

# Darwinism and Religion

From Scopes to Hitler

## Gallop Poll concerning American's Belief in Evolution, 1982-2014

*Which of the following statements comes closest to your views on the origin and development of human beings?*

1) Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided this process, 2) Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God had no part in this process, 3) God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so

■ % Humans evolved, with God guiding

■ % Humans evolved, but God had no part in process

■ % God created humans in present form



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## Gallop Poll of American Attitudes about Evolution, May 3-7, 2017

Humans evolved, With God guiding	Humans evolved, but God had no part form	God created Humans in present	No Opinion
38 %	19%	38%	5%

## New York Times-CBS Poll, Nov. 2004

	Democrats	Republicans	All
Evolved without God	16%	9%	13%
Evolved but guided by God	28%	23%	27%
Created by God as is	51%	66%	55%
Unsure	5%	2%	5%

# The Religious Views of the Scientific Community

James Leuba, *The Belief in God and Immortality*, 1914-1916

<b>Belief in Personal God</b>	1914
A. All Scientists	41.8%
B. Greater Scientists	31.6%

<b>Belief in Personal God Greater Scientists</b>	1914
A. Physicists	34.8%
B. Biologists	16.9%

## Edward Larson and Larry Witham, 1996-1998

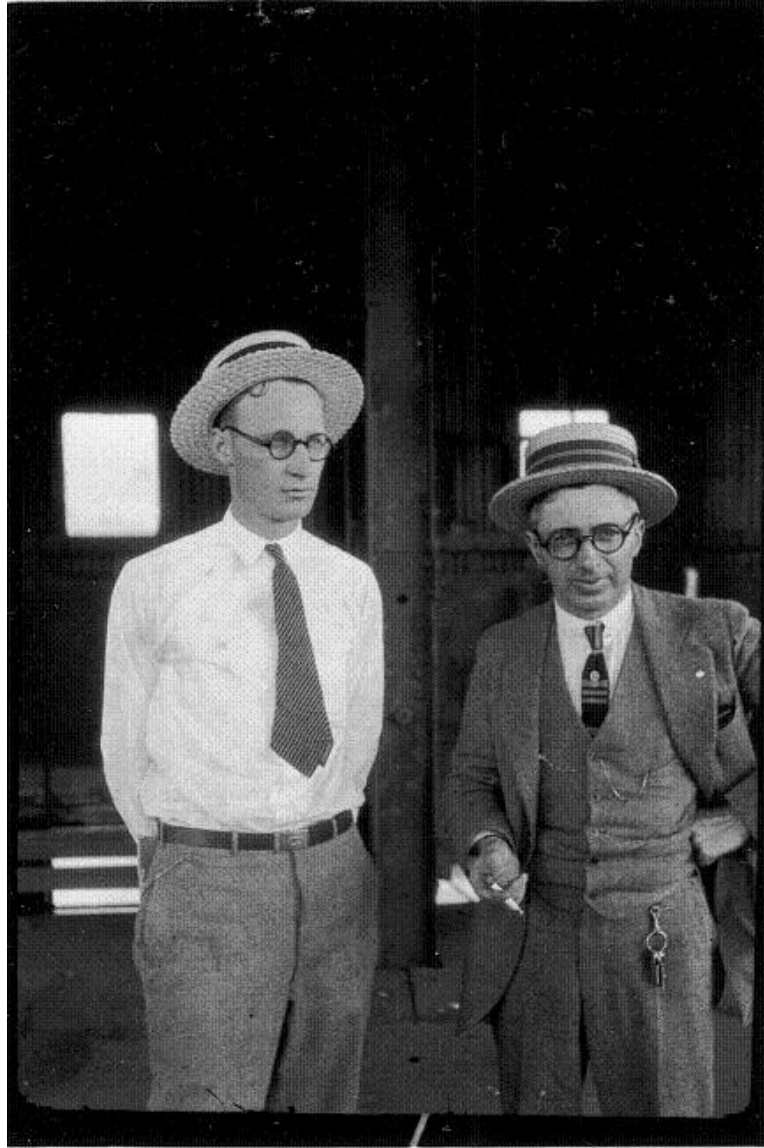
<b>Belief in Personal God</b>	1914	1996-1998
A. All Scientists	41.8%	39.3%
B. Greater Scientists	31.6%	7%

<b>Belief in Personal God Greater Scientists</b>	1914	1996-1998
A. Physicists	34.8%	7.5%
B. Biologists	16.9%	5.5%

# The Scopes Trial

1. In March 1925, Tennessee Legislature passed the Butler Act, law to forbid teaching, not of evolution, but the theory that human beings descended from lower animals.
2. May of 1925, ACLU in New York advertises for anyone willing to challenge the law.
3. May of 1925, town fathers ask John Scopes, football coach in the high school and substitute biology teacher if he would be willing to violate the law.

