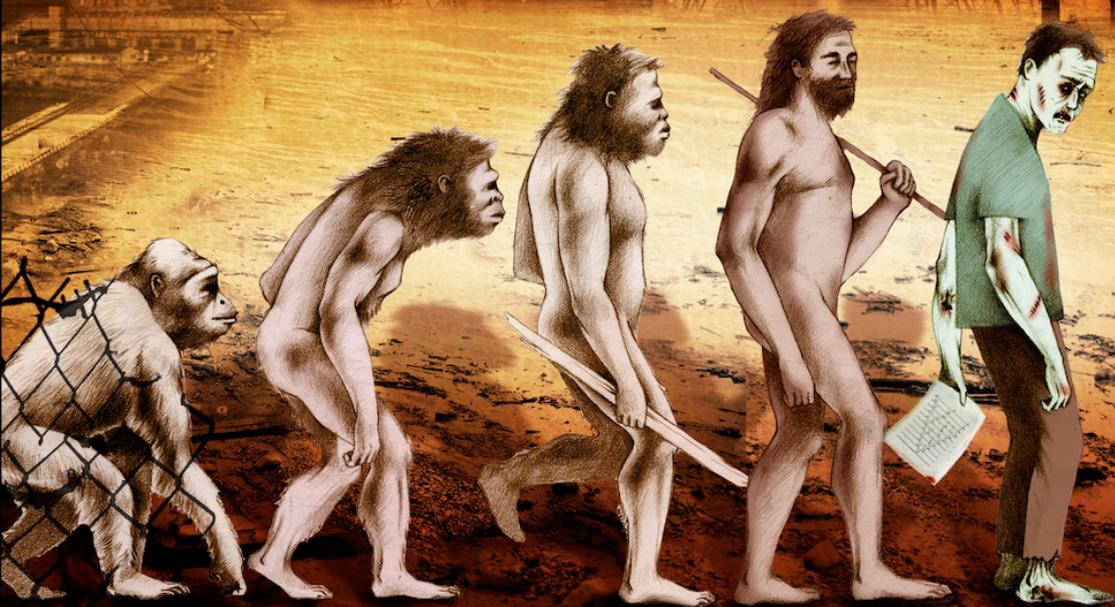


ZOMBIE SCIENCE

MORE ICONS OF EVOLUTION



"They just keep coming back!"

JONATHAN WELLS

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Description

In 2000, biologist Jonathan Wells took the science world by storm with *Icons of Evolution*, a book showing how biology textbooks routinely promote Darwinism using bogus evidence—icons of evolution like Ernst Haeckel’s faked embryo drawings and peppered moths glued to tree trunks. Critics of the book complained that Wells had merely gathered up a handful of innocent textbook errors and blown them out of proportion. Now, in *Zombie Science*, Wells asks a simple question: If the icons of evolution were just innocent textbook errors, why do so many of them still persist? Science has enriched our lives and led to countless discoveries, but now, Wells argues, it’s being corrupted. Empirical science is devolving into zombie science, shuffling along unfazed by opposing evidence. Discredited icons of evolution rise from the dead while more icons—equally bogus—join their ranks. Like a B horror movie, they just keep coming! Zombies are make-believe, but zombie science is real—and it threatens not just science, but our whole culture. Is there a solution? Wells is sure of it, and points the way.

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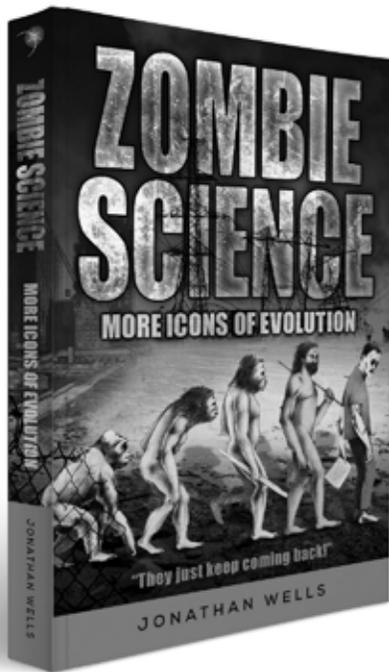
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*Dedicated to the students who will need
to discern the truth for themselves*

Want to dig deeper?



