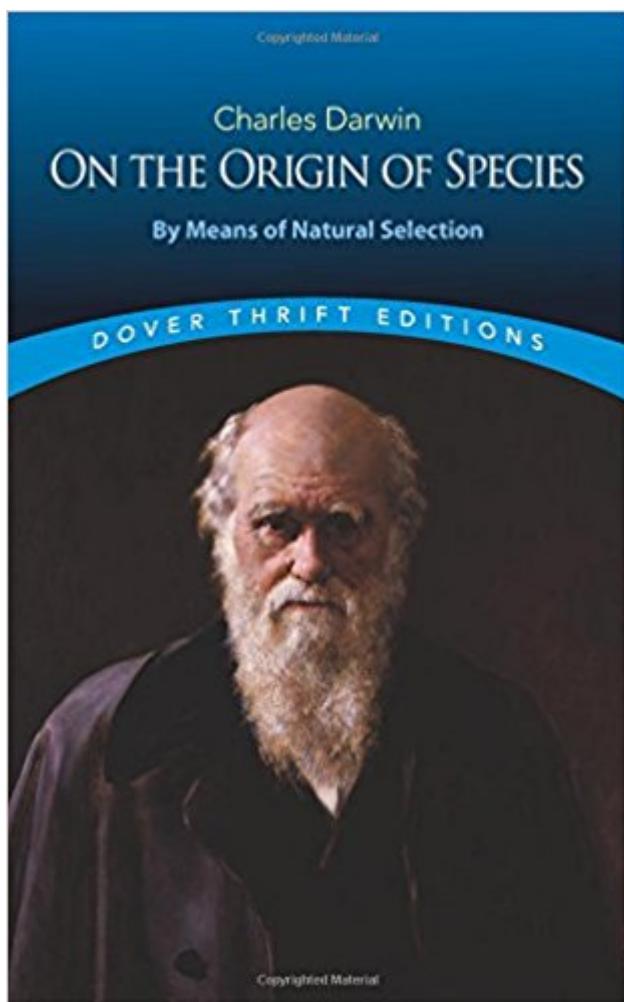


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On The Origin Of Species: By Means Of Natural Selection (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

"The Origin is one of the most important books ever published, and a knowledge of it should be a part of the intellectual equipment of every educated person. . . . The book will endure in future ages so long as a knowledge of science persists among mankind." ¹⁵¹ NatureIt took Charles Darwin more than twenty years to publish this book, in part because he realized that it would ignite a firestorm of controversy. On the Origin of Species first appeared in 1859, and it remains a continuing source of conflict to this day. Even among those who reject its ideas, however, the work's impact is undeniable. In science, philosophy, and theology, this is a book that changed the world. In addition to its status as the focus of a dramatic turning point in scientific thought, On the Origin of Species stands as a remarkably readable study. Carefully reasoned and well-documented in its arguments, the work offers coherent views of natural selection, adaptation, the struggle for existence, survival of the fittest, and other concepts that form the foundation of modern evolutionary theory. This volume is a reprint of the critically acclaimed first edition.

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Customer Reviews

Charles Darwin was born in England in 1809 and attended the University of Edinburgh to study medicine. When he decided against that vocation, he enrolled at Cambridge where he earned a degree in theology. During an expedition to Africa and South America, Darwin continued his studies in natural science and began writing about his theories of natural selection. His work led to the publication of On the Origin of Species, a book that changed the world. Charles Darwin: Original Thinking Each generation of students comes to Darwin's epoch-making works, several of which are

the basis of our publishing program in biology and related fields: The Essential Darwin, 2006; The Descent of Man, 2010; The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals, 2006; and On the Origin of the Species, 2006. In the Author's Own Words: "A mathematician is a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat which isn't there." "I feel most deeply that this whole question of Creation is too profound for human intellect. A dog might as well speculate on the mind of Newton! Let each man hope and believe what he can." "Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge: it is those who know little, not those who know much, who so positively assert that this or that problem will never be solved by science." "There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved." "Man with all his noble qualities, with sympathy which feels for the most debased, with benevolence which extends not only to other men but to the humblest living creature, with his god-like intellect which has penetrated into the movements and constitution of the solar system — with all these exalted powers — Man still bears in his bodily frame the indelible stamp of his lowly origin." — Charles Darwin

Though at times the volume of facts that are presented seemed overwhelming, I had to remind myself of the difficulties Darwin faced in expounding his new theory. Still more impressive are the arguments he makes that anticipated some of the modern attacks of creationism. I am glad to have read this classic book of the biological sciences.