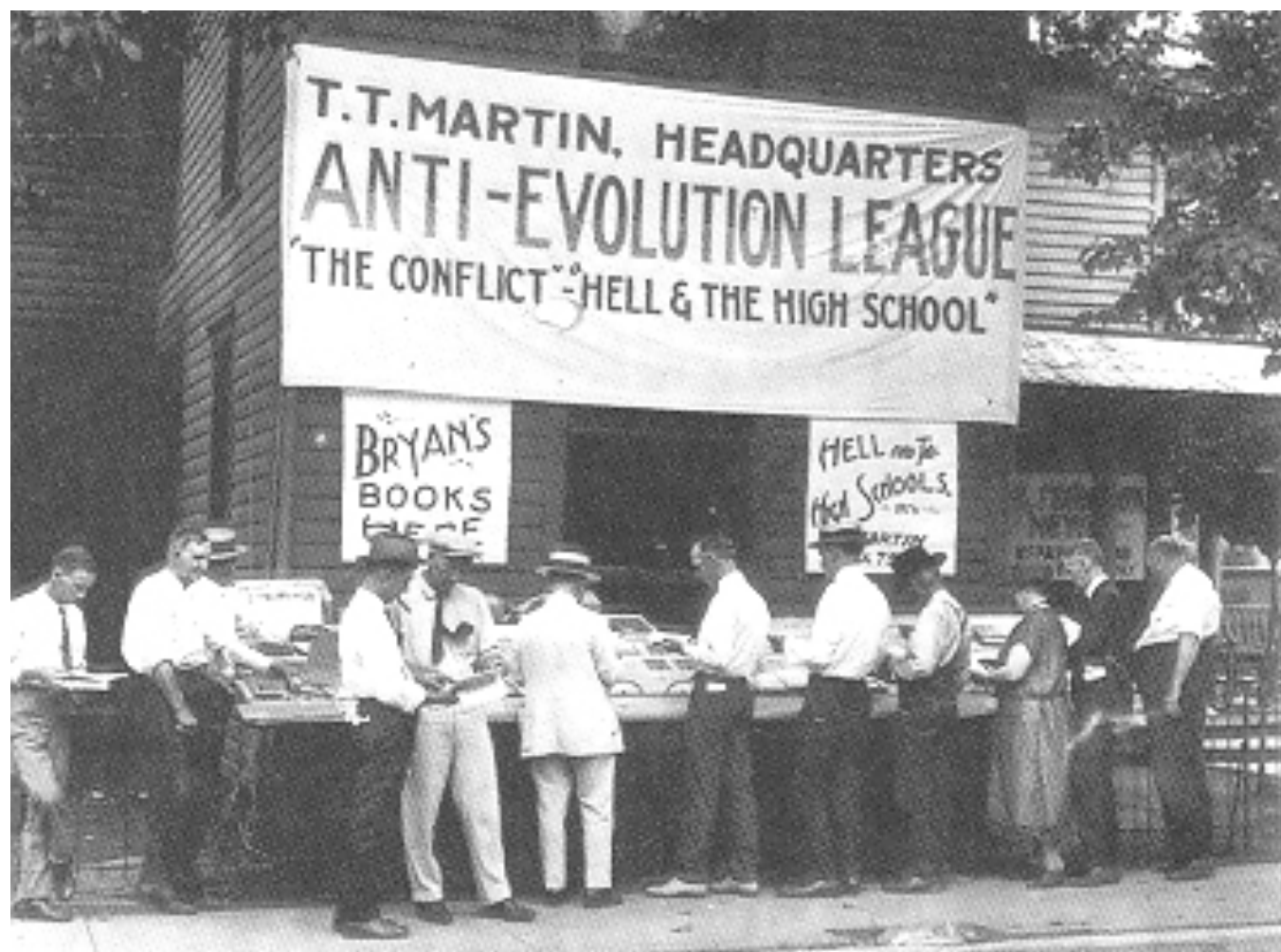




John Scopes and George Rappleyea, manager of the Cumberland Coal and Iron Co. and one of the original organizers of events leading up to the trial. All Scopes had to do was read from the text book *Civic Biology*. He did and was arrested.



