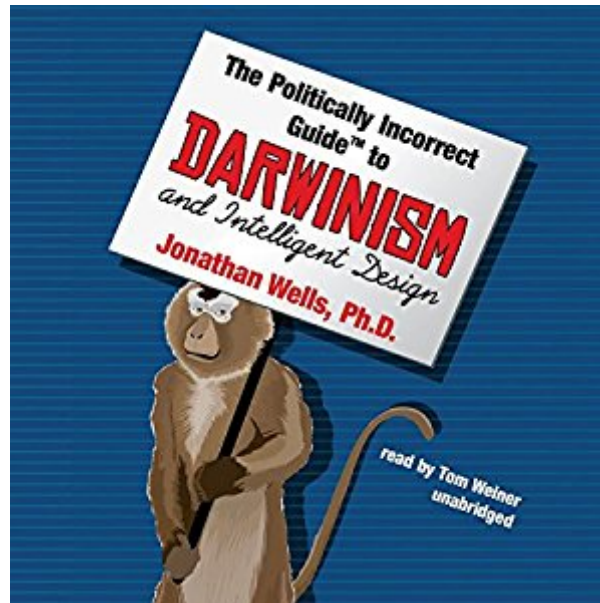


The book was found

The Politically Incorrect Guide To Darwinism And Intelligent Design



Synopsis

A battle-hardened veteran of the culture war over Darwin and intelligent design explains who is fighting whom, the roots of the conflict, and the evidence for and against each viewpoint.

Unabridged. 6 CDs. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First, my overall evaluation. The book is well-written, punchy, and has an edge. Wells make a plethora of strong arguments, overturns many of the most popular anti-ID talking points, but decidedly does not overturn what he calls "Darwinism." Let me start the criticism with that term. It appears to have been chosen more to irritate the other side than because it most accurately describes his opponents. Darwin did not, after all, know about genetics -- as Wells makes clear -- or the supposed engine of innovation, random mutations. It would be like calling the General Theory of Relativity "Newtonism" -- both overly pejorative and underly accurate. But my main criticism is that Well's argument against neo-Darwinian evolution (NDE, a better term) is not that strong. He allocated one chapter each to overturning the evidence from fossils and from genetics -- both mostly seemed like hand-waving, generalizations, and rank assertions, to me. He should at least have admitted that the general pattern of fossil evidence does show progression and development over four billion years. I don't think he even mentions the hominid record, or if he did, his mention was hard to notice as a speed sign in a poor town. All in all, on this subject Wells seemed to protest too much, and say too little. The rest of the book was generally quite good, I thought. Wells deals with

philosophical objections well. He shows that ID proponents are engaging in serious science. He demonstrates that there are a lot of very small-minded and virulent critics of ID on college campuses (if you've been around here, you might add), some of whom seem to have little room in their hearts for the concept of freedom of speech or a marketplace of ideas.

This book mentions the fact that in Cobb county (Georgia) stickers were put in biology books that state evolution is a theory. Technically true, but the intention of putting in these stickers by the Cobb county school board was to cast doubt on evolution. In science, a theory explains facts and observations and scientific laws. For example, relativity theory is a theory. The structure of atoms being protons and neutrons and electrons is a theory. The movement of the continental plates is a theory. Heck, even the movement of the earth around the sun is a theory. The theory in all of these is a well tested model which explains facts and observations. But, none of these subjects when taught in a science class faces the risk of a sticker being put in that states that it is only a theory. The difference with evolution is that there are certain religious adherents who perceive evolution as a threat. Those who think this way are of course, the target market of not only this book, but all the "politically incorrect guide" books. Why is it that those who argue against the descent of all species from a common ancestor (such as this author) argue against evolution by calling it Darwinism? When someone talks about relativity theory, it is not called Einsteinism even though relativity theory was a completely new theory when illustrated by Einstein, but the evolution of species was already known to the scientifically educated before Darwin was famous. Charles Darwin showed overwhelming evidence for evolution and he showed how natural selection worked within evolution in order to favor certain traits. Even in the 18th century there were many men who were already developing ideas on species evolving from earlier ones.

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