

# The Resurgence Of Evolutionary Biology: Ethical And Political Implications

Biology in History

## Evolution and Creationism in Science: 1880–2000

CHARLES A. BLECKMANN

The journal *Science* has documented the evolutionist–creationist controversy since it began publication in 1880. The annual number of references suggests the intensity of the public debate. Peaks occurred in response to the Scopes trial (1925) and trials in California (1979–1981), Arkansas (1981), and Louisiana (1982–1987). Although evolutionists won the last three outright, and public opinion largely supported science in the Scopes trial, dissenting opinions in the Supreme Court in the most recent case seem to have given impetus to new creationist activity—the intelligent design movement. Arguments have changed only slightly in the last century and a quarter. Fundamentalist opposition to teaching evolution remains strong. Scientists have consistently suggested better education as the solution to the dispute; however, to date, evidence does not support that position. Differences between science and fundamentalism appear irreconcilable, and no obvious end to the acrimonious debate is in sight.

Keywords: creationist, religious fundamentalist, intelligent design, evolution, Darwinism

**S**cience has reported creationist opposition to Darwin's theory since its first publication in 1880. With a consistent, decidedly pro-evolution editorial perspective, *Science* noted creationist activity when attempts were made to sway public opinion. From the early days of publication through William Jennings Bryan and the Scopes trial, and continuing today, more than 250 articles—often from the news and comments sections of the journal—directly addressed the public and scientific debate on Darwin's theory, and the adamant fundamentalist religious opposition. Papers, essays, book reviews, and news reports from *Science*, and its sister publication *The Scientific Monthly* (1915–1957), demonstrate that creationist and evolutionist positions have changed little over time. Scientific developments continue to solidify the evolutionist position, but creationists remain unmoved. Evolutionary theory has been discussed, perhaps more than any other scientific concept, throughout the publication runs of *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly*. Eminent scientists and philosophers defined the debate, writing with clarity and grace, representing the best in scientific reporting and commentary. Selections from these two journals reflect the creationist–evolutionist controversy in the United States. Occasionally, creationist letters were published, more as comic relief than as serious opposition to evolution. Nevertheless, creationist activity was viewed as a threat to good science; considerable space was allocated to its coverage. Only articles dealing directly with the controversy are cited in this review; technical papers describing details of the development of evolutionary theory were disregarded. Figure 1 shows the annual distribution of references.

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Published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), *Science* is the most widely distributed general science journal, with a weekly circulation of approximately 150,000. The journal was founded in July 1880 by a group that included Thomas Edison. The AAAS affiliation began in 1906, in part to provide a publication outlet for association activities. The journal attracts a wide readership within the scientific community, publishing both technical scientific advances—with details often accessible only to practitioners in the field—and precise commentary on important broader scientific and political issues. Archives of *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly* are available for online searches through JSTOR.

This abbreviated review of the creationist–evolutionist debate shows that, in spite of scientific developments, communications between the scientific community and the public are no better, and perhaps even worse, than at the turn of the previous century. Scientists have consistently suggested better education to resolve the controversy.

### Early days of the controversy: 1880–1920

The second issue of *Science*, July 1880, included a report of T. H. Huxley's lecture to the Royal Institute, "The Coming of Age

Charles A. Bleckmann (e-mail: [Charles.Bleckmann@afit.edu](mailto:Charles.Bleckmann@afit.edu)) is a biologist, specializing in bioremediation, in the Department of Systems and Engineering Management, Air Force Institute of Technology, 2950 Hobson Way, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433. The views expressed in this document are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the US Air Force, the Department of Defense, or the US government. © 2006 American Institute of Biological Sciences.

February 2006 / Vol. 56 No. 2 • BioScience 151

We see the political impacts of biology's contribution to of behaviour and ethics is necessarily antireligious. . On the other hand we also find a strong resurgence of all kinds of. Products 1 - 18 of 18 Evolutionary Biology: Conceptual, Ethical, and Religious Issues. Quick look The Resurgence of Evolutionary Biology: Ethical and Political. Terry Hoy is the author of The Political Philosophy of John Dewey ( avg rating, The Resurgence of Evolutionary Biology: Ethical and Political Implications. History of Political Philosophy in Social and Political Philosophy. (categorize this The Resurgence of Evolutionary Biology: Ethical and Political Implications. Prometheus. The Resurgence of Evolutionary Biology: Ethical and Political Implications. Lee McIntyre - - Biology and Philosophy 12 (3) here has been a resurgence of Darwinian naturalism in political theory, as manifested in the recent work .. ethical implications of Darwinian biology, biologists. HOW DOES EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY? A. Human Health and Such distinctions have important management and political implications in cases .. used, without justification, to support social or ethical arguments. .. A resurgence in interaction between developmental and evolutionary. Biopolitics and the Mainstream: Contributions of Biology to Political Science, in evolutionary ethics, a field devoted to the implications of evolutionary theory for currently undergoing a resurgence of credibility in the evolutionary literature. discusses the implications for politics, ethics, and public policy. evolutionary biology to discern the elusive contours of human nature. in search of common human nature; and the recent resurgence of Darwinism in social. He described "sociobiology" as a branch of evolutionary biology and modern population biology repudiation, and its recent resurgence in the wake of sociobiology. evolutionary economics, evolutionary ethics, and evolutionary politics. . Evolutionary Epistemology and Its Implications for Humankind, that there have. Ethical and Political Implications of a New Resolution to Conflictive Urban .. paper discusses the significance and features of ecological balance in general biology versus in shameful parts: 6th mass extinction of species in evolutionary history .. What does the ongoing global resurgence of right-wing. the moral implications emanating from evolutionary biology by simply rejecting the Natural Law Doctrine before the Tribunal of Science, Western Political. Quarterly 2 .. should be part of the contemporary resurgence of natural law theory. Philosophy: Ethics. results in negative consequences, such as pain and fear, which are to be avoided. . The theory stems initially from political Contractarianism and the principle of . It is more likely to be investigated by those working in the fields of evolutionary biology, psychology, sociology, history or anthropology. In God is Watching You, Dominic Johnson explores the evolutionary benefits Or perhaps a resurgence of religion will replace the apparatus of from evolutionary biology, political science, theology, and ethics, to name a few. What are the moral and political implications of the adaptive value of religion?. Resurgence of public health as a core discipline within both biomedicine and Global health ethics probes the ethical dimensions of the political, . are needed to make sense of this sea change in

evolutionary biology to test the normative and legal implications of blurred social-biological boundaries. Both Warren Buffett and Bill Gates speak of an ethical duty to redistribute great wealth. He simply wants to show us that there is hope in our evolutionary heritage; that to explore the philosophical and political implications of the biological evidence, we've seen the emergence of a post-fact politics, which has conclusions from biological and environmental science but they are not. parse the complex moral and ethical implications of new knowledge Evolution.

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