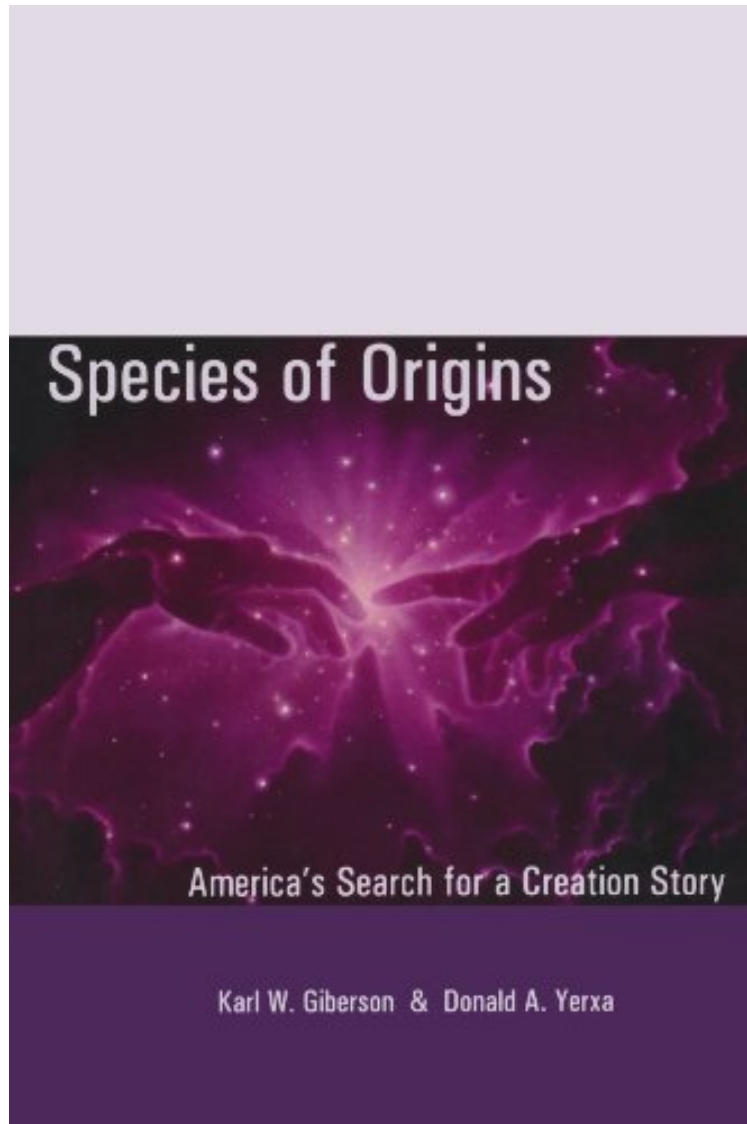


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Species of Origins: America's Search for a Creation Story (American Intellectual Culture)

Karl W. Giberson, Donald A. Yerxa
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Karl W. Giberson, Donald A. Yerxa : Species of Origins: America's Search for a Creation Story (American Intellectual Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Species of Origins: America's Search for a Creation Story (American Intellectual Culture):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy MarcusI got what I expected on time. Couldn't ask for more.5 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Unbiased only up to a pointBy WideAwake InventorThis is a

must-read in its field. The authors thoroughly present each viewpoint as seen by its adherents, making it possible for the reader to imagine what it might be like to know of no alternatives. This includes the simplistic extremes of scientific creationism, in which the earth is created in 6 days with an initial "appearance of history" in an Eden complete with belly buttons and tree rings, and naturalistic materialism, in which miracles, meaning events not merely novel but inexplicable in principle, never occur. And then there is "the muddle in the middle," the attempted compromises that "are, in their simplest form, contradictory." But, nonpolemical intent notwithstanding, in the end the authors, professors of physics and history respectively at conservative Eastern Nazarene College, betray their bias. This occurs first when they "whimsically" adopt "the perspective of traditional religious believers" by applying to popularizers of science the pejorative label "Council of Despair," which "provides us with little reason to believe that the world might have a purpose and no reason to cling to the old-fashioned idea of hope." Readers will have to imagine for themselves the sensible and cheerful people who have no need of that hypotheses and who, absent tangible evidence of a universal "Who" as author of a universal "Why," see such an idea as old-fashioned anthropomorphism. So, while ID proponent William Dembski is quoted as calling naturalism a "disease," "the intellectual pathology of our age," it is for the reader to decide which viewpoint is pathological. The second betrayal of bias is in regard to intelligent design, identified as an old argument which "in the late 1980s and early 1990s ... was revitalized by a cadre of talented advocates" and "a brilliant Berkeley law professor" (Philip Johnson). Some see them as neither talented nor brilliant, since the "intelligence" they so casually postulate could not credibly have been physical (having neither means of micro-manipulation of DNA nor a site for its own intelligence), leaving only the option of the so-called supernatural. Which surely appeals to those who believe in "purpose" given to, rather than arising within, the individual, but which others see as mere wish fulfillment. On which psychological grounds rests, in the end, this entire controversy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Overview of the Creation/Naturalism Debate By Peter I wasn't expecting much from this little-known book, but I was pleasantly surprised. It is articulately written, and bubbles with an eagerness about its topic. Whether you know nothing about the origins debate in the United States, or have done much research already, this book will surely be one to hang onto. The conflicting opinions are laid out in a very easy-to-read fashion without leaving off the details, which provides a fresh look into this often murky clash. The authors have also placed at the end of each chapter a swath of resources that allow an interested reader to investigate further. The only complaint I have about the book is that in the notes at the end of the chapter, the authors often provide paragraphs of useful information. I found myself flipping back and forth between the notes and various spots in the chapter after I had finished reading it, which got a little tedious. I have no clue why they didn't move the info from the notes into the body of the chapter.

