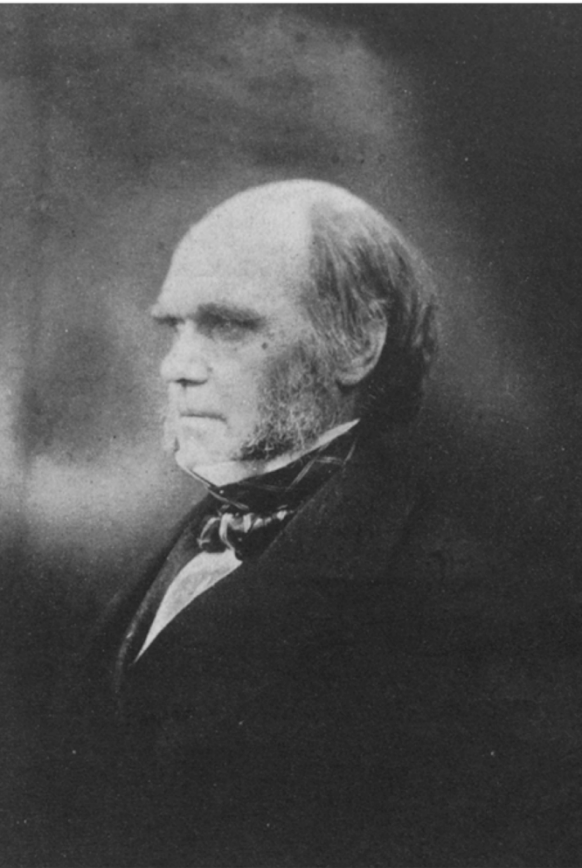


The Initial Question: Does Darwinism Devalue Human Life

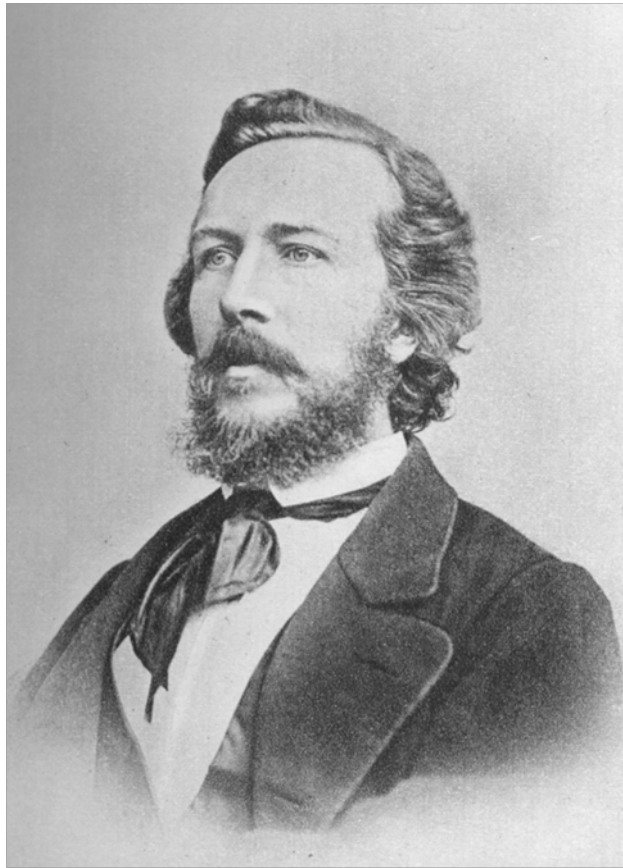
1. Natural Selection works to eliminate most life.
2. Darwin and subsequent Darwinians were racists.
3. Darwinians, like Haeckel, supported abortion and infanticide (especially for the disabled).
4. Darwinian morality sanctioned Hitlerian ethics.

Was Hitler a Darwinian?

