

Does Darwinism Devalue Human Life?

Many aspects of Darwinian theory have implications for the value of human life, and Darwinists themselves have acknowledged this. Darwinian theory rejects teleology, and often reduces humans to just another animal. Many Darwinists consider morality itself the product of chance evolutionary processes. Human evolution also implies human diversity, which has led many to embrace human inequality. Finally, Darwinism implies that death is a positive force in the universal struggle for existence.

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- I. Darwinism has contributed to our present "culture of death"
 - A. Darwinism does not logically entail support for abortion or euthanasia
 - B. But many elements of Darwinism have helped promote culture of death
 - C. Historically many thinkers have advanced Darwinian arguments to support abortion and euthanasia

- II. Six features of Darwinian theory that devalues human life
 - A. Rejection of teleology or purpose

 - B. Humans are nothing more than animals
 1. Darwin's position
 2. Peter Singer

 - C. Morality as biologically determined trait produced by evolution
 1. Darwin's position
 2. E. O. Wilson and Michael Ruse
 - D. Human inequality
 1. Eugenics

2. Scientific racism

E. Human struggle for existence

F. Death as a positive force

1. Darwin's position
2. German Darwinists, Hitler, and evolutionary progress
3. Euthanasia movement

III. John Evans' study, *What Is a Human? What the Answers Mean for Human Rights*

Suggested Readings:

Richard Weikart, *The Death of Humanity: And the Case for Life*. Washington, DC: Regnery Faith, 2016.

Richard Weikart, *From Darwin to Hitler: Evolutionary Ethics, Eugenics and Racism in Germany*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

Richard Weikart, "A History of the Impact of Darwinism on Bioethics," in *150 Years of Evolution: Darwin's Impact on the Humanities and Social Sciences*, ed. Mark Wheeler. San Diego: San Diego State University Press, 2011. Pp. 91-109; available on-line at: <http://archive.csustan.edu/history/faculty/weikart/darwinism-bioethics.pdf>

James Rachels, *Created from Animals: The Moral Implications of Darwinism*. Oxford University Press, 1990. This is from a secularist's perspective.