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Hist 100-006

2/26/17

Charles Darwin was a British scientist born in the year 1809. He wrote *The Origin of Species* in 1859 which introduced his theory of natural selection. The book documented evidence he had collected on his expedition to the Galapagos Islands. His theory postulated that plants and animals evolved from simpler creatures over millions of years rather than from spontaneous divine creation. In 1871 Darwin sparked more controversy by publishing *The Descent of Man* where he applied his theory of evolution to humans. He received serious pushback from the church as his theory directly contradicted their doctrine.

Darwin explains that man’s similarities to other animals are far too coincidental to consider humans an exception to the theory of evolution. By clarifying human’s inclusion in the theory he rejected the church and claimed that humans were also the result of a natural evolutionary process and not the result of divine intervention.

Darwin’s purpose was to remind his peers that humans are just another animal and subject to the same rules and natural processes as the rest of Earth’s creatures. This particular excerpt made mention to man’s ego when it comes to its own self-importance. Darwin began by asserting the position that man developed from a lesser organism to its modern form. Next, he presented a selection of evidence such as the similarity of man’s bone structure to other mammals and the similarity of man’s embryonic stage to that of a dog’s. Darwin concluded by rationalizing man’s natural ego by stating that humans underwent millions of years of natural development and overcame numerous challenges in their many developmental stages to rise above and take their place in the world. He explained that the feeling of pride is natural and beneficial as it should provide hope to modern humans that they may reach an even higher destiny in the future.

Following the criticism of his first work, *The Origin of Species*, Darwin sought to establish his position on man’s origins. Darwin was already under fire from his first publication and he was well aware of how his new writings would provoke his critics even more. While some of his writing could be seen as an act of aggression or pushback against the church and their teachings, Darwin seemed to mostly be motivated for a desire to elevate man’s thinking on the matter of its own origin, existence, and destiny.

Considering Darwin is considered “The Father of Evolution” he should be considered a reliable source on how humans likely fit into the natural development of species. He spent years studying various species and examining their connection to one another and their environment. These findings would give him the insight required to comment on the likely origins of man. Also, considering his findings and theories are still widely accepted by the scientific community, Darwin must be considered a credible source on the subject.

Darwin seem to publish this book in active defiance of the church, however he doesn’t speak out negatively against his opposition and instead says that their view is natural and can even be healthy to man’s further development. He seems focused on the elevation of man to even greater heights rather than petty squabbling with his critics. I feel as though this shows his devotion to the natural sciences and his firm conviction that his theories are correct.