Robert J. Richards
University of Chicago



Charles Darwin
(1809-1882), in 1860



Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919), in
1860



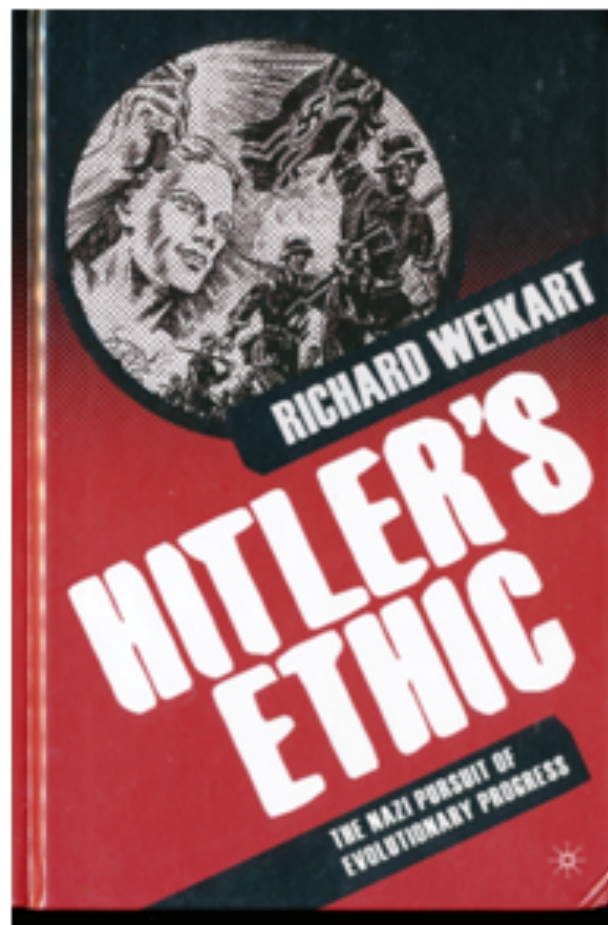
Adolf Hitler (1889-1945), in
1940

FROM DARWIN
TO
HITLER

Evolutionary Ethics, Eugenics, and Racism in Germany



Richard Weikart



Ben Stein

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With a new introduction by the author

The Scientific Origins of National Socialism



Daniel Gasman

ONTOGENY AND PHYLOGENY

STEPHEN JAY GOULD

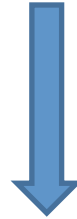


The Issues

1. The Factual Question: Did Hitler's Racial Views Derive from Darwinian Theory?
2. The Question of Moral Logic: What Kind of Inference Can be Employed to Morally Indict Darwin and the Darwinians and to Undermine Darwinian Theory.

