

The movement of Darwinian evolution was an attempt to explain the origin of all the different types of life as being simply the result of a natural development from one stage to another.

The idea of evolution was nothing new when Darwin wrote his book. Many had been advocating this idea before. The addition that Darwin made was to suggest a method of evolution which would require no purpose in the universe, but would show everything as having come into existence as a result of purely material conditions. This seemed to many to prove that there is no need of a personal God or director of the universe.

Darwin's ideas were promoted particularly by a brilliant English controversialist named T. H. Huxley. Huxley was always ready for a fight against those who were defending the traditional views. He was a very able debater. He seemed to many to be supporting the cause of ~~true~~, free and unprejudiced investigation against those who were merely standing by positions because they had been established for a long time. Yet toward the end of his life, when Huxley was appointed a member of a committee to study the educational system of Great Britain, he brought in a report which urged that the Bible should retain a vital place in British education, saying that he did not see how high ethical standards could possibly be maintained without great emphasis being given to the Bible.

Darwinism has had a tremendous impact during the last century. To many, it has come to be almost a religion in its denial of purpose in the universe, and in its insistence that blind chance has produced all that exists. Many of the arguments upon which the Darwinian theory was originally based have been disproved in the light of advancing knowledge, but the theory today is widely taught as a fact, and has resulted in destroying the faith of many.