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mini review
by Gert Korthof

Michael Ruse (2005) *The Evolution-Creation Struggle*.

"Why do so many people continue to find evolutionary thinking offensive and threatening? Why is it that we have today two violently opposing camps?" How can a theory that seems to one group of people so well confirmed be so unacceptable to another group of people? This is not history just for history's sake. It has a purpose: to show where we are today and why."

"In fact, so strong is my conviction that the evolutionists are right and the creationists are wrong about the origins of life's diversity that I am going to take that as given in this discussion."

However, "at the most basic level, the clash between evolutionists and creationists is a clash between two rival metaphysical world pictures."

Ruse makes an important distinction between **evolution** and **evolutionism**.

Evolution is a scientific theory for professional scientists. *Evolutionism* is a 'secular religion' aimed at the public. Ruse defines 'religion' as a world picture, providing origins, a place for humans, a guide to action, and a meaning to life.

Evolutionism offered its own world picture, its own story of origins and a special place for humans in the scheme of things. In that sense creationism and evolutionism are competitors for the best worldview. The worldpicture is metaphysical because it defines what is real and unreal. In *Evolutionism* only nature is real and the supernatural is unreal; in *Creationism* the supernatural is real. Ruse: "I do not see creationism vanishing any time soon".

Reviews

- An informative review of the book by Sahotra Sarkar appeared in [Science](#), 22 July 2005.
- Another review appeared in [NewScientist](#) 30 Jul 2005 by Karen Armstrong
- a favourable review appeared in [Nature](#) 6 Oct 2005.
- In the Nov-Dec 2005 issue of *American Scientist* George E. Webb wrote a review: [Evolution of a Controversy](#).

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