

# Hitler's Evolutionary Faith

by Paul G. Humber

*The two words in the title were directed toward me by an evolutionist with whom I had been corresponding for a period of about three months. My final letter to him, printed below, was sandwiched between his penultimate "moron" post and his final "liar" post. Here's my letter.*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

When I wrote that "I don't remember using language that put you down," I was referring to the "you moron" you applied to me. Then you said, "Don't get all self-righteous on me, Paul. You don't think equating me and other 'evolutionists' with Hitler is a 'put down'...?"

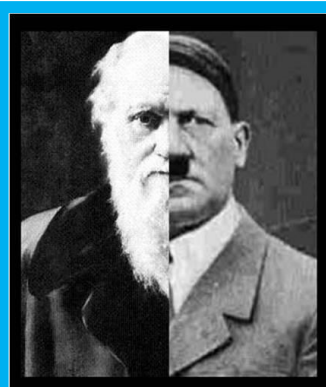
Carl Sagan used evolutionary thinking to justify the slaughter of the unborn. According to him, humans go through an evolutionary unfolding during development in the womb. The face of the child, for example, becomes "reptilian ... [then] somewhat piglike." Eventually, it "resembles a primate's but is still not quite human" (*Parade Magazine*, 4/22/90, p. A8).

All of this, of course, is nonsense, but it affects gullible people. Six million is the number linked with Hitler, but close to ten times that number (close to 60,000,000) babies have been slaughtered in American abortuaries since 1973! Yes, Carl Sagan and convoluted evolution **are** partly to blame, and the entrance of evolutionary thinking into Germany via Ernst Haeckel had an impact on Germans, including Hitler. Ideas have consequences, and faulty "science" has fostered evil.

By way of review, the original concern I had with your article centered upon your statement, "The ICR claims that 'Hitler used the German word for evolution (Entwicklung) over and over again in his book,' " and then you referenced my article. You add, "Like so many of ICR's claims, this one simply is not true — a quick scan of several online English translations of *Mein Kampf* shows only **one** use of the word 'evolution,' in a context which does not refer at all to biological evolution ... " You still hold to this view, even though it is patently false. I condense my arguments for clarity.



## Development / evolution



First, when I traced the word "development" in Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, there were 159 hits (consistent with my "over and over again" statement to which you objected)! I am confident that the German word behind these instances is, in many if not most cases, *Entwicklung* (i.e., evolution). I rather suspect that the translators chose "development" rather than "evolution" because they sought to disconnect Hitler from any association with the widely revered doctrine of evolution. *Entwicklung* appears many more times than once, and your statement, not mine, is false.

You have not yielded to the above point because you think all 159 hits are irrelevant to the subject of "biological evolution." It is my purpose in this paragraph to show that Hitler **was** dealing with biological evolution. The following phrases or terms, all from Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, do reveal an evolutionary framework of thinking:

"Nature," "preserving," "breeding," "species," "stronger must dominate," "higher development," "higher breeding," "lower colored peoples," "struggle," "existence," "preservation of the species," "laws of development," "the natural law of all development," "victory of the stronger," "preservation," "higher development of living creatures," "life struggle," "species," "struggle for existence," "scientific knowledge," "mankind's struggle for existence," and "ruthless application of Nature's stern and rigid laws."

Of course, Hitler was not pretending to be a biology teacher, but he did see himself as furthering (laudably, in his mind) evolution's supposedly relentless path of weeding out the weak and strengthening the fit. (Before going on to my next point, I have provided again, at the end of this letter, the contexts of all of the quotations cited above. See end

note #1.)

## Preaching to the cadets

As I informed you earlier, it is not only in *Mein Kampf* that this kind of language was used by Hitler. I repeat again what he said to officer cadets on June 22, 1944:

“Nature is always teaching us ... that she is governed by the principle of selection: that victory is to the strong and the weak must go to the wall. She teaches us that what may seem cruel to us, because it affects us personally or because we have been brought up in ignorance of her laws, is nevertheless often essential if a higher way of life is to be attained. Nature ... knows nothing of the notion of humanitarianism which signifies that the weak must at all costs be surrounded and preserved even at the expense of the strong.

“Nature does not see in weakness any extenuating reasons ... on the contrary, weakness calls for condemnation ... War is therefore the unalterable law of the whole of life — the prerequisite for the natural selection of the strong and the precedent for the elimination of the weak. What seems cruel to us is from Nature’s point of view entirely obvious. A people that cannot assert itself must disappear and another must take its place. All creation is subject to this law; no one can avoid it ... Since life on earth began, struggle has been the very essence of existence ...” (If you would like the reference, see note #2.)