Causal Connection

Origin of Species → *Anthropogenie* → Darwinian writings → *Mein Kampf*



Moral Responsibility

Darwin ← Haeckel ← Darwinians ← Hitler

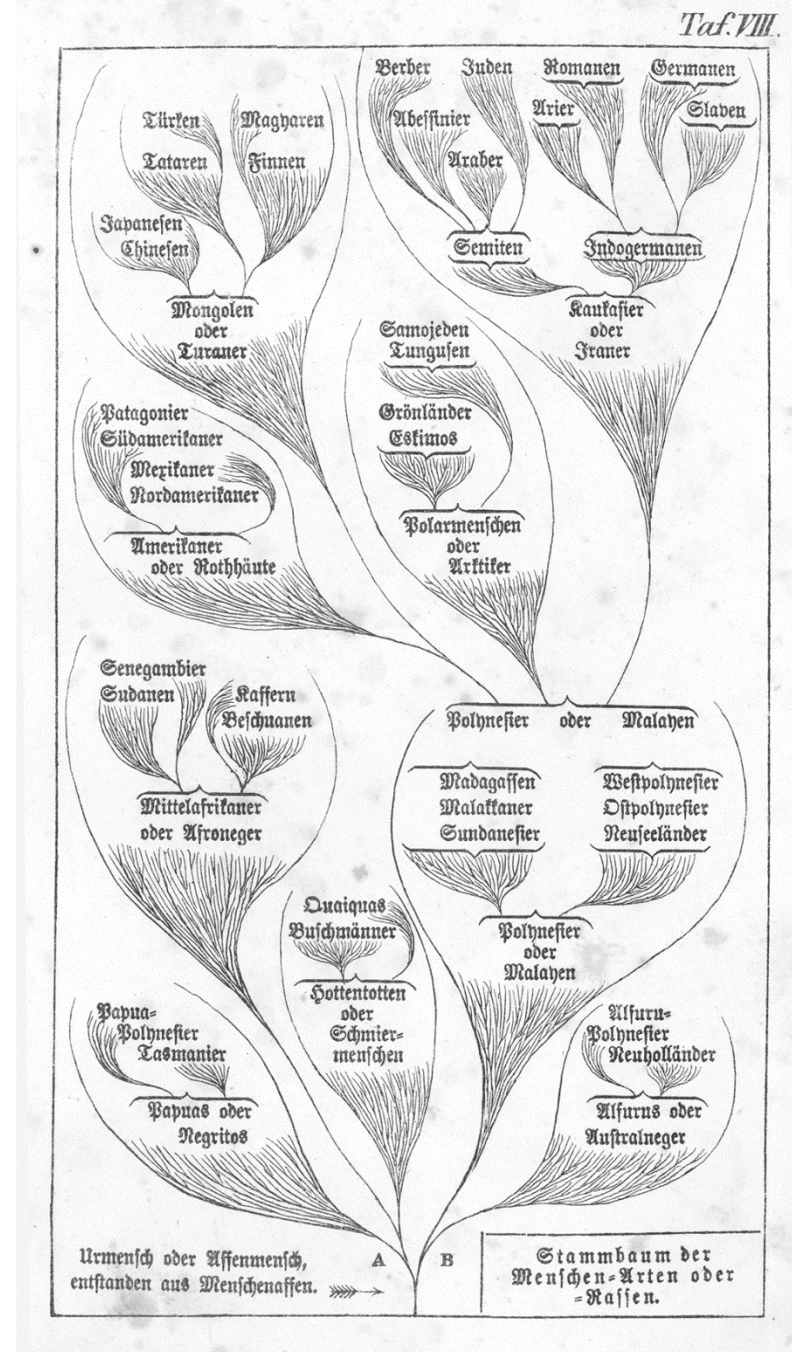
Elements of Darwinian Theory as Applied to Human Beings

1. Human groups can be arranged in a racial hierarchy, from less evolved to more evolved.
2. Species have changed over time and descended from common ancestors. Human beings have descended from ancestors that were common to them and contemporary apes.
3. Natural Selection explains the transitions during descent.

Evolutionary tree of the nine human species, stemming from the Urmensch; vertical axis meant to indicate progressive development.

(From Haeckel's *Natürliche Schöpfungsgeschichte*, 1868)

At the top level are the Caucasian races of the Berbers, Jews, Mid and Southern Europeans, and Germans.



“I hold these refined and noble Jews to be important elements in German culture. One should not forget that they have always stood bravely for enlightenment and freedom against the forces of reaction, inexhaustible opponents, as often as needed, against the obscurantists [*Dunkelmänner*]. And now in the dangers of these perilous times, when Papism again rears up mightily everywhere, we cannot do without their tried and true courage.”

(Haeckel’s interview with Herman Bahr in *Anti-Semitism*, 1894)

Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth-Century Theories of Race

Linnaeus (1707-78)	African	American	Asiatic		European	
Blumenbach (1752-1840)	Ethiopian	American	Mongolian	Malayan	Caucasian	
Cuvier (1769-1832)	Ethiopian		Mongolian		Caucasian	

Haeckel's Racial Categories

Papuans	Australians	Hottentots	Malayans	Sudanese	Americans	Eskimos	Mongolians	Caucasians
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Houston Stewart Chamberlain (1855-1927), author of *Die Grundlagen des Neunzehnten Jahrhunderts* (1899).



Arthur Comte de Gobineau
(1816-1882)



Essay on the Inequality of
the Human Races, 4 vols.,
1853-1855.



