

# On inroads by the right's "ID" and creationism: Open letter to AAAS president Omenn

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Dear Prof. Omenn,

I just read an account on BBC.com of AAAS's new move to get mainstream churches to take a strong stand against the increasing onslaughts by so-called Intelligent Design and creationism. This is important and commendable, but I still get the sense that both mainstream scientists and mainstream religious leaders, among others, have not yet understood the deeper and more dangerous agenda of what is usually called the 'Anti-evolution' movement.

The larger agenda involves the creation and socialization of a ultra-conformist and obedient populace with little or no technical understanding of old style production technologies, let alone any actual independent appreciation or support for science and the power of self-correcting rational thought underlying those technologies.

You will recall that in the 1980s, the country first set out to change itself over into a 'Service' based economy, while rapidly dissolving its older industrial base (with all of the techno-scientific underpinnings implied by that). This coincided with the export of these same industries to many third world nations having labor markets with little political freedom.

In this context, it is extremely important to note that the real agenda of the far right is to attack and erode the teaching of all modern geology, cosmology and the whole of our hard-won astrophysical understanding. This is of course a kind of intellectual suicide, but makes perfect sense when the far right's need to create an uncritical, easily manipulated and easily divided populace is taken into account.

Ie: When you attempt to confront creationism or its newer incarnations, you generally do so from a scientist's understandable belief that both sides are guided by clear, rational and honest rules of thought, debate and inquiry.

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Your well funded opponents are under no such delusion.

To paraphrase the Clarence Darrow character in the film *Inherit the Wind*, portraying the Scopes Trial:  
"...hatred and ignorance are forever busy and need feeding!"

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