Another point of yours is that Hitler’s abuse of evolutionary theory should not disqualify the theory itself (in your words, “Is it your opinion that Hitler’s misuse of evolutionary theory was somehow evolutionary theory’s fault, and therefore evolutionary theory is evil?”). You say that Hitler also used God-words in *Mein Kampf*. Is it inconsistent for me to cast aspersions on evolutionary theory because of Hitler’s evolution-words while not doing the same against Christianity because of Hitler’s God-words?

## A coddled theory

First, it is not my point that Hitler’s example disproves evolution. Evolution is false for many reasons, and none of them need be related to Hitler. It **is** my point that mankind has suffered greatly because the educationally elite have coddled this nonsensical and deadly theory. Hitler was deadly, and abortion is deadly.

Second, many **have** tried to condemn Christianity because of misapplications by supposed adherents. Hitler’s references in *Mein Kampf* to God or the Almighty probably were more political than heartfelt, for the Scriptures are replete with admonitions to care for the weak and sickly. Evolutionary theory, however, is amoral, and Hitler promoted survival of the fittest (“the weak must go to the wall”) — not loving neighbors and being his brother’s keeper.

The Bible, in both testaments, makes it very clear that we all came from one set of parents. There is only one race, the human one. We are all sons and daughters of Adam and Eve. Cain slew his brother not because he was of a different race but because of hatred in his heart. Hitler was a sinful egomaniac. He made an idol of himself and the Nazi State.

He may have used God-words, but applying evolutionary truth as he saw it was closer to his heart. Sadly, many Germans were duped by his convoluted views, and these views were buttressed by Darwin’s (via Haeckel) racist nonsense. Moreover, the Germans were not alone; many Americans, too, were and are duped by the same nonsense.

You wrote, “Now please tell me why Herr Hitler keeps talking about this ‘Almighty God’ in *Mein Kampf*.” In addition to what I’ve already written, I reiterate points previously made. The phrase “Almighty God” occurs three times. The name “Jesus” never appears. The word “Bible,” never appears. The title “Messiah” never appears, and there is no occurrence of the name “Jehovah.”

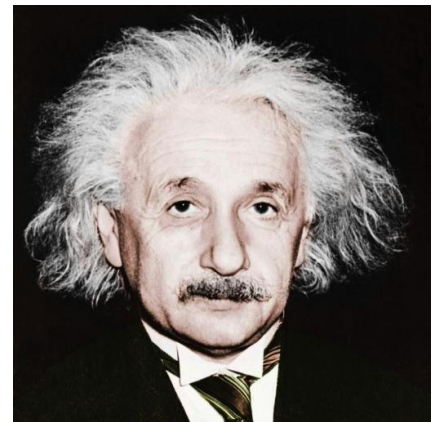
## Response of true Christians

I wrote to you that just as you would want to say that Hitler’s concept of evolution was perverse, so it must be affirmed

that Hitler's concept of Christianity was perverse. There is a difference, however, in the response of true Christians to Hitler's perversion of Christianity, and the response of evolutionary scientists to Hitler's attempt to force his version of evolution down the throats of Europeans. Here again are Einstein's words:

"Being a lover of freedom, when the (Nazi) revolution came, I looked to the universities to defend it, knowing that they had always boasted of their devotion to the cause of truth; but no, the universities were immediately silenced. Then I looked to the great editors of the newspapers, whose flaming editorials in days gone by had proclaimed their love of freedom; but they, like the universities, were silenced in a few short weeks ...

"Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing the truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration for it because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual and moral freedom. I am forced to confess that what I once despised I now praise unreservedly." (See end note #3.)



You have not commented to me about this assessment by Einstein. Were there zealous evolutionists who were sent to concentration camps for opposing Hitler? Roland H. Bainton wrote,

"Some four thousand Protestant ministers, led by Karl Barth and Hans Asmussen, formed the Confessing Church, which at Barmen in 1934 declared that no human Fuhrer could stand above the Word of God. The Confessing Church lost its properties, its seminary was suppressed, its journals were prohibited, and when war came the members of its clergy of military age and not in prison were assigned to positions of greatest danger, while the older leaders were sent to concentration camps. Among them was Martin Niemoller, a Lutheran pastor who after more than half a year in solitary confinement was brought to trial under Hitler's law against 'treacherous attacks upon state and party.' His refusal to capitulate and his persistent resistance to Nazism made him the symbolic figure of the Protestant opposition until the downfall of the Nazis" (Coch-rane, end note #3).