Johns Scopes, John Neal, and George Rappleyea



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4. By middle of May, both William Jennings Bryan, one-time congressman and presidential candidate, and Clarence Darrow, perhaps the most famous trial lawyer in the country, agree to participate.



William Jennings Bryan was 65 when he joined the prosecution team in the Scopes trial. Bryan was a leading fundamentalist, traveling widely to warn against "the menace of Darwinism." Bryan ran for President three times on the Democratic ticket (1896, 1900, 1908). Darrow had voted for him. He was appointed Secretary of State in the administration of Woodrow Wilson (1913-15)



Clarence Darrow was 68 when he agreed to act as John Scopes' defense attorney. He had just finished defending Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb (two University of Chicago students) for the murder of Bobby Franks in Chicago.



Nathan Leopold, Clarence Darrow, and Richard Loeb





H. L. Mencken





From left: Defense lawyer Dudley Field Malone; prosecutors Gordon McKenzie, Wallace Haggard, Sue Hicks; and District Attorney General Tom Steward. Seated under the WGN microphone is H.L. Mencken, who covered the trial for the *Baltimore Sun*.



Bryan addresses the court. He died in Dayton five days after the trial ended.



Darrow addressing the jury.



Because of the heat and fear that the floor of the courtroom would collapse, the trial was moved outside.  
Darrow cross-examining Bryan.



John Scopes, seen here during sentencing, was fined \$100 on July 21, 1925. Both Bryan and the ACLU offer to pay it for him.

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5. On May 25, Scopes is indicted by the grand jury.
6. July 10, the trial begins with the selection of the jury. The trial is covered by Chicago's WGN radio and by H.L. Mencken of the Baltimore Sun newspaper.

## John T. Scopes Song

Oh the folks in Tennessee  
Are as faithful as can be,  
And they know the Bible teaches what is right.  
They believe in God above  
And His great undying love  
And they know they are protected by His might.  
Then to Dayton came a man  
With his ideas new and grand  
And he said we came from monkeys long ago.  
But in teaching his belief  
Mr. Scopes found only grief  
For they would not let their old religion go.  
You may find a new belief  
It will only bring you grief  
For a house that's built on sand is sure to fall.

You may find a new belief  
It will only bring you grief  
For a house that's built on sand is sure to fall.  
And wherever you may turn  
There's a lesson you will learn  
That the old religion's better after all.  
Then the folks throughout the land  
Saw his house was built on sand  
And they said, "We will not listen anymore."  
So they told him he was wrong  
And it wasn't very long  
Till he found that he was turned from every door.  
Oh, you must not doubt the word  
That is written by the Lord  
For if you do your house will surely fall.  
And Mr. Scopes will learn  
That wherever he may turn  
That the old religion's better after all.  
You may find a new belief  
It will only bring you grief  
For a house that's built on sand is sure to fall.  
And wherever you may turn  
There's a lesson you will learn  
That the old religion's better after all.





From 1960s, Creation Science began as an avowedly religious movement, claiming the literal interpretation of Genesis and attempting to undermine evolutionary theory, using such evidence as the above. Paluxy river canyon, Texas. Dinosaur and “human” foot prints mixed together.

