The Cambridge History of Modern European Thought: Volume 2, The Twentieth Century

10 Books that Screwed Up the World

For more than a century, Nietzsche's views about Jews and Judaism have been subject to countless polemics. The Nazis infamously fashioned the philosopher as their anti-Semitic precursor, while in the past thirty years the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction. The increasingly popular view today is that Nietzsche was not only completely free of racist tendencies but also was a principled adversary of anti-Jewish thought. Nietzsche's Jewish Problem offers a definitive reappraisal of the controversy, taking the full historical, intellectual, and biographical context into account. As Robert Holub shows, a careful consideration of all the evidence from Nietzsche's published and unpublished writings and letters reveals that he harbored anti-Jewish prejudices throughout his life. Nietzsche's Jewish Problem demonstrates how this is so despite the apparent paradox of the philosopher's well-documented opposition to the crude political anti-Semitism of the Germany of his day. As Holub explains, Nietzsche's "anti-anti-Semitism" was motivated more by distaste for vulgar nationalism than by any objection to anti-Jewish prejudice. A richly detailed account of a controversy that goes to the heart of Nietzsche's reputation and reception, Nietzsche's Jewish Problem will fascinate anyone interested in philosophy, intellectual history, or the history of anti-Semitism.

Human Nature and the Limits of Darwinism

"Timely and cogent in its aims and arguments, it should prompt debate and discussion leading to fresh critical and historiographical insights concerning all those topics that historians of science, of society, and of culture associate with 'Darwinism' and 'evolutionism.'"-- British Journal of the History of Science.

How Darwinism Corrodes Morality

Nietzsche's Anti-Darwinism Available in English for the first time, this masterwork is widely regarded as the single most important book on Nietzsche.

Nietzsche: Untimely Meditations Nietzsche's vision of the 'overman' continues to haunt the postmodern imagination. His call that 'man is something that must be overcome' can no longer be seen as simple rhetoric. Our experiences of the hybrid realities of artificial life have made the
'transhuman' a figure that looks over us all. Inspired by this vision, Keith Ansell Pearson sets out
to examine if evolution is 'out of control' and machines are taking over. In a series of six
fascinating perspectives, he links Nietzsche's thought with the issues at stake in contemporary
conceptions of evolution from the biological to the technological. Viroid Life; Perspectives on
Nietzsche and the Transhuman Condition considers the hybrid, 'inhuman' character of our future
with the aid of Nietzsche's philosophy. Keith Ansell Pearson contrasts Nietzsche and Darwin before
introducing the more recent figures such as Giles Deleuze and Guy Debord to sketch a new
thinking of technics and machines and stress the ambiguous character of our 'machine
enslavement'.

Why I Am So Wise This book examines Nietzsche's philosophical naturalism both historically and
philosophically, establishing a link between his discussions of nature and normativity.

Nietzsche's Naturalism

Nietzsche’s Philosophy of Religion Containing several innovative interventions in the areas of
queer theory, political economy, critical race theory, labour history, hip-hop aesthetics, social
movements studies, science and technology studies, pedagogy, and ludic studies, this volume
pushes Nietzsche studies in new directions.

Nietzsche’s Engagements with Kant and the Kantian Legacy Charles Darwin's theory of natural
selection challenges our very sense of belonging in the world. Unlike prior evolutionary theories,
Darwinism construes species as mutable historical products of a blind process that serves no
inherent purpose. It also represents a distinctly modern kind of fallible science that relies on
statistical evidence and is not verifiable by simple laboratory experiments. What are human
purpose and knowledge if humanity has no pre-given essence and science itself is our finite and
fallible product? According to the Received Image of Darwinism, Darwin's theory signals the
triumph of mechanism and reductionism in all science. On this view, the individual virtually
disappears at the intersection of (internal) genes and (external) environment. In contrast, William
James creatively employs Darwinian concepts to support his core conviction that both knowledge
and reality are in the making, with individuals as active participants. In promoting this Pragmatic
Image of Darwinism, McGranahan provides a novel reading of James as a philosopher of self-
transformation. Like his contemporary Nietzsche, James is concerned first and foremost with the
structure and dynamics of the finite purposive individual. This timely volume is suitable for
advanced undergraduate, postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers interested in the fields of
history of philosophy, history and philosophy of science, history of psychology, American
pragmatism and Darwinism.

