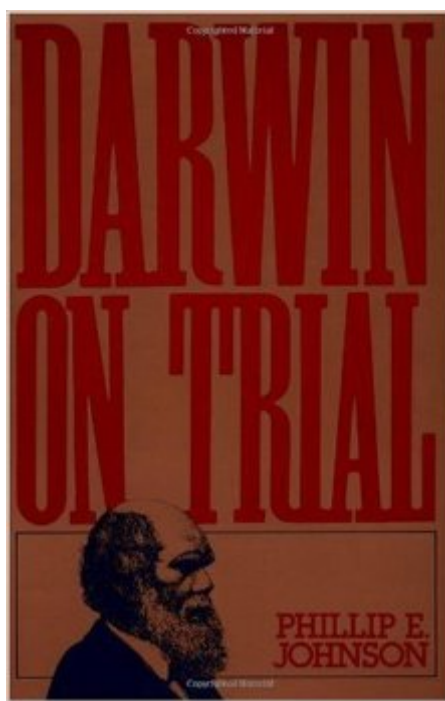


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Darwin On Trial



Synopsis

Darwin on Trial [Paperback] Phillip E. Johnson (Author)

Book Information

Paperback: 220 pages

Publisher: InterVarsity Press; 2nd edition (1993)

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Customer Reviews

Although most of his arguments are not new, Johnson brings the most important points together in a remarkably concise yet comprehensive format. He has a gift for summarizing the research in each field, then explaining and elucidating the implications of an issue, in just enough words to make it understandable. He points out the mind-boggling complexity of structures like wings and eyes, but does not dwell on these descriptions like some critics, for he realizes that nearly all informed people agree that living things are that complex. The Darwinian Richard Dawkins writes, "Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose," but insists that "Natural selection is the blind watchmaker, blind because it does not see ahead, does not plan consequences, has no purpose in view. Yet the living results of natural selection overwhelmingly impress us with the appearance of design as if by a master watchmaker, impress us with the illusion of design and planning." The premise that appearance can be misleading is not unreasonable. Scientists proved the appearance of the sun revolving around the earth to be an illusion. The problem, which constitutes Johnson's central scientific premise, is that there is no evidence that natural selection has the immense creative power Darwinians attribute to it. The Darwinian claim that the numerous theoretical difficulties with Darwinism are false is based not on scientific fact but almost entirely on pure speculation. Johnson is not a scientist, but his central thesis is philosophical. Darwinians insist that considering divine intervention is unacceptable because science is committed to purely natural explanations.

After reading so many books on evolution and science since the 1970s by secular or even the

atheistic writers (Sagan, Dawkins, Hawking and plenty more), this is the first book I bought written by a creationist author. I must admit I'm surprised at the awful passion "rational" non-creationists have against this book. Prof. Johnson highlights just a few of the many faults, inconsistencies, flaws and "just-so" stories factually related to evolution. Much of what he shows are the concepts, thoughts, ideas, theories and proposals common evolutionists (including those mentioned above) believe and from the very books they write for us to read ourselves (as quite a few, I have). Yes, the book is now twenty years old, and some modifying is in order, but by and large the book exposes the many problems evolution really does entail. Many people accept evolution (at least, partly) because they see no other option. Those that believe in God (something science can't negate) see another option, possibly even a better one. Let the theory of evolution's true faults be exposed. The first step in solving a problem is acknowledging it! Prof Johnson seems to dwell on tautology more than needed but otherwise, the book is an excellent "starter" for those that don't turn a blind eye to the theory of evolution and its many facets that are highly debated among top evolutionists themselves, not to mention between evolutionists and creationists.

I have finally read this book, after years of reading criticisms of it, and I am amazed at what a good case Johnson actually makes and how woefully inept most of his critics have been. For those who have not read the book, Johnson argues the following points: * The scientific establishment, rather than defending evolution against criticism, has determined that no such criticism shall take place.* Evolution is defined so loosely that no criticism of it is possible.* The term "natural selection" is a tautology and so explains nothing.* The experimental evidence for Darwinism does not provide "any persuasive reason for believing that natural selection can produce new species, new organs, or other major changes, or even minor changes that are permanent."* Darwinians are so clever at finding evidence that confirms their theory and explaining the evidence that appears to contradict it, that it looks as if all the evidence is supportive.* The theory of sexual selection contradicts the theory of natural selection.* Haeckel's hypothesis that "ontology recapitulates phylogeny" is still taught in schools despite being completely discredited more than a century ago. (This I know to be true, as I still teach a syllabus which requires it.)* Darwinian theory is not falsifiable, because its supporters cannot or will not make the risky predictions which would allow it to be falsified.* Anyone who questions the orthodoxy of scientific naturalism, or Darwinism in particular, is rigorously persecuted by the scientific establishment. This must be one of the most vilified books ever written.

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