

It is not really evolution that's threatened, it's popular religion that is in dire threat from evolutionary science. Belief in God is rarely based on true faith; it usually stems from the still widespread sense that our existence can only be explained by a super-designer. Such folk natural theology is often expressed when people look skyward and say its obvious that a god created it all.

Scientific natural theology, as per Paley, was the dominant world-view until Darwin, as well as other aspects of modern science, removed any need for a cognitive creator. At best belief in a God has been rendered an optional opinion.

When something is mere opinion, then many will invariably opt to not believe in it. That belief in a supernatural creator is actually inferior to the naturalistic, scientific alternative makes it all the more likely that educated persons will reject the unsubstantiated.

The severe impact that evolutionary science has on popular religiosity can be measured and documented. Both between western nations, and within regions of the United States, higher rates of popular acceptance of evolution are correlated with lower rates of absolute belief in God, and vice-versa.

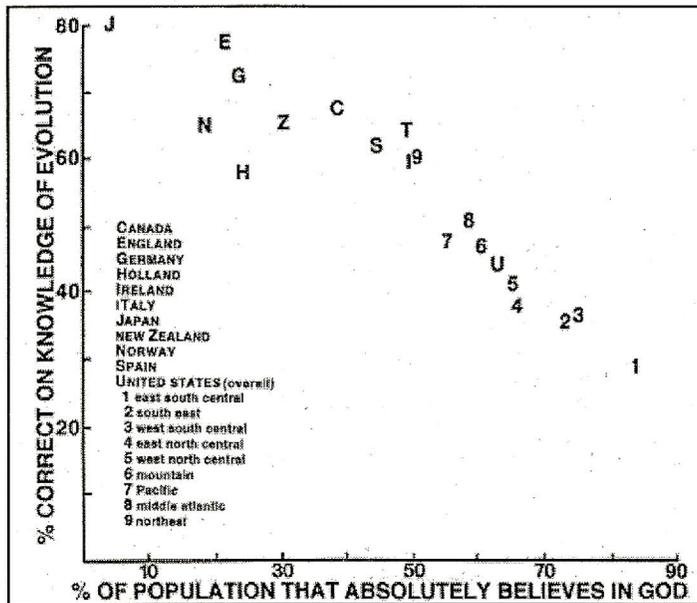
There are no major exceptions. The most God skeptical nation, Japan, has the highest acceptance of evolution. The most God friendly nation, ours, has the lowest.

Within America the most anti-evolution region, the southeast, is the most Godly, the least supernaturalistic, the northeast, is the

an advanced democracy where both religion and evolution are popular, the virulent opposition of Amerocreacionists to Darwin's dangerous idea is fully warranted. America is the last strongly Christian nation in the west and acceptance of evolution will very probably secularize the country. The belief by many liberals that religion and faith are compatible, and that both can thrive in America, is profoundly naïve.

Conversely, evolution will no longer be controversial only if and when the country deChristianizes like the rest of the west. Fortunately, as my *Journal of Religion and Society* paper demonstrates, higher rates of acceptance of evolution are generally correlated with better societal conditions. This is important because the right has built up the belief that evolution leads societies to hell in a hand cart into a bogus societal fear factor. Riven by internal contradictions, and unable to gain the scientific acceptance it desperately needs, creationism in its various forms will not be able to make gains against modern science, and is in danger of losing the culture war as the combination of Darwinian science and Darwinian corporate economics continue to promote materialistic secularism.

Gregory Paul



*Inverse correlation between belief in God and knowledge of Evolution across several nations*

most pro-evolution. Note how the NE grades into the rest of the west.

Because there is no known example of

America's rejection of Darwinism poses a threat that is greater than its impact on the education system and on America's standing in the world. The unfortunate truth of our situation is that this rejection of Darwinism is symptomatic of a larger problem that affects every facet of life in this country and may be exported abroad. Our culture is brushing aside Humanism's basis in reason and science and replacing it with a tilt toward religious fundamentalism. Along with Darwin's theory of natural selection, its very basis in scientific reasoning is being rejected as well. This must be successfully challenged or our devolving concept of knowledge will spin us back toward the dark ages.

Roy Speckardt  
Executive Director  
American Humanist Association

The danger is not so much in rejecting Darwinism as such. It is in the implied acceptance of the dubious practice of accepting ancient texts as the ultimate authority for human behavior. The guidance provided by these texts is frequently neither moral nor relevant in the context of our times. We can and must do better. Science provides relatively objective standards and helps keep our morals relevant to changing conditions.

Carl Coon  
Member, Board of Directors  
American Humanist Association

