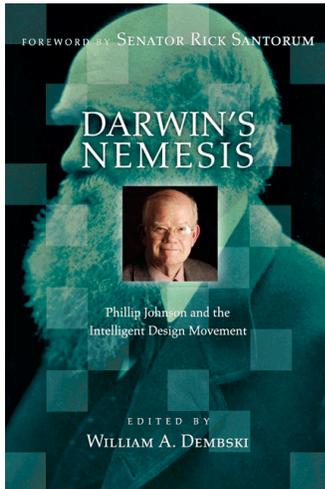


PHILLIP JOHNSON AND THE INTELLIGENT DESIGN MOVEMENT



“Rather than fall into the trap of building a cult of personality around himself . . . (Johnson) has instead helped raise up and promote a whole group of intellectual leaders in the cause of scientific renewal.”

— Sen. Rick Santorum

What is meant by the title *Darwin’s Nemesis*?

Darwin’s Nemesis reviews and celebrates the life and thought of Phillip Johnson and the intelligent design movement, for which he has served as the chief architect.

Editor William Dembski explains: “The title *Darwin’s Nemesis* applies to Johnson’s roles as fearless leader, trusted friend and far-seeing visionary. Professionally and publicly, Johnson stepped into the controversy over intelligent design at just the right time as the fledgling movement’s field marshal. Later, eschewing authoritarianism and any desire to become a cult figure, he made room for a new generation of ID scholars, stepping back so that the movement could flourish, not through a top-down chain of command but through its own inner vitality.”

Who is Phillip Johnson?

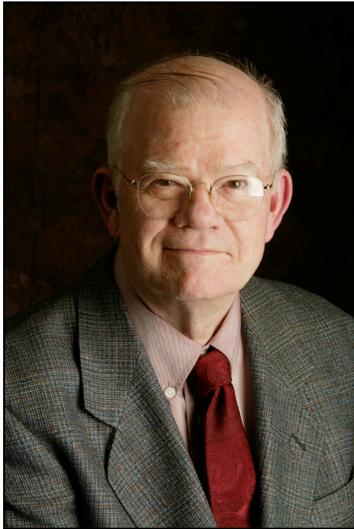
With the publication of *Darwin on Trial* in 1991, UC Berkeley legal scholar Phillip Johnson became the leading figure in the intelligent design movement. Exposing and calling into question the philosophical foundations of Darwinism, Johnson led the charge against this largely unquestioned philosophy.

In addition to *Darwin on Trial*, Johnson has authored six books with InterVarsity Press, including *Reason in the Balance*, *Objections Sustained*, *Defeating Darwinism by Opening Minds*, *The Wedge of Truth* and *The Right Questions*.

What is intelligent design?

By definition “intelligent design” is a theory that uses mathematical, scientific and biological evidence to draw data from nature in order to prove that an intelligent cause is responsible for the complexity in nature. The catch for evolution proponents is the term “intelligent cause,” which has sparked debates and national media attention in recent years.

(Continued on the next page)



“What Phil did for me—take a floundering critic and turn him into an effective spokesperson—he did for many others, and it is through his strong leadership that the intelligent design movement has gained a forceful public voice.”

—Michael Behe,
author of *Darwin’s
Black Box*

Why is intelligent design being so hotly debated, particularly in public schools?

The term “intelligent cause,” evolution supporters assume, is a subtle way of saying, “God created the universe.” So in addition to skepticism created by a general lack of understanding about the theory, many evolution proponents call intelligent design a form of “stealth creationism,” or a sneaky way to get religion into public education. The intelligent design proponents’ response to this argument is that the theory *is* scientific and is supported by solid evidence that the universe could not have come together on its own. Put the evidence for evolution and intelligent design next to each other, the design proponents say, and let students decide which theory they believe.

How has the controversy over intelligent design escalated over the years?

During the past fifteen years the number of educational debates over the teaching of evolution has expanded throughout the country. In 1999 campaigners succeeded in removing references to evolution in school tests in Kentucky. That same year the Kansas board of education voted to remove most references to evolution from the state’s curriculum, but due to the backlash from the public and the media, in August of 2000 a new school board voted to overturn the ruling. In August 2005 the Kansas board of education gave preliminary approval to science standards that allow intelligent-design-style alternatives to be discussed alongside evolution. In September the Dover Area School District in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, became the first district in the nation to require students to be exposed to the intelligent design concept. Soon after, however, the ruling was overturned.

Only days after the decision in Pennsylvania, Governor Rick Perry of Texas announced that he favored allowing Texas students to learn the theory alongside Darwinian evolution. Today, educators, scientists and parents around the country continue to debate the question of whether the theory of intelligent design should be taught in the local schools.