Visit www.IconsofEvolution.com.

Your one-stop location for additional information about biologist Jonathan Wells and the “icons of evolution,” including articles, responses to critics, podcasts, and more.

PRAISE FOR *ZOMBIE SCIENCE*

“In *Zombie Science*, Jonathan Wells gives both a very informative and entertaining account of the problems surrounding Darwinian evolution. He makes a compelling argument that the case in favor of evolution is being driven by a commitment to materialistic philosophy and not by scientific evidence. In fact, Wells convincingly shows that the ‘icons’ used to support evolution continue to be taught in spite of the increasing evidence against them. Whether a person is convinced of the truth of evolutionary theory, a skeptic, or convinced of the design argument, a clearer and greater understanding of the evolution/design debate will be gained by reading this book.”

Russell W. Carlson, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus,
Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and the Complex
Carbohydrate Research Center, University of Georgia

“On TV and at the movies, zombies are simultaneously scary and comedic. Zombie science is even more frightening and, at times, even more laughable—and worthy of the exposure and ridicule Dr. Jonathan Wells delivers here with his customary gusto and clarity. This important new book makes a persuasive case that the most radical, least rational and tolerant of all contemporary religious faiths is the fundamentalist belief in materialism.”

Michael Medved, nationally syndicated talk radio host
and author of *The American Miracle*

“*Zombie Science* poses a crucial question: If it’s true that ‘Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution,’ as Darwinists often claim, why do textbooks continue to tout trivial, misleading, or downright fake illustrations fifteen years after Jonathan Wells first exposed many of them? If these are the best examples, the theory itself is extinct.”

Michael Behe, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Lehigh University,
and author of *Darwin’s Black Box* and *The Edge of Evolution*

“Evolutionary biologists provide contradictory hypotheses of the tree of life and mistaken answers on walking whales, junk DNA, the human eye, the origin of life, and many other captivating topics. To be up to date and informed on the many falsehoods dominating contemporary science and biology textbooks, I strongly recommend *Zombie Science*, the latest ‘politically incorrect’ book by Jonathan Wells.”

Wolf-Ekkehard Lönnig, Ph.D., Senior Scientist,
Dept. of Molecular Genetics, Max Planck Institute of
Plant Breeding Research, Cologne (retired)

“When I read *Zombie Science*, the old phrase ‘My mind is made up, don’t confuse me with the facts’ kept coming to mind. Against the facts, Establishment Science continues to push a materialist narrative with religious zeal. Dr. Wells provides a very readable account of Establishment Science’s efforts to shore up a failed theory. Like zombies, neo-Darwinism just refuses to die. But readers will come away with good protection from the zombie arguments that keep appearing.”

Ralph Seelke, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Natural Sciences
(Microbiology, Cell Biology, Genetics), University of Wisconsin-Superior

“In this sequel to his seminal book *Icons of Evolution*, molecular biologist Jonathan Wells not only responds to his critics, but reveals even more examples of dubious and overrated scientific evidence for evolution. He shows that the theory of macroevolution still lacks empirical support, and that the materialist dogma has corrupted modern science, which desperately tries to close the door for any alternative explanations like Intelligent Design. Wells’ book represents an important contribution for a paradigm change that is long overdue. It is easy to understand even for laymen, and an enjoyable read as well.”

Günter Bechly, Ph.D., Paleontologist and Former Curator
for Amber and Fossil Insects, Dept. of Paleontology, State
Museum of Natural History, Stuttgart, Germany

"*Icons of Evolution* proved the emperor has no clothes. Now *Zombie Science* shows that it doesn't even have a pulse. In this lucid and highly readable sequel, Jonathan Wells again turns the tables on the Darwinists, documenting how their supposedly overwhelming evidence for unguided evolution is 'one long bluff.'"