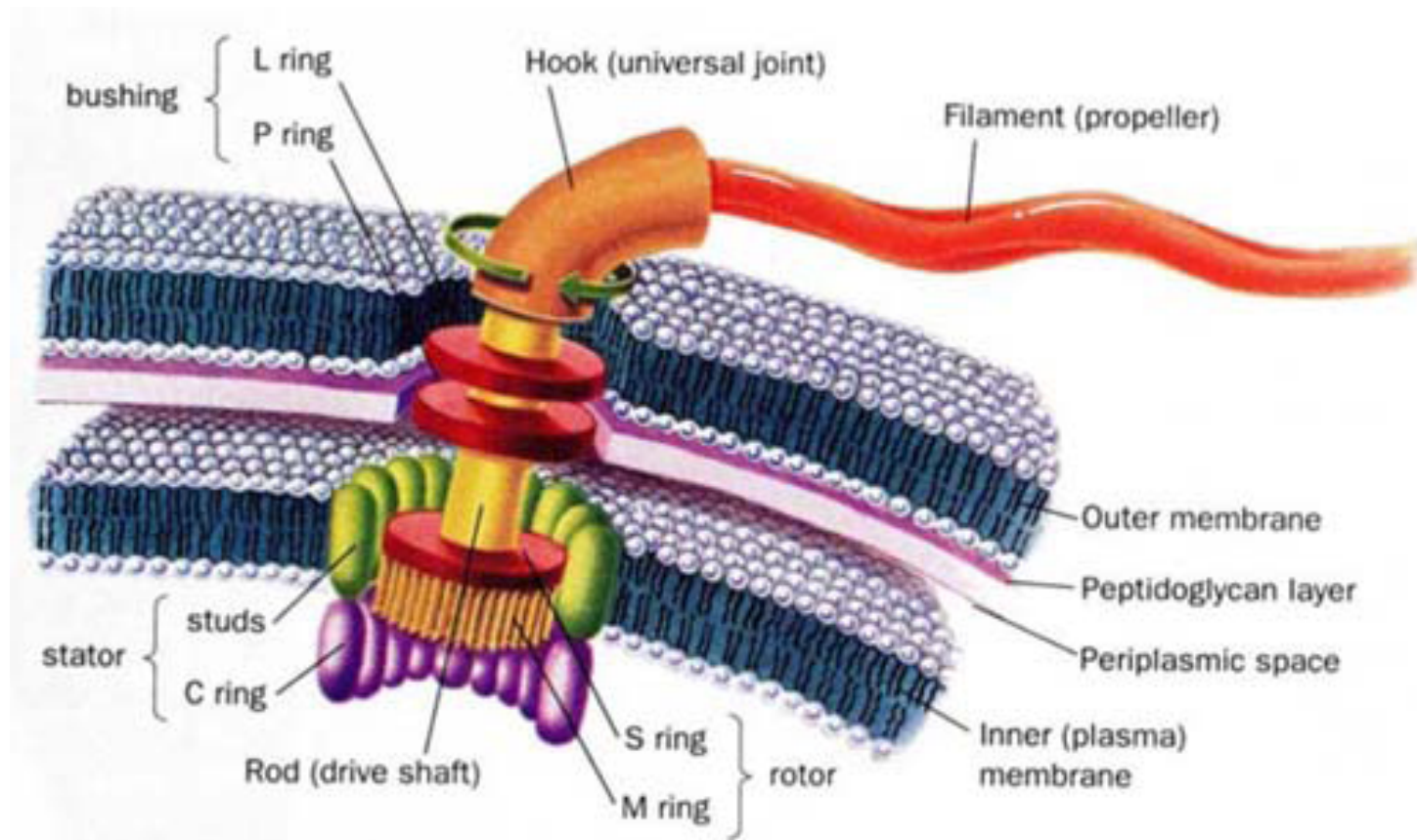


## McLean v. Arkansas Board of Education (1981-1982)

Judge William Overton, The U.S. District Court. The Court decided that "balanced treatment" for creationism and evolution in Arkansas public school science classrooms was unconstitutional, because it violated the "establishment clause" of the First Amendment. The judge ruled that Creation Science was really a religious doctrine in disguise. For something to be a science, as the witnesses testified, it had:

1. To be explicable by reference to natural law
2. To be testable by empirical evidence
3. Its conclusions regarded as revisable, and not the last word
4. It had to be falsifiable.

Stage now set for Intelligent Design



The bacterial flagellum, from Behe's "Irreducible Complexity: Obstacle to Darwinian Evolution"



Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky, open 2007



Diorama at Creation Museum: Eve in the Garden of Paradise, modestly dressed and accompanied by frolicking raptor dinosaurs.





Amish woodworkers, and financed with donations, junk bonds and tax rebates from the state of Kentucky. Total cost \$102 million. Seems an improvement on the original.

## Court Decisions of the Last Thirty Years Regarding the Teaching of Evolution

### Epperson v. Arkansas: U.S. Supreme Court Decision (1968)

The U.S. Supreme Court case which ruled unconstitutional Arkansas's law forbidding the teaching of evolution in state-supported schools.