Wait until the last chapter - it's worth the slog. The major part of the book repeatedly shows us evidence of evolution, with minor comments on how this or that theory is incompatible with the 'creation' of species. It is almost painfully repetitive, until the last chapter. But then he makes a change of direction and elaborates (in his impeccable politeness) how the old ideas of creation are about the die down, and that even eminent scientists of his era won't accept his theory. But he states that a new, fresh set of 'young and rising naturalists' will 'do good service by conscientiously expressing his conviction; for only thus can the load of prejudice by which this subject is overwhelmed be removed.'

I liked this book. People who are interested in historical books should be interested in reading this book... One of the things that was especially interesting is the author's writing style and ability to get

his message across. Overall, this book was very well written and I highly recommend to those who have not read. To those who have read it - read it again!

This is a classic in the study of biology that would never have been written if Darwin knew what we know about cellular biology today. It is a big and complex book about a small and erroneous idea, but it is good to read what students are still being taught in their schools today. The book is complex because it is a compendium of evidence that variation does occur and this is important to understand. But it is tragic in that the author fails to understand that "survival of the fittest" offers only loss of life and can never introduce anything new. Note that he refers to the "Creator" as he is confronted by evidence that clearly fails to be explained by his religious evolution myths. Darwin had as much training in religion as he had in biology and this helps explain why faith is so important to him where he lacks evidence.

This book should be on every nonfiction shelf on earth. I've heard it called the second most important text second only to the bible, but its unfair to me to even compare in that category. Both the bible and origin of species have always been open to interpretation as any book should, the difference is that since its publication, the theory of natural selection has been shown by evidence and repeated demonstration of experiment, to be absolutely true as a theory of how simple organisms can evolve over great spans of time into much more complex beings. This book does not preach, it does not command, and it does not judge. It only shows the scientific observations of a very intelligent and thoughtful man on the origin of species.

This classic needs no introduction. It is mandatory reading for anyone pretending to know anything about the life sciences. Fortunately, Darwin was a gifted writer. It is very accessible. There is ample human interest in his personal experiences, whether sailing around the world on the HMS Beagle, exchanging correspondence with the leading minds of his day, or engaging his ever-curious mind in conversation with all whom he encountered in life. Don't be afraid to give it to adolescents. I found a musty old volume in the UC Berkeley library at the age of fifteen and was fascinated. It is now, via and the Internet, much more accessible. Do it!

The hardcover illustrated version is a keeper. I wanted to help get my 13 yr. old interested in learning about evolution and Darwin. The illustrations help make a possibly difficult read for her way more interesting. It also makes for an excellent conversational coffee table book. Simply awesome.

The original book by Charles Darwin is a classic that should be on everyone's reading list. There are ample reviews here which address it, praise it, and I am completely in agreement with them.

Darwin's Origin of Species is a true masterpiece. Unfortunately, this review is to help readers/buyers realize that there is a 'vandalized' version which has been published, and to tell you how to avoid it and get the real thing. To explain; there is yet another edition also called "The Origin of Species, 150th Anniversary Edition", put out by Christian Fundamentalist Ray Comfort in an attempt to discredit evolutionary theory and Charles Darwin, and it has some extra 50 pages of unintelligible drivel about creationism, as well as having ABRIDGED Darwin's original text. If you want to read about creationism, find another book... if you want the facts, read ALL of what Darwin has to say, and please don't give any money to Comfort by accidentally buying his ABRIDGED version. Note that he used the EXACT same name as the 'real' anniversary edition -- "The Origin Of Species: 150th Anniversary Edition by Charles Darwin". You can easily tell which version you're getting by who wrote the introduction - go with Julian Huxley, NOT Ray Comfort, and you'll have the correct and complete version. Also, note that reviews are mixed between the books (normally not a problem at all) - I hope they are straightening this out, but currently that's not the case. Sadly, the negative reviews of the Comfort version are bringing down the rating of the 'good/real' book. Sorry to have to write about the 'drama', but I'm sure you want to know that you have ordered the correct book, and I know you'll love it. Enjoy.

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