

BOOK REVIEW

Evolution Stands Faith Up: Reflections on Evolution's Wars

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Another Strong Defender of Evolution Rises

Many biologists and scientists in general would probably agree that the struggle against creationism as an alternative to science is a war that must be waged. However, we all know it is a difficult fight. Hence, most of us are content sitting on the sidelines, doing our own work, watching others engage this important and often thankless debate. After all, how does one produce a coherent, logical, and intelligent argument against an opponent whose very aim is to create confusion, to deny reality, and to promote ignorance? Few among us have the audacity. Dawkins might be the best-known opponent of creationism, but there are many strong and clear voices in the choir. With this book, Dr. Paz-y-Miño establishes himself as a clear, lucid, and refreshingly candid fighter of creationism and defender of evolution.

The book is a series of essays, previously published in various venues. In each essay, Paz-y-Miño adds his own personal experiences as they relate to an important topic. Sometimes, Paz-y-Miño deals with a current issue; often he starts with his own personal experiences, and occasionally highlights his own research about creationists' misconceptions. In every case, he produces a short, and very readable essay that debunks creationist beliefs in a style that is not necessarily confrontational (the tome's title notwithstanding), but rather directs us to consider problems in the creationists' agenda using their own logic against themselves, and urges us to draw our own conclusions.

The essays are written clearly and are very readable. Many chapters begin with a quotation, but I was disappointed that in many cases the source of the quotation is not given. Every essay ends with a clear message.

The book would definitely be an asset to anyone interested in the debate, and might easily be incorporated into a course in evolution, science and society, and/or philosophy of science.

Review provided by G.A.L., PhD, Evolutionary Biologist, Canada.