### Wright v. Houston I.S.D. (1972)

Houston, Texas, students sued to prevent the school district from teaching evolution, believing it infringed their First Amendment rights. The federal courts dismissed the case for failure to state a claim upon which relief could be based.

### Daniel v. Waters (1975)

Biology teachers, parents, and National Association of Biology Teachers sued in 1975 to overturn Tennessee's "balanced treatment" law. The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals held that requiring creationism to be taught and requiring disclaimers about evolution violated the First Amendment. Also included is Steele v. Waters which the Tennessee Supreme Court agreed with the Sixth Circuit.

### Hendren v. Campbell (1977)

A 1977 decision of an Indiana superior court ruling against a textbook produced by the Creation Research Society. In some respects this case resembles a young-earth creationist version of the Kitzmiller case.

### McLean v. Arkansas Board of Education (1981-1982)

The U.S. District Court decision in which "balanced treatment" for creationism and evolution in Arkansas public school science classrooms was ruled unconstitutional.

Selman v. Cobb County School District (1983)

The decision of the district court striking down a Cobb County, Georgia requirement that a sticker with a disclaimer be placed on all textbooks that discuss evolution.

Edwards v. Aguillard: U.S. Supreme Court Decision (1987)

The U.S. Supreme Court decision dealing with creationism in public school science classrooms; the seven to two majority found creationism violated the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment. The dissenting opinion by Justice Antonin Scalia. Amicus briefs by 72 Nobel Prize winning scientists.

Peloza v. Capistrano Unified School District (1994)

California public school teacher John Peloza sued his school district, claiming he should not be required to teach evolution or refrain from teaching about his religious beliefs. The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against him on the substantive portions of his claim.

Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District (2005)

Dover, Pennsylvania case which a judge ruled that intelligent design is creationism, is not science, and does not belong in science classes of public schools. Documents here include the decision of the court and the complete trial transcript.

Edwards v. Aguillard

APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

The Establishment Clause forbids the enactment of any law "respecting an establishment of religion." [3] The Court 583\*583 has applied a **three-pronged test to determine whether legislation comports with the Establishment Clause. First, the legislature must have adopted the law with a secular purpose. Second, the statute's principal or primary effect must be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion. Third, the statute must not result in an excessive entanglement of government with religion.** Lemon v. Kurtzman, 403 U. S. 602, 612-613 (1971). [4] State action violates the Establishment Clause if it fails to satisfy any of these prongs.

...

The "overriding fact" that confronted the Court in Epperson was "that Arkansas' law selects from the body of knowledge a particular segment which it proscribes for the sole reason that it is deemed to conflict with . . . a particular interpretation of the Book of Genesis by a **particular religious group.**" 393 U. S., at 103. Similarly, the Creationism Act is designed either to promote the theory of creation science which embodies a particular religious tenet by requiring that creation science be taught whenever evolution is taught or to prohibit the teaching of a scientific theory disfavored by certain religious sects by forbidding the teaching of evolution when creation science is not also taught.

....



JUSTICE SCALIA, with whom THE CHIEF JUSTICE joins, dissenting.

In sum, even if one concedes, for the sake of argument, that a majority of the Louisiana Legislature voted for the Balanced Treatment Act partly in order to foster (rather [p634] than merely eliminate discrimination against) Christian fundamentalist beliefs, our cases establish that that, alone, would not suffice to invalidate the Act, so long as there was a genuine secular purpose as well. We have, moreover, no adequate basis for disbelieving the secular purpose set forth in the Act itself, or for concluding that it is a sham enacted to conceal the legislators' violation of their oaths of office. I am astonished by the Court's unprecedented readiness to reach such a conclusion, which I can only attribute to an intellectual predisposition created by the facts and the legend of *Scopes v. State*, 154 Tenn. 105, 289 S.W. 363 (1927) -- an instinctive reaction that any governmentally imposed requirements bearing upon the teaching of evolution must be a manifestation of Christian fundamentalist repression. In this case, however, it seems to me the Court's position is the repressive one.

*The people of Louisiana, including those who are Christian fundamentalists, are quite entitled, as a secular matter, to have whatever scientific evidence there may be against evolution presented in their schools, just as Mr. Scopes was entitled to present whatever scientific evidence there was for it.*