German Translation,
4 vols, 1898-1901



Cosima Wagner and her son-in-law, Houston Stewart Chamberlain, 1913.



Hitler and Winifred Wagner at the Festspielhaus, 1933.

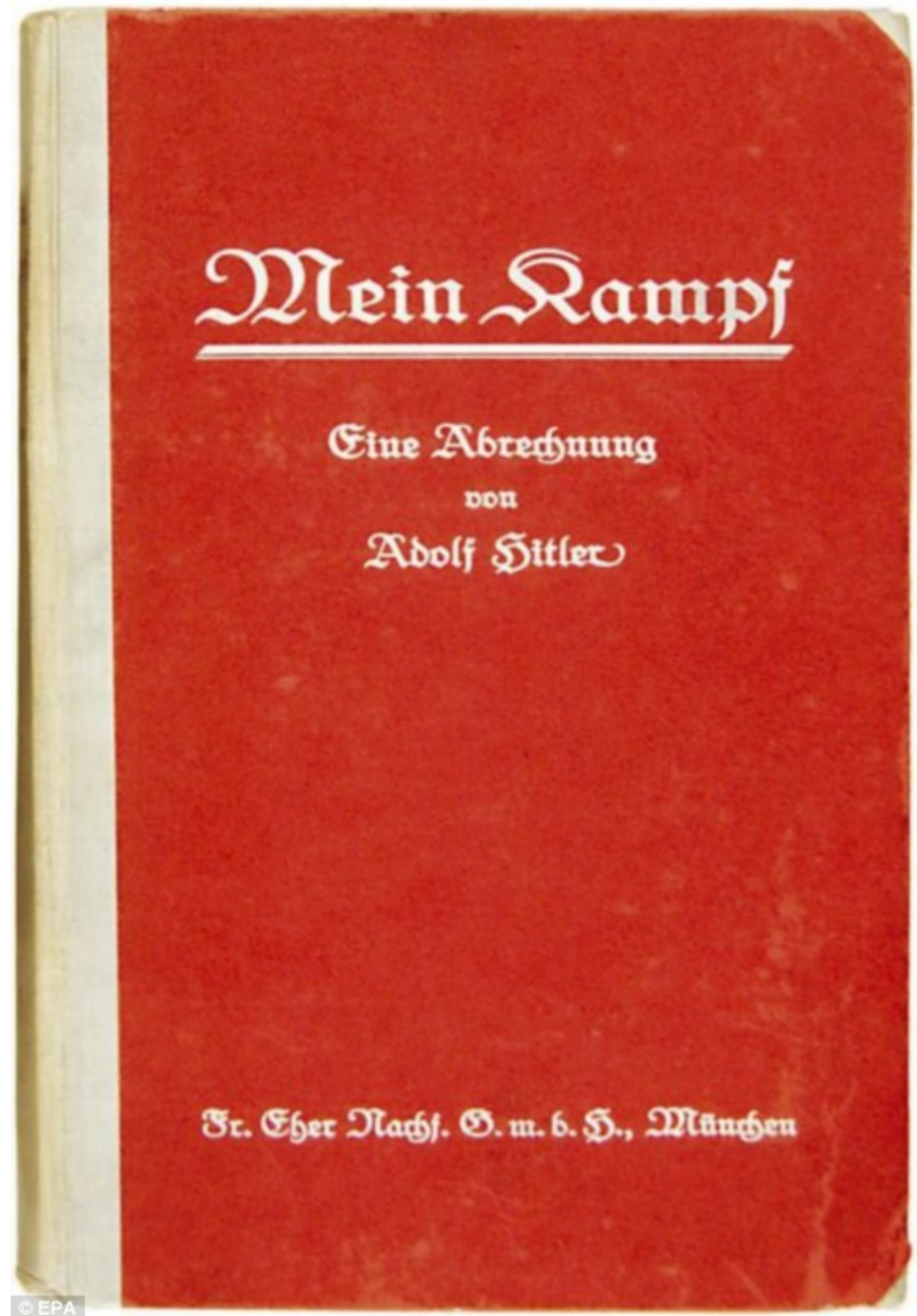
You are certainly not as you have been described to me, namely as a fanatic [*Fanatiker*]; rather I would call you the very opposite of a fanatic. A fanatic overheats the head, while you warm the heart. The fanatic wishes to smother you in words; you want to convince, only convince. . . . My faith in Germanness [Deutschtum] has never wavered for a moment. But my hopes—I will confess—had ebbed. With one blow, you have transformed the core of my soul. That Germany in the hour of her greatest need has given birth to a Hitler, that shows her vital essence.

