

Notes on a bicentennial

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This year presents a few anniversaries of note where Galileo is presented as the figure to represent the International Year of Astronomy and Darwin in evolutionary biology.

They choose Galileo over Copernicus by focusing on the experimental facet of his work and then pay lip service to astronomy via the magnification exercise. Galileo understood the method and insight of Copernicus while the later empiricists, through Newton, mangled the main arguments for the Earth's motions so it is a double injustice to use Galileo as a shield for the 'scientific or experimental method' and to Copernicus for completely destroying his line of reasoning. This empirical nonsense has worked for centuries but that does not make it any less vandalism than it actually is.

Now we come to Darwin, but a short geological digression –

"I would . . . be unwilling to press the theory of relation to the human race, so far as to contend that all the great geological phenomena we have been considering were conducted solely and exclusively with a view to the benefit of man. We may rather count the advantages he derives from them as incidental and residuary consequences; which, although they may not have formed the exclusive object of creation, were all foreseen and comprehended in the plans of the Great Architect of that Globe, which, in his appointed time, was destined to become the scene of human habitation." William Buckland

<http://www.strangescience.net/buckland.htm>

Most geologists in the early 19th century would have held to similar notions in an era where exciting outlines of the history of geological and biological evolution were taking shape and their work continued on in an unbroken chain to provide Wegener with fossil evidence he needed to link Africa with South America.

So why Darwin and out of context with geological investigations?, the answer is an empirical one and can be found in the full title of his work that severs geological evolution from biological evolution and takes on a tone which suits the 'scientific method' by reducing life to a branch of chemistry.

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' On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life' Charles Darwin

Humanity is treated to a whitewashed version of the discovery by the voyage to the Galapagos islands with finches, lizards and harmless turtles promoted as the basis for overturning humanity's understanding of biological evolution but Darwin's reasoning is a direct affirmation of Thomas Malthus's view on human population and race. Take another look at the title again –

' On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life' Charles Darwin

Now the actual statement of this in its proper context, one that severed biological evolution from its productive use in geological investigations –

" I was suffering from a sharp attack of intermittent fever, and every day during the cold and succeeding hot fits I had to lie down for several hours, during which time I had nothing to do but to think over any subjects then particularly interesting me. One day something brought to my recollection Malthus's Principles of Population, which I had read about twelve years before. I thought of his clear exposition of the positive checks to increase disease, accidents, war, and famine which keep down the population of savage races to so much lower an average than that of civilized peoples. It then occurred to me that these causes or their equivalents are continually acting in the case of animals also; and as animals usually breed much more rapidly than does mankind, the destruction every year from these causes must be enormous in order to keep down the numbers of each species, since they evidently do not increase regularly from year to year, as otherwise the world would long ago have been densely crowded with those that breed most quickly. Vaguely thinking over the enormous and constant destruction which this implied, it occurred to me to ask the question, Why do some die and some live? And the answer was clearly, that on the whole the best fitted live. & Then it suddenly flashed upon me that this self-acting process would necessarily improve the race, because in every generation the inferior would inevitably be killed off and the superior would remain that is, the fittest would survive. & The more I thought over it the more I became convinced that I had at length found the long-sought-for law of nature that solved the problem of the origin of species." Charles Darwin

Very few would know about Malthus and the era of the Irish famine when so many died and people could find scientific justification for that tragedy but then again, things get historically airbrushed out to leave a story of the unenlightened Christians standing in the way of progress of science, it still happens. Darwin give the empiricists a

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license to short circuit genuine investigations of biological evolution in tandem with other disciplines such as astronomy, geology,climatology and many other disciplines in its anti-faith agenda.

The real bicentennial is that of Lincoln,a man who could see what happens when greedy men become dominant in the survival of the fittest,this is the way it is and always was –

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country; corporations have been enthroned, an era of corruption in High Places will follow, and the Money Power of the Country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the People, until the wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the Republic is destroyed." Abraham Lincoln