Nietzsche and Critical Social Theory Nietzsche has often been considered a thinker independent of
the philosophy of his time and radically opposed to the concerns and concepts of modern and
contemporary philosophy. But there is an increasing awareness of his sophisticated engagements
with his contemporaries and of his philosophy's rich potential for debates with modern and
contemporary thinkers. Nietzsche’s Engagements with Kant and the Kantian Legacy explores a
significant field for such engagements, Kant and Kantianism. Bringing together an international
team of established Nietzsche-scholars who have done extensive work in Kant, contributors include
both senior scholars and young, upcoming researchers from a broad range of countries and
traditions. Working from the basis that Nietzsche is better understood as thinking 'with and
against' Kant and the Kantian legacy, they examine Nietzsche's explicit and implicit treatments of
Kant, Kantians, and Kantian concepts, as well as the philosophical issues that they raise for both
Nietzschean and Kantian philosophy. Divided into three volumes, the focus is on specific areas and
texts of Kant's philosophy: Nietzsche, Kant and the Problem of Metaphysics; Nietzsche and Kantian
Ethics; Nietzsche and Kant on Aesthetics and Anthropology. Each volume draws extensively on the
flourishing recent literature from both analytic and continental traditions in English, German and
other languages. By responding to scholarly interest in the critical relations between Nietzsche
and Kant, this series of volumes presents the first systematic study of the pairing of two major
European thinkers from the modern period.

Nietzsche's Task "Although Charles Darwin predicted that his theory 'would give zest to [I]
metaphysics,' even he would be astonished at the variety of paths his theory has in fact taken. This
holds with regard to both gene-Darwinism, a purified Darwinian approach biologizing the social
sciences, and process- Darwinism found in the disciplines of psychology, philosophy of science, and
economics. Although Darwinism is often linked to highly confirmed biological theories, some of its
interpretations seem to profit from tautological claims as well, where scientific reputation cloaks
ideological usage. This book discusses central tenets of Darwinism historically as well as
systematically, for example the history of different Darwinian paradigms, the units-of-selection
debate, and the philosophical problem of induction as basis of metaphysical Darwinism. Crucially
the book addresses the Darwinian claim that evolution is governed by an immutable and
unrelentingly cruel law of natural selection. Paradoxically, Darwin's theory is a static, non-evolutionary theory of evolution. The current book sketches the historical background and provides suggestions that may help to replace this approach by the idea of an evolution of evolutionary mechanisms (see Escher's 'Drawing Hands' on the cover). This view even suggests a tendency to overcome the blindness of the knowledge acquisition of primordial Darwinian processes and allows for some freedom from external environments. This book first develops a radically Darwinian approach, then criticises this approach from within. Even Darwinism has a tendency to transcend itself. Although the book addresses several empirical issues, it does not challenge particular findings. Instead it builds on many insights of Darwinism and provides a proposal for interpreting known empirical evidence in a different light. It should help pave the way for further developing an understanding of nature that transcends Darwinian metaphysics"--Publisher's description.