Houston Stewart Chamberlain to Adolf Hitler,
October 7, 1923

My Struggle, an Account

By Adolf Hitler

2 vols., 1925-1926



Adolf Hitler in Landsberg
Prison, 1924-1925



“Whence have we the right to believe that man was not from the very beginning [Uranfängen] what he is today? A glance at nature informs us that in the realm of plants and animals alterations and further formation occur, but nothing indicates that development [Entwicklung] within a species [Gattung] has occurred of a considerable leap of the sort that man would have to have made to transform him from an ape-like condition to his present state.”

Evening, Jan. 25-26, 1942.

“Woher nehmen wir das Recht, zu glauben, der Mensch sei nicht von Uranfängen das gewesen, was er heut’ ist? Der Blick in die Natur lehrt uns, daß im Bereich der Pflanzen und Tiere Veränderungen und Weiterbildungen vorkommen, aber nirgends zeigt sich innerhalb einer Gattung eine Entwicklung von der Weite des Sprunges, den der Mensch gemacht haben müßte, sollte er sich aus einem affenartigen Zustand zu dem, was er ist, fortgebildet haben!”

Adolf Hitler Monologe im Führer-Hauptquartier, 1941-1944. Notes authorized by Martin Bormann, and edited by Werner Jochmann (Hamburg: Albrecht Knaus, 1980), p. 232.

“The consequence of this racial purity [Rassenreinheit], which is characteristic of all animals in nature, is not only a sharp separation of the particular races externally, but also in their uniformity of the essence of the very type itself. The fox is always a fox, the goose a goose., the tiger a tiger, and so on. . .”

Die Folge dieses in der Natur allgemein gültigen Triebes zur Rassenreinheit ist nicht nur die scharfe Abgrenzung der einzelnen Rassen nach außen, sondern auch ihre gleich-mäßige Wesensart in sich selber. Der Fuchs ist immer ein Fuchs, die Gans eine Gans, der Tiger ein Tiger usw.
(*Mein Kampf*, 1943, p. 312).

“Historical experience offers numerous examples [of race mixing]. It shows in awful clarity that with every mingling of blood of Aryans with lower peoples, the resulting consequence is the end of the culture bearers.”

Die geschichtliche Erfahrung bietet hierfür zahllose Belege. Sie zeigt in erschreckender Deutlichkeit, daß bei jeder Blutsvermischung des Ariers mit niedrigeren Völkern als Ergebnis das Ende des Kulturträgers herauskam.
(*Mein Kampf*, 1943, p. 313).



Karl Lueger (1844-1910), mayor of Vienna (1897-1910)



Georg von Schönerer (1842-1921), member of the Austrian Parliament



Houston Stewart Chamberlin's *Foundations of the Nineteenth Century*, 2 vols., 1899. 30 German editions through 1944.

Journal for general Natural Science.