## Love thy neighbor

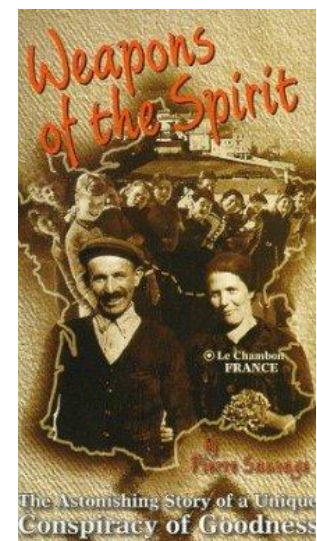
You have not commented on the memorandum submitted to Hitler on June 4, 1936. The German Evangelical Church questioned whether the Chancellor was trying "to dechristianize the German people." It continues, "When, within the compass of the National Socialist view of life, an anti-Semitism is forced on the Christian that binds him to hatred of the Jew, the Christian injunction to love one's neighbor still stands, for him, opposed to it."

I ask you again, did you see "Weapons of the Spirit" shown on PBS some time ago? It recounted the fact that 5,000 Protestants of Le Chambon, France, rescued 5,000 Jews because they knew they were to love their neighbors. Another more recent PBS documentary featured Dietrich Bonhoeffer's opposition to Hitler.

The New York Times reported the death of Victor Kugler in 1981 and credited him as the one who "hid Anne Frank" in Holland. The article describes him as a "Christian." Corrie ten Boom, her sister, brother, and father, all also of Holland and sincere Christians, were imprisoned (some died) in Ravensbruck because they, too, were shielding Jews from Nazi persecution. They did not believe, with Hitler, that war was "the unalterable law of the whole of life — the prerequisite for the natural selection of the strong and the precedent for the elimination of the weak."

## Christian compassion

As I wrote previously, there were Christians in Poland whose hearts went out to Jews. Nechama Tec, a professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut, herself a beneficiary for three years of Christian compassion in Poland, has



written a book, "When Light Pierced the Darkness." Her thesis is that religion played a very important role in motivating Christians to compassion for the Jews.

You did not respond to another question. Were you aware that Jews had established a foundation for "Righteous Christians," headed by Rabbi Harold Schulweis? It was/is called the Foundation to Sustain the Righteous Christians. Israel apparently had 31 persons who received pensions from the National Insurance Foundation. It also allowed Rose Warmer to distribute New Testaments to schools nationally because she "voluntarily went to the infamous Auschwitz death camp during World War II."

Returning to the "self-righteous" charge, which of the two of us denies sin in his life? For my part, my only hope is in the perfect righteousness of the Savior, Creator Christ. I reflect, also, with hope on the renewed beauty of people like those of Le Chambon who reached out in love to oppressed Jews because they wanted to obey Jesus.

May the same God who gave grace to the people of Le Chambon continue to touch your life with gladness and love.

Paul

## Epilogue

*A few days before sending the above letter, I received the following from the evolutionist: "I don't blame you for not wanting to discuss the matter any further. It seems to be a common creationist tactic to 'whine and run' whenever they are getting their clock cleaned." (I had complained about his calling me a "moron" and suggested we resume when he decided to get more civil.)*

*Following the most recent letter (reproduced above), however, this same evolutionist wrote, "Don't write to me any more, liar." I must confess that I was somewhat relieved to read those words. We do have an obligation to give an answer to anyone who asks a reason for our hope with gentleness and respect (1 Pet.3:15), but it's also nice to be able to move on to other things for the Lord.*

## End Notes

1. Here are Hitler's words and phrases in context (emphasis added):

"Just as **Nature** does not concentrate her greatest attention in **preserving** what exists, but in **breeding** offspring to carry on the **species**, likewise, in human life, it is less important artificially to alleviate existing evil, which, in view of human nature, is ninety-nine per cent impossible, than to ensure from the start healthier channels for a future development."

"The precondition for this does not lie in associating superior and inferior, but in the total victory of the former. The **stronger must dominate** and not blend with the weaker, thus sacrificing his own greatness. Only the born weakling can view this as cruel, but he after all is only a weak and limited man; for if this law did not prevail, any conceivable higher development (Hoherentwicklung) of organic living beings would be unthinkable."

"If the process were different, all further and **higher development** would cease and the opposite would occur. For, since the inferior always predominates numerically over the best, if both had the same possibility of preserving life and propagating, the inferior would multiply so much more rapidly that in the end the best would inevitably be driven into the background, unless a correction of this state of affairs were undertaken. Nature does just this by subjecting the weaker part to such severe living conditions that by them alone the number is limited, and by not permitting the remainder to increase promiscuously, but making a new and ruthless choice according to strength and health. No more than Nature desires the mating of weaker with stronger individuals, even less does she desire the blending of a higher with a lower race, since, if she did, her whole work of **higher breeding**, over perhaps hundreds of thousands of years, might be ruined with one blow."