Tom Bethell , author of *Darwin's House of Cards*
and *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Science*

"Seventeen years ago Jonathan Wells exposed ten 'icons of evolution' that had wide acceptance but that didn't fit the evidence. Now he demonstrates that these 'icons' not only continue to haunt the popular media and remain in commonly distributed textbooks, but that at least six more can be added to the list. Their persistence and proliferation suggest that these icons are now the substance of what he calls 'zombie science,' the promotion of dead ideas as if they were living facts. Wells' strategy is to treat these dead icons like you would all zombies that prefer the cover of darkness: He removes the darkness, shedding revealing light on the 'central dogma' that DNA = RNA = Us, the myth of 'walking whales,' the notion of vestigial organs and other evolutionary 'junk,' the eye as an evolutionary icon, and the boasts of Darwinian medicine in 'explaining' antibiotic resistance and cancer. Told with a scathing wit that would have made Thomas Henry Huxley envious, *Zombie Science* is bound to be next on every Darwinian's growing *Index Librorum Prohibitorium*. To conceal this contraband, Wells even includes instructions for making a plain brown cover for the book. I'm marking mine *Pride and Prejudice*, which may best describe the sources of this 'zombie' phenomenon. A fascinating, lively book that should be on everyone's reading list."

Michael A. Flannery
Professor Emeritus, University of Alabama at Birmingham,
and author of *Alfred Russel Wallace: A Rediscovered Life*

“I could not put this book down; every page has mind-opening information that exposes errors, misinterpretations and even fraud from the hard-line Darwinian evolution proponents. Dr. Jonathan Wells has married his sharp wit and extensive research to deliver an exciting look at the flaws of Darwinian evolution that just keep popping up. If science educators were confident that the current teaching of Darwinian evolution could stand up to scientific criticism, then Dr. Wells’ work would be included in school and university syllabi; thus I don’t expect to see it in any biology textbook soon. There is a battle for the minds and culture of our future generations, but Dr. Wells shows good reason for optimism as more recent advances in biology come to light and an increasing body of the scientific community are realizing that the current teaching of evolution cannot stand up to recent discoveries.”

Dr. Philip Anderson, M.B., Ch.B. D.A. (South Africa) FRCA

“Dr. Wells once again demonstrates his unique ability to bring clarity to the many misrepresentations of the evidence for Darwinian evolution that clutter biology textbooks today. This is the most comprehensive critique I have seen. It is a must read for truth-seeking biology students and their parents.”

Roger DeHart, M.A., high school biology teacher for forty years

“In his much anticipated encore to *Icons of Evolution*, Jonathan Wells delivers a 1–2 punch to those who refuse to see that the Darwinian head-lock on ‘science’ is nothing more than a desperate attempt by the reigning materialist junta to block the search for truth in origins science. A great read.”

William S. Harris, Ph.D., medical researcher and
President, OmegaQuant Analytics

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I also gratefully acknowledge help from several students who must remain anonymous lest enforcers of the scientific consensus destroy their very promising careers.

JONATHAN WELLS

SEATTLE 2017

1. WHO LET THE ZOMBIES OUT?

ZOMBIES ARE THE WALKING DEAD. IN SCIENCE, A THEORY OR IMAGE is dead when it doesn't fit the evidence. I wrote a book in 2000 about ten images, ten "icons of evolution," that did not fit the evidence and were empirically dead. They should have been buried, but they are still with us, haunting our science classrooms and stalking our children. They are part of what I call zombie science.

Egg on Their Face

I LIKE eggs for breakfast. In fact, I've been eating eggs for years. I knew I was not supposed to, because some scientists and the U. S. government said they were bad for me. According to the American Heart Association (AHA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), science had proven that eggs—especially egg yolks—contained too much cholesterol and were thus bad for my heart. But I liked them, and my heart was fine, so I ate them anyway.