Organ of the Reich's Technical
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Herausgegeben von
Ernst Bergdolt, Fritz Kubach
und Bruno Thüring



3. Jahrgang

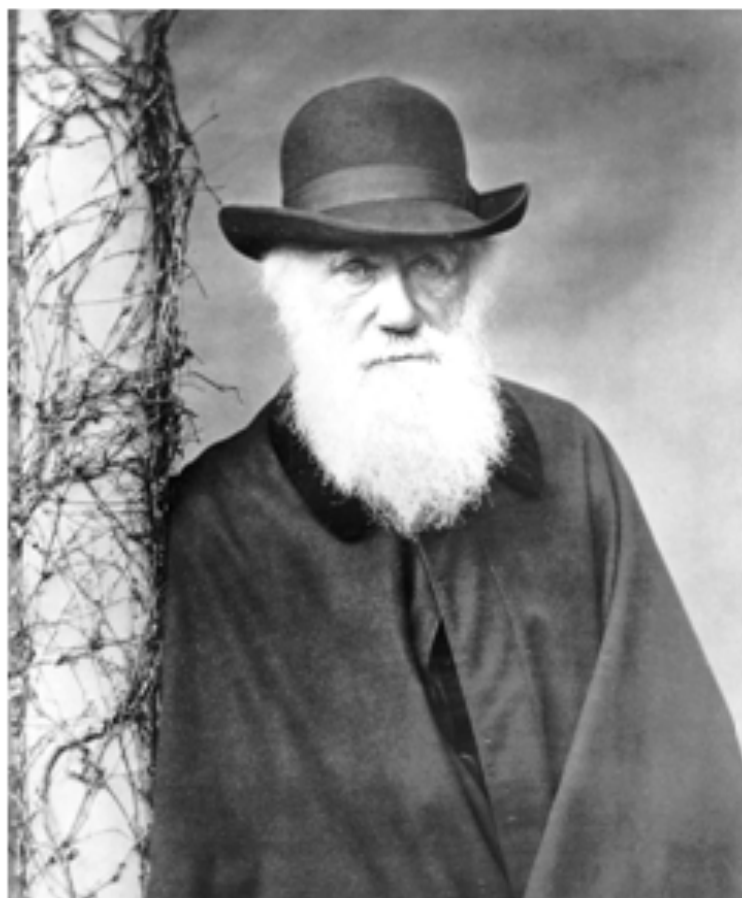
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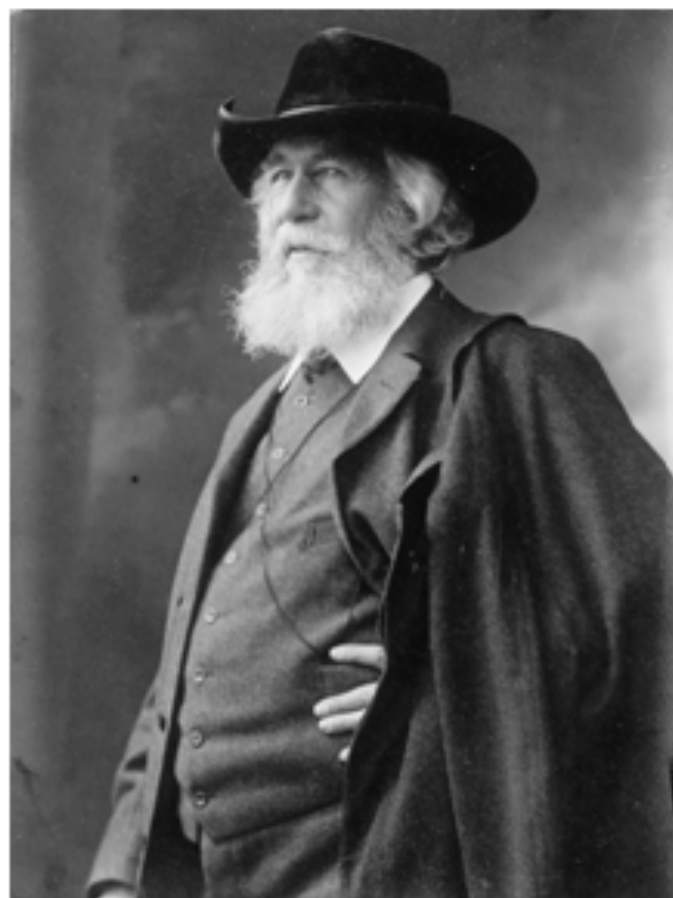
Kurt Hildebrandt (University of Kiel):

“Our modern theory of inheritance has not supported this hypothesis [of descent], but endangers the foundational assumptions of Darwin and Haeckel. Mendelian research rests on the assumption of an unchanging species. Mutation-theory has, indeed, several disadvantages, but does not attempt to explain or demonstrate the origin of a higher species. . . [He argued that] real transmutation theory cuts across, if ever so carefully, the border to metaphysics.”

