

One Blood: The Biblical Answer to Racism

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Chapter 9 - Darwin's Body Snatchers

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A gruesome trade in 'missing link' specimens began with early evolutionary/racist ideas. But this trade really 'took off' with the advent of Darwinism.¹

There is documented evidence that the remains of perhaps 10,000 of Australia's Aboriginal people were shipped to British museums in a frenzied attempt to prove the widespread belief that they were the 'missing link.'² A major item in a leading Australian weekly, *The Bulletin*, revealed other shocking new facts. Some of the points covered in the article, written by Australian journalist David Monaghan, make up much of this chapter.

Evolutionists in the United States were also strongly involved in this flourishing 'industry' of gathering specimens of subhumans. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington holds the remains of 15,000 individuals of various races. Along with museum curators from around the world, Monaghan says, some of the top names in British science were involved in this large-scale grave-robbing trade. These included anatomist Sir Richard Owen, anthropologist Sir Arthur Keith and Charles Darwin himself. Darwin wrote asking for Tasmanian skulls when only four of the island's Aborigines were left alive, provided his request would not 'upset' their feelings. Museums were not only interested in bones, but in fresh skins as well. These would provide interesting evolutionary displays when stuffed.³

Pickled Aboriginal brains were also in demand to try to prove that they were inferior to those of whites. It was Darwin, after all, who wrote that the civilized races would inevitably wipe out such lesser-evolved 'savage' ones.

Good prices were being offered for such specimens. There is no doubt from written evidence that many of the 'fresh' specimens were obtained by simply going out and killing the Aboriginal people. The way in which the requests for specimens were announced was often a poorly disguised invitation to do just that. A deathbed memoir from Korah Wills, who became mayor of Bowen, Queensland, in 1866,⁴ graphically describes how he killed and dismembered a local tribesman in 1865 to provide a scientific specimen.⁵

Edward Ramsay, curator of the Australian Museum in Sydney for 20 years starting in 1874, was particularly heavily involved. He published a museum booklet, which appeared to include Aborigines under the designation of 'Australian animals.' It also gave instructions not only on how to rob graves, but also on how to plug up bullet wounds in freshly killed 'specimens.' Many freelance collectors worked under his guidance. Four weeks after he had requested skulls of Bungee (Russell River) blacks, a keen young science student sent him two, announcing that they, the last of their tribe, had just been shot.⁶ In the 1880s, Ramsay complained that laws recently passed in Queensland to stop Aborigines being slaughtered were affecting his supply.



Angel of Black Death

A German evolutionist, Amalie Dietrich (nicknamed the 'Angel of Black Death') came to Australia asking station ('ranch') owners for Aborigines to be shot for specimens, particularly skin for stuffing and mounting for her museum employers.⁷ Although evicted from at least one property, she shortly returned home with her specimens.

A New South Wales missionary was a horrified witness to the slaughter by mounted police of a group of dozens of Aboriginal men, women and children.⁸ Forty-five heads were then boiled down and the 10 best skulls were packed off for overseas.

Darwinist views about the racial inferiority of Aborigines (backed up by biased distortions of the evidence since shown to be false) drastically influenced their treatment. In 1908 an inspector from the Department of Aborigines in the West Kimberley region wrote that he was glad to have received an order to transport all half-castes away from their tribe to the mission. He said it was 'the duty of the State' to give these children (who, by evolutionary reasoning, were going to be intellectually superior) a 'chance to lead a better life than their mothers.' He wrote, 'I would not hesitate for one moment to separate a half-caste from an Aboriginal mother, no matter how frantic her momentary grief.'⁹ Such separation policies continued until the 1960s.

The demand has not entirely abated. Aboriginal bones have still been sought by major institutions in quite modern times.

Men of one blood

And where was the Church in all this? It was much more influential back then, but it had already begun to be influenced itself by the 'new thinking' about origins and was not prepared to take a stand on creation issues. However, the apostle Paul's ringing declaration, backed up by the facts of human history revealed in Genesis, was that God had '**made all men of one blood**' ([Acts 17:26](#)). This is now reinforced by modern biology as well.

The issue of these pilfered remains is becoming politically sensitive in Australia. There is now much pressure from Aboriginal leaders and others for the remains to be returned.

Aboriginal rage at this desecration of their ancestors would also be appropriately directed at the anti-biblical thought patterns of evolution responsible for this outrage.

This phenomenon of mild-mannered museum officials, respected scientists and mayors, for example, casually going about their daily respectable lives while they were involved in monstrous acts justified by a scientific doctrine, was unparalleled in history to that point.

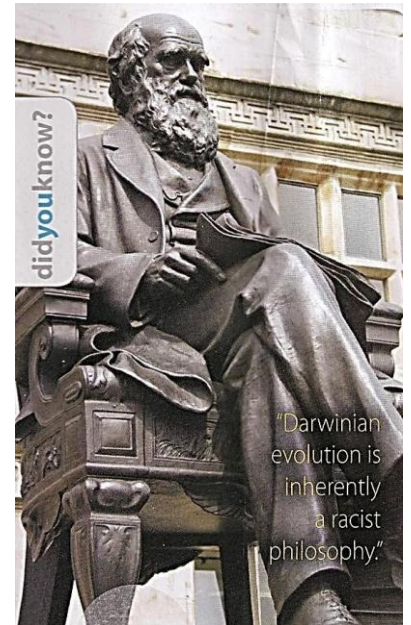
A similar horror reappeared in the 1930s, when the blatantly evolutionary doctrines of Nazism allowed the consciences of hundreds of doctors, scientists, psychiatrists and other officials to be seared as they set up the machinery to help nature eliminate the unfit. First, it was the genetically 'inferior'—the

mentally and physically disabled. Next, gypsies, Jews and others. The rest of the story is well known.