The Anti-Christ Argues that Nietzsche tried to create a specific literary character in his writings and discusses the paradoxes of his work

The Moral Meaning of Nature What, if anything, does biological evolution tell us about the nature of religion, ethical values, or even the meaning and purpose of life? The Moral Meaning of Nature sheds new light on these enduring questions by examining the significance of an earlier—and unjustly neglected—discussion of Darwin in late nineteenth-century Germany. We start with Friedrich Nietzsche, whose writings staged one of the first confrontations with the Christian tradition using the resources of Darwinian thought. The lebensphilosophie, or "life-philosophy," that arose from his engagement with evolutionary ideas drew responses from other influential thinkers, including Franz Overbeck, Georg Simmel, and Heinrich Rickert. These critics all offered cogent challenges to Nietzsche's appropriation of the newly transforming biological sciences, his negotiation between science and religion, and his interpretation of the implications of Darwinian thought. They also each proposed alternative ways of making sense of Nietzsche's unique question concerning the meaning of biological evolution "for life." At the heart of the discussion were debates about the relation of facts and values, the place of divine purpose in the understanding of nonhuman and human agency, the concept of life, and the question of whether the sciences could offer resources to satisfy the human urge to discover sources of value in biological processes. The Moral Meaning of Nature focuses on the historical background of these questions, exposing the complex ways in which they recur in contemporary philosophical debate.

The Complete Works of Friedrich Nietzsche In tracing the history of Darwin's accomplishment and the trajectory of evolutionary theory during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, most scholars agree that Darwin introduced blind mechanism into biology, thus banishing moral values from the understanding of nature. According to the standard interpretation, the principle of survival of the fittest has rendered human behavior, including moral behavior, ultimately selfish. Few doubt that Darwinian theory, especially as construed by the master's German disciple, Ernst Haeckel, inspired Hitler and led to Nazi atrocities. In this collection of essays, Robert J. Richards argues that this orthodox view is wrongheaded. A close historical examination reveals that Darwin, in more traditional fashion, constructed nature with a moral spine and provided it with a goal: man as a moral creature. The book takes up many other topics—including the character of Darwin's chief principles of natural selection and divergence, his dispute with Alfred Russel Wallace over man's big brain, the role of language in human development, his relationship to Herbert Spencer, how much his views had in common with Haeckel's, and the general problem of progress in evolution. Moreover, Richards takes a forceful stand on the timely issue of whether Darwin is to blame for Hitler's atrocities. Was Hitler a Darwinian? Is intellectual history at its boldest?

Darwinism and Pragmatism Nietzsche wrote in a scientific culture transformed by Darwin, yet most of what he said about Darwin was hostile. In this text, John Richardson argues that Nietzsche was in fact deeply and pervasively influenced by Darwin.

Nietzsche's Moral Psychology Shows how Nietzsche's pivotal work The Gay Science formulates his three key concepts: the death of God, eternal recurrence and self-fashioning.

Nietzsche's The Gay Science An authoritative and comprehensive survey of the major themes, thinkers, and movements in modern European intellectual history.

Nietzsche Contra Rousseau In this work, Richard Weikart explains the revolutionary impact Darwinism had on ethics and morality. He demonstrates that many leading Darwinian biologists and social thinkers in Germany believed that Darwinism overturned traditional Judeo-Christian and Enlightenment ethics, especially the view that human life is sacred. Many of these thinkers supported moral relativism, yet simultaneously exalted evolutionary 'fitness' (especially intelligence and health) to the highest arbiter of morality. Darwinism played a key role in the rise not only of eugenics, but also euthanasia, infanticide, abortion and racial extermination. This was especially important in Germany, since Hitler built his view of ethics on Darwinian principles, not
on nihilism.

A Nietzschean Bestiary When Nietzsche published Beyond Good and Evil in 1886, he told a friend that it was a book that would not be read properly until “around the year 2000.” Now Laurence Lampert sets out to fulfill this prophecy by providing a section by section interpretation of this philosophical masterpiece that emphasizes its unity and depth as a comprehensive new teaching on nature and humanity. According to Lampert, Nietzsche begins with a critique of philosophy that is ultimately affirmative, because it shows how philosophy can arrive at a defensible ontological account of the way of all beings. Nietzsche next argues that a new post-Christian religion can arise out of the affirmation of the world disclosed to philosophy. Then, turning to the implications of the new ontology for morality and politics, Nietzsche argues that these can be reconstituted on the fundamental insights of the new philosophy. Nietzsche’s comprehensive depiction of this anti-Platonic philosophy ends with a chapter on nobility, in which he contends that what can now be publicly celebrated as noble in our species are its highest achievements of mind and spirit.

