

Hitlers Ethic The Nazi Pursuit Of Evolutionary Progress

Monad to ManThe Evolution of DarwinismThe Temptations of Evolutionary EthicsProgress UnchainedThe Meaning of EvolutionEvolution's PurposeEvolutionary ProgressLu Xun's Affirmative BiopoliticsEvolution, Explanation, Ethics and AestheticsThe Modern ReviewThe System of Animate Nature: The concept of evolutionAmerican MedicineThe Scientific MonthlyLittell's Living AgeThe Living AgeThe Doctrine of SinThe Natural Theology of EvolutionPopular Science MonthlyHealth ReformerOutlines of Evolutionary Biology Michael Ruse Timothy Shanahan Paul Lawrence Farber Peter J. Bowler Robert J. Richards Steve McIntosh Matthew H. Nitecki Wenjin Cui Francisco J. Ayala John Arthur Thomson James McKeen Cattell Reginald Stewart Moxon Josiah Nicholson Shearman John Harvey Kellogg Arthur Dendy

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in interviews with today s major figures in evolutionary biology including stephen jay gould e o wilson ernst mayr and john maynard smith ruse offers an unparalleled account of evolutionary theory from popular books to museums to the most complex theorizing at a time when its status as science is under greater scrutiny than ever before

no other scientific theory has had as tremendous an impact on our understanding of the world as darwin s theory as outlined in his origin of

species yet from the very beginning the theory has been subject to controversy the evolution of darwinism first published in 2004 focuses on three issues of debate the nature of selection the nature and scope of adaptation and the question of evolutionary progress it traces the varying interpretations to which these issues were subjected from the beginning and the fierce contemporary debates that still rage on and explores their implications for the greatest questions of all where we come from who we are and where we might be heading written in a clear and non technical style this book will be of use as a textbook for students in the philosophy of science who need to become familiar with the background to the debates about evolution

evolutionary theory tells us about our biological past can it also guide us to a moral future paul farber s compelling book describes a century old philosophical hope held by many biologists anthropologists psychologists and social thinkers that universal ethical and social imperatives are built into human nature and can be discovered through knowledge of evolutionary theory farber describes three upsurges of enthusiasm for evolutionary ethics the first came in the early years of mid nineteenth century evolutionary theories the second in the 1920s and 30s in the years after the cultural catastrophe of world war i and the third arrived with the recent grand claims of sociobiology to offer a sound biological basis for a theory of human culture unlike many who have written on evolutionary ethics farber considers the responses made by philosophers over the years he maintains that their devastating criticisms have been forgotten thus the history of evolutionary ethics is essentially one of oft repeated philosophical mistakes historians scientists social scientists and anyone concerned about the elusive basis of selflessness altruism and morality will welcome farber s enlightening book

progress unchained reinterprets the history of the idea of progress using parallels between evolutionary biology and changing views of human history early concepts of progress in both areas saw it as the ascent of a linear scale of development toward a final goal the chain of being defined a hierarchy of living things with humans at the head while social thinkers interpreted history as a development toward a final paradise or utopia darwinism reconfigured biological progress as a tree of life with multiple lines of advance not necessarily leading to humans each driven by the rare innovations that generate entirely new functions popular writers such as h g wells used a similar model to depict human progress with competing technological innovations producing ever more rapid changes in society bowler shows that as the idea of progress has become

open ended and unpredictable a variety of alternative futures have been imagined

did darwin see evolution as progressive directed toward producing ever more advanced forms of life most contemporary scholars say no in this challenge to prevailing views robert j richards says yes and argues that current perspectives on darwin and his theory are both ideologically motivated and scientifically unsound this provocative new reading of darwin goes directly to the origins of evolutionary theory unlike most contemporary biologists or historians and philosophers of science richards holds that darwin did concern himself with the idea of progress or telos as he constructed his theory richards maintains that darwin drew on the traditional embryological meanings of the terms evolution and descent with modification in the 1600s and 1700s evolution referred to the embryological theory of preformation the idea that the embryo exists as a miniature adult of its own species that simply grows or evolves during gestation by the early 1800s however the idea of preformation had become the concept of evolutionary recapitulation the idea that during its development an embryo passes through a series of stages each the adult form of an ancestor species richards demonstrates that for darwin embryological recapitulation provided a graphic model of how species evolve if an embryo could be seen as successively taking the structures and forms of its ancestral species then one could see the evolution of life itself as a succession of species each transformed from its ancestor richards works with the origin and other published and archival material to show that these embryological models were much on darwin s mind as he considered the evidence for descent with modification why do so many modern researchers find these embryological roots of darwin s theory so problematic richards argues that the current tendency to see evolution as a process that is not progressive and not teleological imposes perspectives on darwin that incorrectly deny the clearly progressive heart of his embryological models and his evolutionary theory

presents the author s view of the scientific story of our evolutionary origins to show how evolution s progressive generation of emergent value reveals a larger purpose within the process he demonstrates how this purpose can be felt within each of us as the evolutionary impulse to make things better to grow toward ever widening realizations of beauty truth and goodness provided by publisher

this book explores an extraordinary case of affirmative biopolitics through the study of lu xun 1881 1936 the most prominent cultural figure of modern china diverging from the enlightenment humanist framework in reference to which lu xun is commonly interpreted it demonstrates how

his thinking is defined by a naturalistic conception of culture that is best understood in the global context of what Foucault defines as the biological turn of modernity in comparison to ontologically grounded modern western theories of life it brings to light the deep connection between Lu Xun's affirmative biopolitics and the epistemic ground of Chinese tradition what is known as correlative thinking combining close readings of literary texts with a theoretical consideration of broader issues of culture this book is an essential read for scholars and students who are interested in Lu Xun modern Chinese intellectual history comparative studies of Chinese and Western thought and the question of affirmative biopolitics

Evolution explanation ethics and aesthetics towards a philosophy of biology focuses on the dominant biological topic of evolution it deals with the prevailing philosophical themes of how to explain the adaptation of organisms the interplay of chance and necessity and the recurrent topics of emergence reductionism and progress in addition the extensively treated topic of how to explain human nature as a result of natural processes and the encompassed issues of the foundations of morality and the brain to mind transformation is discussed the philosophy of biology is a rapidly expanding field not more than half a century old at most and to a large extent is replacing the interest in the philosophy of physics that prevailed in the first two thirds of the twentieth century few texts available have the benefit of being written by an eminent biologist who happens to be also a philosopher as in this work this book is a useful resource for seminar courses and college courses on the philosophy of biology researchers academics and students in evolutionary biology behavior genetics and biodiversity will also be interested in this work as will those in human biology and issues such as ethics religion and the human mind along with professional philosophers of science and those concerned with such issues as whether evolution is compatible with religion and or where morality comes from presents the unique perspective of a distinguished biologist with extensive experience in the field who has published much about the subject in a wide variety of journals and edited volumes covers the philosophical issues related to evolution and biology in an approachable and readable style includes the most up to date treatment of this burgeoning exciting field within biology provides the ideal guide for researchers academics and students in evolutionary biology behavior genetics and biodiversity

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Introduction

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