"Historical experience offers countless proofs of this. It shows with terrifying clarity that in every mingling of Aryan blood with that of lower peoples the result was the end of the cultured people. North America, whose population consists in by far the largest part of Germanic elements who mixed but little with the **lower colored peoples**, shows a different humanity and culture from Central and South America, where the predominantly Latin immigrants often mixed with the aborigines on a large scale. By this one example, we can clearly and distinctly recognize the effect of racial mixture. The Germanic inhabitant of the American continent, who has remained racially pure and unmixed, rose to be master of the continent; he will remain the master as long as he does not fall a victim to defilement of the blood. The result of all racial crossing is therefore in brief always the following: To bring about such a development is, then, nothing else but to sin against the will of the eternal creator. And as a sin this act is rewarded. When man attempts to rebel against the iron logic of Nature, he comes into **struggle** with the principles to which he himself owes his **existence** as a man. And this attack I must lead to his own doom. Here, of course, we encounter the objection of the modern pacifist, as truly Jewish in its effrontery as it is stupid! 'Man's role is to overcome Nature!' "

"Here the instinct of knowledge unconsciously obeys the deeper necessity of the **preservation of the species**, if necessary at the cost of the individual, and protests against the visions of the pacifist windbag who in reality is nothing but a cowardly, though camouflaged, egoist, transgressing the **laws of development**; for development requires willingness on the part of the individual to sacrifice himself for the community, and not the sickly imaginings of cowardly know-it-alls and critics of Nature. Especially, therefore, at times when the ideal attitude threatens to disappear, we can at once recognize a diminution of that force which forms the community and thus creates the premises of culture. As soon as egoism becomes the ruler of a people, the bands of order are loosened and in the chase after their own happiness men fall from heaven into a real



hell.”

“But the **natural law of all development** demands, not the coupling of two formations which are simply not alike, but the **victory of the stronger** and the cultivation of the victor’s force and strength made possible alone by the resultant struggle.”

“This will make them a precious national treasure to the entire nation; their growth must fill every single national comrade with pride and confidence, for in them lies the germ for a final, great future development of our own people, nay - of humanity.”

“If as the first task of the state in the service and for the welfare of its nationality we recognize the **preservation**, care, and development of the best racial elements, it is natural that this care must not only extend to the birth of every little national and racial comrade, but that it must educate the young offspring to become a valuable link in the chain of future reproduction.”

“For anyone who believes in a **higher development of living creatures** must admit that every expression of their life urge and **life struggle** must have had a beginning; that one subject must have started it, and that subsequently such a phenomenon repeated itself more and more frequently and spread more and more, until at last it virtually entered the subconscious of all members of a given **species**, thus manifesting itself as an instinct.”

“Thus, fundamentally, they serve the continuous process of higher human development. But the very same thing which once, in the form of the simplest ruse, facilitated the **struggle for existence** [Darwin’s subtitle?] of the man hunting in the primeval forest, again contributes, in the shape of the most brilliant **scientific knowledge** of the present era, to alleviate **mankind’s struggle for existence** and to forge its weapons for the struggles of the future.”

“No, the natural development, though after a struggle enduring centuries, finally brought the best man to the place where he belonged. This will always be so and will eternally remain so, as it always has been so.”

In a previous letter to my critic, I had shared the following additional quotation from Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*: “At this point someone or other may laugh, but this planet once moved through the ether for millions of years without human beings and it can do so again some day if men forget that they owe their higher existence, not to the ideas of a few crazy ideologists, but to the knowledge and **ruthless application of Nature’s stern and rigid laws.**”

*Comment:* The above paragraph uses the word “millions,” but it has been brought to my attention that Hitler may actually have written “thousands.” If such is the case and an editor actually changed Hitler’s word to “millions,” then it seems that that editor also believed, as do I, that Hitler was operating out of an evolutionary framework of thinking. Evolutionists major on “millions” — not “thousands.”

2. See Helmut Krausnick and Martin Broszat’s *Anatomy of the SS State*, published by Paladin, 1970, pp.29-30. See also, D. Gaeman, *The Scientific Origins of National Socialism: Social Darwinism in Ernst Haeckel and the German Monist League* xvi, 1971, where it says that Hitler “stressed and singled out the idea of biological evolution as the most forceful weapon against traditional religion and he repeatedly condemned Christianity for its opposition to the teachings of evolution ... For Hitler, evolution was the hallmark of modern science and culture, and he defended its veracity as tenaciously as Haeckel.”

3. Arthur Cochrane, in his book, *The Church’s Confession under Hitler* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1962) indicates his source: Wilhelm Niemoller in *Kampf und Zeugnis der bekennenden Kirche*, p.526.

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