In *Species of Origins*, Karl W. Giberson and Donald A. Yerxa examine America's controversial conversation about creation and evolution. While noting that part of the discord stems from the growing cultural and religious diversity of the United States, they argue powerfully that the real issue is the headlong confrontation between two seemingly incompatible worldviews upon which millions of Americans rely: modern naturalistic science and traditional Judeo-Christian religions.

The single most comprehensive examination of the contemporary debate between religion and science about the origins of life and of the universe. Highly recommended. (CHOICE) All too often, writings on creation and evolution have been marred by special pleading, ignorance, or a lack of civility. Giberson (a scientist) and Yerxa (a historian) have collaborated to produce the most accessible, accurate, and even-handed introduction to the subject that I have read in a long time. (Ronald L. Numbers, author of *The Creationists and Darwinism Comes to America*) This book is the most comprehensive analytical survey of the various positions with respect to the evolution-creation issue known to me. It is lucidly written, well balanced, sociologically informed, and humanely aimed at promoting empathetic understanding of the clashing world views of a deeply divided American public. (John C. Greene, professor of English, University of Louisiana, Lafayette) An excellent survey of modern religious and anti-religious debates on the origins of the universe. It can be highly commended as providing a balanced, readable and comprehensive account of the debate and its leading proponents. (Keith Ward) Giberson and Yerxa do an excellent job of reporting on the ongoing debate, and they are admirably fair to all parties. The conversation (or the shouting match) is over origins is not likely to disappear in the near future, and anyone interested in the relation between science and society cannot afford to miss this book. It is not only the best-written and most perceptive of the current accounts available, it would also make an ideal textbook for a course on science and religion or a course in intellectual history. (William R. Shea Archives Internationales D'histoire Des Sciences) Yerxa and Giberson are to be commended on their superb and highly readable accounts of modern American debates over creation. An essential resource for anyone wanting to understand what is at stake, and how the various options shape up. (Alister McGrath, professor of Historical Theology, Oxford University) A refreshing book that transcends the stereotypes and caricatures so common to the controversy over biological origins. If you really want to understand America's search for a creation story, read Giberson and Yerxa. (William A. Dembski, author of *No Free Lunch: Why Specified Complexity Cannot Be Purchased without*

Intelligence)A simply invaluable primer on the subject that should be made compulsory reading for all who have ever taught on science and religion. I can think of no better place to start into the debate about originscreationism or evolutionthan with this book. (Michael Ruse, Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy, Florida State University Research News)Careful and balanced discussion of the various modes of thought concerning creation. (Reports Of The National Center For Science Education)Species of Origins provides Christian students with a portal into the origins debate that swirls about them in college and church discussion groups. Issues are presented from a perspective that evangelical Protestants can appreciate. By not taking a stand in the end, the book leaves students free to adopt their own reconciliation of science with religion in the light of greater understanding of the alternatives. (Books and Culture)Karl Giberson and Donald Yerxa provide a thorough and balanced history of creation/evolution debate in America. Anyone interested in understanding the history and current status of the creation/evolution debate in America will find Species of Origins an invaluable addition to their library. (Singing News)Provides a sensible overview of the debate. (WORLD)In an engaging and accessible manner Giberson and Yerxa illuminate the standard positions and prominent figures in the debates surrounding evolution and creationism.Though the path forward may be muddied, understanding how we got to this position is invaluable and this book is an asset to this endeavor. (History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences)About the AuthorKarl W. Giberson is professor of physics at Eastern Nazarene College. Donald A. Yerxa is professor of history at Eastern Nazarene College.