Nietzsche, the Aristocratic Rebel This title is part of UC Press’s Voices Revived program, which commemorates University of California Press’s mission to seek out and cultivate the brightest minds and give them voice, reach, and impact. Drawing on a backlist dating to 1893, Voices Revived makes high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarship accessible once again using print-on-demand technology. This title was originally published in 1988.

Naturalizing Heidegger Friedrich Nietzsche’s complex connection to Charles Darwin has been much explored, and both scholarly and popular opinions have tended to assume a convergence in their thinking. In this study, Dirk Johnson challenges that assumption and takes seriously Nietzsche’s own explicitly stated ‘anti-Darwinism’. He argues for the importance of Darwin for the development of Nietzsche’s philosophy, but he places emphasis on the antagonistic character of their relationship and suggests that Nietzsche’s mature critique against Darwin represents the key to understanding his broader (anti-)Darwinian position. He also offers an original reinterpretation of the Genealogy of Morals, a text long considered sympathetic to Darwinian naturalism, but which he argues should be taken as Nietzsche’s most sophisticated critique of both Darwin and his followers. His book will appeal to all who are interested in the philosophy of Nietzsche and its cultural context.

Nietzsche, Biology and Metaphor Explores the evolution of Heidegger’s thinking about nature and its relevance for environmental ethics. In Naturalizing Heidegger, David E. Storey proposes a new interpretation of Heidegger’s importance for environmental philosophy, finding in the development of his thought from the early 1920s to his later work in the 1940s the groundwork for a naturalistic ontology of life. Primarily drawing on Heidegger’s engagement with Nietzsche, but also on his readings of Aristotle and the biologist Jakob von Uexküll, Storey focuses on his critique of the nihilism at the heart of modernity, and his conception of the intentionality of organisms and their relation to their environments. From these ideas, a vision of nature emerges that recognizes the intrinsic value of all living things and their kinship with one another, and which anticipates later approaches in the philosophy of nature, such as Hans Jonas’s phenomenology of life and Evan Thompson’s contemporary attempt to naturalize phenomenology.

Nietzsche’s New Darwinism In a book that is both groundbreaking and accessible, Daniel C. Dennett, whom Chet Raymo of The Boston Globe calls “one of the most provocative thinkers on the planet,” focuses his unerringly logical mind on the theory of natural selection, showing how Darwin’s great idea transforms and illuminates our traditional view of humanity’s place in the universe. Dennett vividly describes the theory itself and then extends Darwin’s vision with impeccable arguments to their often surprising conclusions, challenging the views of some of the most famous scientists of our day.

Nietzsche Nietzsche, Biology and Metaphor explores the German philosopher’s response to the intellectual debates sparked by the publication of Charles Darwin’s The Origin of Species. By examining the abundance of biological metaphors in Nietzsche’s writings, Gregory Moore questions his recent reputation as an eminently subversive and (post-) modern thinker, and shows how deeply Nietzsche was immersed in late nineteenth-century debates on evolution, degeneration and race. The first part of the book provides a detailed study and interpretation of Nietzsche’s much disputed relationship to Darwinism. Uniquely, Moore also considers the importance of Nietzsche’s evolutionary perspective for the development of his moral and aesthetic philosophy. The second part analyzes key themes of Nietzsche’s cultural criticism - his attack on the Judeo-Christian tradition, his diagnosis of the nihilistic crisis afflicting modernity and his anti-Wagnerian polemics - against the background of fin-de-siècle fears about the imminent biological collapse of Western civilization.