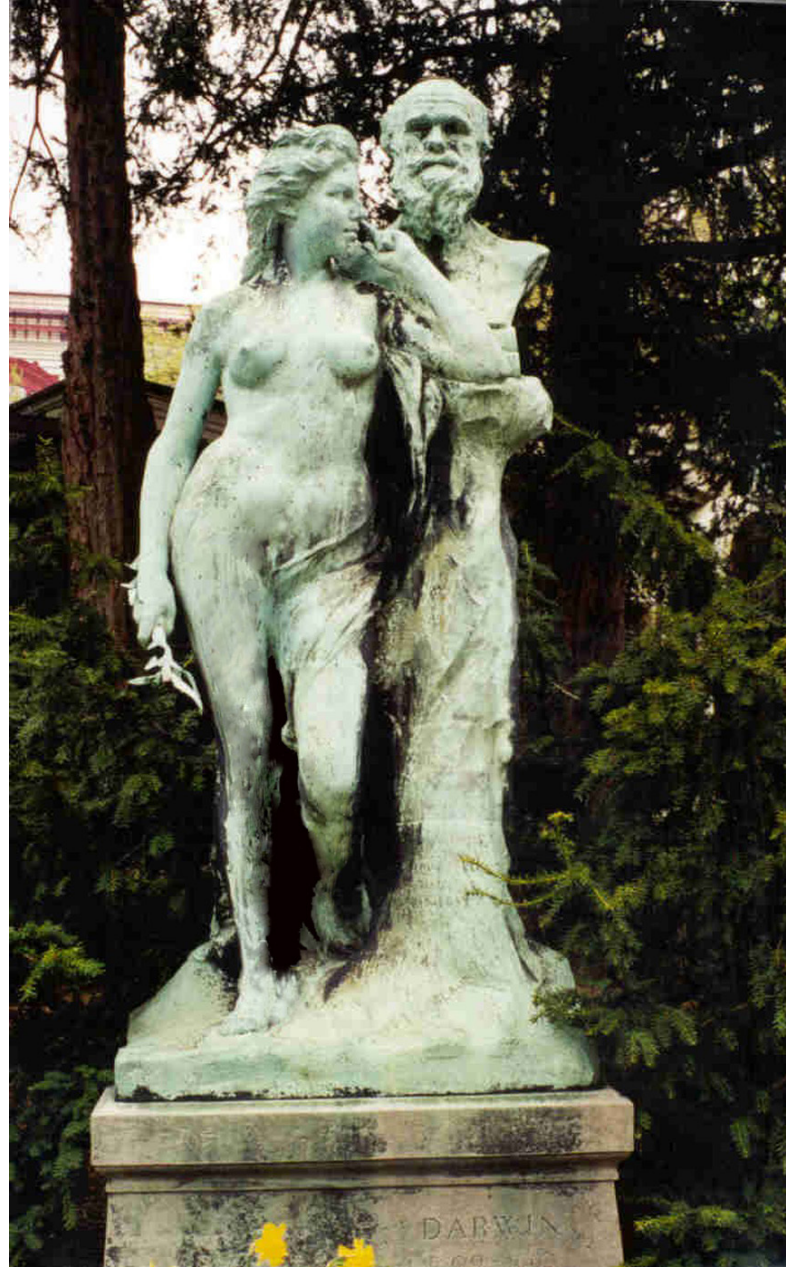
“Die Bedeutung der Abstammungslehre für die Weltanschauung,”
Zeitschrift für die gesamte Wissenschaft, vol. 3, pp. 15-24.



Darwin in 1881



Haeckel in 1898



Nature contemplating the bust of Darwin, Antwerp Zoo