important, but not the exclusive, means of modification.”⁶

According to a 1998 booklet published by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences: “Organisms in nature typically produce more offspring than can survive and reproduce given the constraints of food, space, and other resources in the environment. These offspring often differ from one another in ways that are heritable—that is, they can pass on the differences genetically to their own offspring. If competing offspring have traits that are advantageous in a given environment, they will survive and pass on those traits. As differences continue to accumulate over generations,



Survival of the hippest

“And I’ll survive, I will survive.”

—Gloria Gaynor

Bet your teacher never told you:

- That Darwin's "evidence" for evolution amounted to "one or two imaginary illustrations" of how the process might work
- That the fossil record offers no evidence for one species evolving into another
- That Darwin conceded that the evidence was against him (and nothing's changed)
- Why the practice of medicine is uninfluenced by Darwinism—and you're healthier because of it
- That "design" better explains the complexities of molecular biology than "random mutation" does
- Why Darwinism is really a matter of rigid ideology—not evidence
- Why Darwinist assumptions are not harmless—but are enforced, even when known to be wrong, in schools and universities

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Darwin is an emperor who has no clothes—but it takes a brave man to say so.

Jonathan Wells, a microbiologist with two Ph.D.s (from Berkeley and Yale), is that brave man. Most textbooks on evolution are written by Darwinists with an ideological ax to grind. Brave dissidents—qualified scientists—who try to teach or write about intelligent design are silenced and sent to the academic gulag. But fear not: Jonathan Wells is a liberator. He unmask the truth about Darwinism—why it is wrong and what the real evidence is. He also supplies a revealing list of "Books You're Not Supposed to Read" (as far as the Darwinists are concerned) and puts at your fingertips all the evidence you need to challenge the most closed-minded Darwinist.

Praise for *The Politically Incorrect Guide™ to Darwinism and Intelligent Design*

"Jonathan Wells is not only an expert on Darwinism and intelligent design, but he also has a gift for making complex issues easy to understand. He even manages to bring out the humor in this controversy. This is the book liberals don't want you to read."

—Ann Coulter, nationally syndicated columnist and bestselling author

"This *Politically Incorrect Guide™* provides a superb, easily readable summary treatment of the important issues at stake in the intelligent design controversies. It empowers readers to decide the big questions for themselves, rather than being forced to rely on the dictates of biased experts."

—Phillip E. Johnson, Professor of Law emeritus, University of California-Berkeley, author of *Darwin on Trial*

"The mainstream media likes to portray skeptics of Darwinism as bigoted and hopelessly ignorant. But biologist Jonathan Wells (who has Ph.D.s from Berkeley and Yale) shows that many scientists simply can't alter their Darwinist worldview, and that the theory of intelligent design better explains the actual evidence we have for the development of life. On this fundamentally important issue that affects our schools, our politics, and our understanding of the world, *The Politically Incorrect Guide™ to Darwinism and Intelligent Design* is an absolute must-read."

—David Limbaugh, nationally syndicated columnist and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Persecution: How Liberals Are Waging War against Christianity* and *Bankrupt: The Moral and Intellectual Bankruptcy of Today's Democratic Party*

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