Lange and Nietzsche NEW YORK TIMES Editors’ Choice • THE TIMES BIOGRAPHY OF THE YEAR •
WINNER OF THE HAWTHORNDEN PRIZE A groundbreaking new biography of philosophy’s greatest iconoclast Friedrich Nietzsche is one of the most enigmatic figures in philosophy, and his concepts—the Übermensch, the will to power, slave morality—have fundamentally reshaped our understanding of the human condition. But what do most people really know of Nietzsche—beyond the mustache, the scowl, and the lingering association with nihilism and fascism? Where do we place a thinker who was equally beloved by Albert Camus, Ayn Rand, Martin Buber, and Adolf Hitler? Nietzsche wrote that all philosophy is autobiographical, and in this vividly compelling, myth-shattering biography, Sue Prideaux brings readers into the world of this brilliant, eccentric, and deeply troubled man, illuminating the events and people that shaped his life and work. From his placid, devoutly Christian upbringing—overshadowed by the mysterious death of his father—through his teaching career, lonely philosophizing on high mountains, and heart-breaking descent into madness, Prideaux documents Nietzsche’s intellectual and emotional life with a novelist’s insight and sensitivity. She also produces unforgettable portraits of the people who were most important to him, including Richard and Cosima Wagner, Lou Salomé, the femme fatale who broke his heart; and his sister Elizabeth, a rabid German nationalist and anti-Semite who manipulated his texts and turned the Nietzsche archive into a destination for Nazi ideologues. I Am Dynamite! is the essential biography for anyone seeking to understand history’s most misunderstood philosopher.

The Menace of Darwinism The ideal book for anyone interested in Nietzsche’s life and work. From Darwin to Hitler Examines Nietzsche’s thinking on the virtues using a combination of close reading and digital analysis.

Nietzsche’s Middle Period “The Christian concept of a god-the god as the patron of the sick, the god as a spinner of cobwebs, the god as a spirit—is one of the most corrupt concepts that has ever been set up in the world. In him nothingness is deified, and the will to nothingness is made holy.”

See Sharp Press; Tuscon, AZ -from The Anti-Christ. He’s one of the most debated thinkers of the 19th century: Nietzsche and his works have been by turns vilified, lauded, and subjected to numerous contradictory interpretations, and yet he remains a figure of profound import, and his works a necessary component of a well-rounded education. The Anti-Christ, first published in German in 1895, is absolutely vital to any meaningful understanding of Nietzsche the man and Nietzsche the philosopher. An insightful and entertaining indictment of Christianity, it has enraged and inspired generations of readers, and this 1920 translation, by H. L. Mencken, considered the best available, is almost as controversial as the work itself, highlighting the darkest side of Mencken’s cynicism. Also available from Cosimo Classics: Nietzsche’s The Use and Abuse of History.

Nietzsche’s Jewish Problem This book looks at how Darwinism has adversely affected morality in Western culture, not only sexual morals, but also the mistreatment of minority races, the killing of the sick and diseased and the rise of the abortion movement. Key figures of the twentieth century are considered: Havelock Ellis, Margaret Sanger, Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Benjamin Spock, Karl Pearson, Anders Behring Breivik and others. The ideological impact of Darwinism on such issues as eugenics, abortion, racism, war and social policy since Charles Darwin’s On the Origin of Species was first published in 1859 is profound. Overturning the predominately Judeo-Christian worldview of previous centuries, Darwinism has infiltrated every area of science, philosophy, art, literature, business, anthropology, social policy, governance and medicine. We need to understand the foundational problem in order to propose ways that societal reforms can be addressed in our day--this book will help us do just that.

I Am Dynamite! A 1996 companion to Friedrich Nietzsche, one of the most influential of modern philosophers.