Today, evolutionary thinking enables ordinary, respectable professionals, otherwise dedicated to the saving of life, to justify their involvement in the slaughter of millions of unborn human beings, who, like the Aborigines of earlier Darwinian thinking, are also deemed 'not yet fully human.'

References and notes

1. Originally published in [Creation](#) 14(2):16–18, March–May 1992.
2. Darwin's Body Snatchers, [Creation](#) 12(3):21, June–August 1990.
3. David Monaghan, The Body-Snatchers, *The Bulletin*, 12 November 1991, p. 30–38. (The article states that journalist Monaghan spent 18 months researching this subject in London, culminating in a television documentary called *Darwin's Body-Snatchers*, which was aired in Britain on 8 October 1990.)
4. According to the records of the Bowen Shire Council.
5. Monaghan, The Body-Snatchers, p. 33. In this article, Monaghan quotes two long paragraphs from Korah Will's five-page manuscript.
6. Ibid., p. 34. Monaghan identifies the student as W.S. Day.
7. Ibid., p. 33. Monaghan is here quoting Dr Rae Sumner, a lecturer at the Queensland Institute of Technology's School of Language and Literacy Education.
8. Ibid., p. 34. Monaghan identifies the missionary as Lancelot Threlkeld.
9. Ibid., p. 38.



Darwin—a racist!

Did you know that evolutionists rarely discuss Charles Darwin's racist ideas?

Darwin stated that certain races were more primitive or "apelike" than others. This "scientific" belief has led to many racist attitudes toward certain people groups over the years.

It has been said that Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species* (1859) is second only to the Bible in influencing the way people think about life. But do you know the full title of Darwin's book? It's *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* (emphasis ours). Darwin later expanded on his "races" ideas in the book *The Descent of Man*.

Most people aren't aware that evolution, as Dr. Charles Ware and I share in our new book *Darwin's*

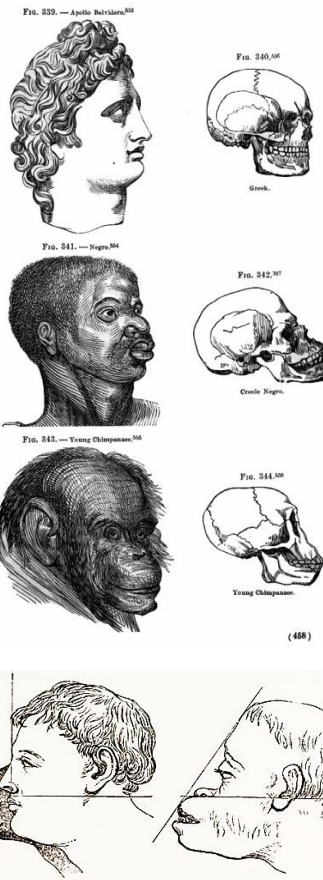
Plantation, is inherently a racist philosophy. Most evolutionists would like to hide this fact, but it's true nonetheless.

Still, there are some evolutionists who admit to their Darwinian-based beliefs about the races. In a book by a Canadian author entitled *Race, Evolution and Behavior*, this professor actually ranks the different people groups along an evolutionary scale, with blacks at the bottom and Asians at the top.

It is only the Bible that teaches the truth about humans: we are all one race, for we are all descendants of Adam (Acts 17:26 and Genesis 1).

—Ken Ham, AiG-U.S. president

Adapted from the December 11, 2007 broadcast of the *Answers ... with Ken Ham* radio program. For a listing of the 900 U.S. stations that carry the program, visit www.answersingenesis.org/radiolog



There were once many strange beliefs out there about the superiority of caucasians and the inferiority of negroids and aborigines!

The Caucasian, or Mediterranean man (*Homo Mediterraneus*), has from time immemorial been placed as the head of all races of men, as the most highly developed and perfect.

Ernst Haeckel - *The History of Creation* v.2 (1892) p.429



At the lowest stage of human mental development are the Australians, some tribes of the Polynesians, and the Bushmen, Hottentots, and some of the Negro tribes.

Ernst Haeckel
The History of Creation v.2 (1892) pp.489-490

This is what the sign at the Ota Benga exhibit stated:

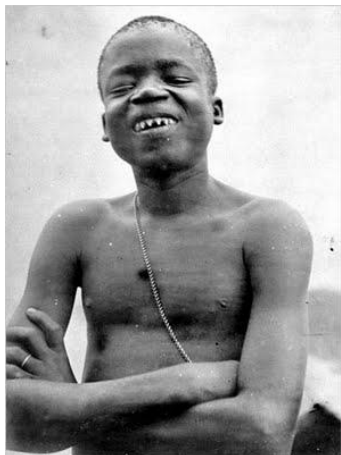
The African Pigmy, "Ota Benga"

Age, 23 years.

Height, 4 feet 11 inches.

Weight, 103 pounds.

Brought from the Kasai River, Congo Free State, South Central Africa, by Dr. Samuel P. Verner. Exhibited each afternoon during September.



This is Ota Benga, a Pygmy, at the Bronx Zoo in 1906.

He was exhibited in a monkey cage with an orangutan. Pygmies were thought to be close to monkeys in the evolutionary chain.