Viroid Life Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves—and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives—and destroyed them. Now, Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization, and helped make us who we are. Penguin's Great Ideas series features twelve groundbreaking works by some of history's most prodigious thinkers, and each volume is beautifully packaged with a unique type-drive design that highlights the bookmaker's art. Offering great literature in great packages at great prices, this series is ideal for those readers who want to explore and savor the Great Ideas that have shaped the world. One of the most iconoclastic thinkers of all time, Friedrich Nietzsche continues to challenge the boundaries of conventional religion and morality with his subversive theories of the 'superman', the individual will, the death of God and the triumph of an all-powerful human life force.

Nietzsche, Life as Literature These four essays are key documents for understanding the
Darwin's Dangerous Idea

In his "Origin of Species," Charles Darwin put forth new and considerably radical ideas that challenged many of the traditional and established views of life and the order of the world. A number of society's leaders spoke out against Darwin and his theories, claiming that his writings about natural selection were detrimental to society and religion. In the early 20th century, William Jennings Bryan began his crusade against Darwinism. He characterized it as a movement that promoted the killing of the weak and described it as a law of hate. Bryan was an influential member of the Democratic Party who served as congressman, three time presidential nominee and Secretary of State. He is famously known for his attack of Darwinism in the highly publicized Scopes Monkey Trial. Bryan's "The Menace of Darwinism" contains a series of his lectures against Darwin. He declared Darwin's theories "string of guesses" that failed in comparison to the scripture of the bible. His work was immensely popular and stood as one of the most powerful oppositions to evolution. Today, it remains a valuable piece of the heated and controversial history.

The Non-Darwinian Revolution

Nietzsche's use of metaphor has been widely noted but rarely focused to explore specific images in great detail. A Nietzschean Bestiary gathers essays devoted to the most notorious and celebrated beasts in Nietzsche's work. The essays illustrate Nietzsche's ample use of animal imagery, and link it to the dual philosophical purposes of recovering and revivifying human animality, which plays a significant role in his call for de-deifying nature. Visit our website for sample chapters!

Was Hitler a Darwinian? This book takes a serious look at Nietzsche as political thinker and relates his political ideas to the dominant traditions of modern political thought. It also demonstrates Rousseau's crucial role in Nietzsche's understanding of modernity.

Darwin in Russian Thought


From Darwinian Metaphysics Towards Understanding the Evolution of Evolutionary Mechanisms

You've heard of the "Great Books"? These are their evil opposites. From Machiavelli's The Prince to Karl Marx's The Communist Manifesto to Alfred Kinsey's Sexual Behavior in the Human Male, these "influential" books have led to war, genocide, totalitarian oppression, family breakdown, and disastrous social experiments. And yet these authors' bad ideas are still popular and pervasive—in fact, they might influence your own thinking without your realizing it. Here with the antidote is Professor Benjamin Wiker. In his scintillating new book, 10 Books That Screwed Up the World (And 5 Others That Didn't Help), he seizes each of these evil books by its malignant heart and exposes it to the light of day.

The Cambridge Companion to Nietzsche

In this intriguing work, Abbey presents a close study of Nietzsche's middle period works: Human, All Too Human, Daybreak, and The Gay Science. Abbey's study of Nietzsche's middle period paints a vastly different portrait of the philosopher—a careful, sensitive analyst of moral life—filling a serious gap in the literature on Nietzsche.

The Genealogy of Morals

In his first book, The Birth of Tragedy, Nietzsche observes that Greek tragedy gathered people together as a community in the sight of their gods, and argues that modernity can be rescued from 'nihilism' only through the revival of such a festival. This is commonly thought to be a view which did not survive the termination of Nietzsche's early Wagnerianism, but Julian Young argues, on the basis of an examination of all of Nietzsche's published works, that his religious communitarianism in fact persists through all his writings. What follows, it is argued, is that the mature Nietzsche is neither an 'atheist', an 'individualist', nor an 'immoralist': he is a German philosopher belonging to a German tradition of conservative communitarianism - though to claim him as a proto-Nazi is radically mistaken. This important reassessment will be of interest to all Nietzsche scholars and to a wide range of readers in German philosophy.

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