It had all started in the early 1950s, when scientist John Gofman and his colleagues concluded that the risk of heart disease could be lowered by reducing the intake of dietary fat.¹ Another scientist, Ancel Keys, had come to the same conclusion.² In 1957 two other scientists demonstrated that Keys had actually manipulated his evidence by "cherry-picking" (relying only on data that fit his hypothesis while ignoring the rest).^{3,4} No matter; in 1961 an AHA committee with Keys as a member recommended that people should reduce their consumption of meat, eggs, and dairy products to lower their risk of heart disease.⁵

In 1977 a U. S. Senate committee endorsed the AHA's recommendations,⁶ and in 1992 the USDA published its famous Food Pyramid. It depicts in cartoon form that carbohydrates (the wide bottom of the pyramid) should be the major component of our diet, and that eggs (just below the point at the top) should be relegated to a minor role.^{7,8}

I ate eggs anyway.

Imagine my relief when, in February 2015, the U. S. government called off its decades-long War On Eggs by announcing, "Cholesterol is not considered a nutrient of concern for overconsumption."^{9,10} Although there is a correlation between heart disease and the levels of various forms of cholesterol in our bodies, there is no significant correlation between our cholesterol levels and what we eat. Eggs were never bad for us. Indeed, whole eggs are close to being a perfect food.

"But science said..."

Yes, and now "science says" something else. What should we make of this? Obviously, we cannot always trust what "science says," and an endorsement by the government doesn't make it any more trustworthy.

In fact, we are told many things by "science" that are not true. The misguided War On Eggs was a relatively benign instance of this. Eggs were not declared unconstitutional, and people who ate them were not publicly ridiculed or driven from their jobs. But "science says" is not always so benign.

WARNING: This book is politically incorrect, even dangerous. If you are seen reading it on a college campus, your career could suffer. So you may want to disguise it with a different cover. The Supplement on page 189 shows how to make a plain paper cover.

How can you know whether something "science says" is true? Ultimately, you will have to discern the truth for yourself. This doesn't mean there is no objective truth and everything is subjective. But sometimes people—even decent, intelligent people—commit themselves to an idea that seems reasonable yet distorts the objective truth. When it comes to science, you will be told one thing by our enormously powerful and

wealthy scientific and educational institutions, as well as by the mainstream news media that serve as their mouthpiece. But you may learn something else if you look at the actual evidence—that is, the objective truth.

Before we go any further, let's look at some of the ways people use the word "science."

What Is Science?

MANY PEOPLE are inclined to respect science and trust its authority. But science can mean different things. In one sense, science is the enterprise of seeking truth by formulating hypotheses and testing them against the evidence. If a hypothesis is repeatedly tested and found to be consistent with the evidence, we may tentatively regard it as true. If it is repeatedly found to be *inconsistent* with the evidence, we should revise it or reject it as false. We call this enterprise *empirical science*. At some level we are all scientists in this sense, because in our daily lives we compare our ideas with our experiences and revise them when necessary, often without a second thought.

In another sense, people think of science as the modern advances in medicine and technology that have enriched our lives. Those advances originate in human creativity and design, but their practical application involves testing them against the evidence to find out if they work. So advances in medicine and technology have an empirical aspect as well as a creative one. Let's call this *technological science*.

In a third sense, science refers to the scientific establishment, which consists of people who are trained and employed to conduct research in various areas. Let's call this *establishment science*, or just Science. The majority opinion of this group is sometimes referred to as "the scientific consensus," which is at times expressed as "All scientists agree..." (even though usually some don't), or as "Science Says..."

Throughout history, the scientific consensus has often proven to be unreliable. In 1500, the scientific consensus held that the sun revolves around the Earth, a view that was overturned by Nicolaus Copernicus

and Galileo Galilei. In 1750, the consensus held that some living things (such as maggots) originate by spontaneous generation, a view that was overturned by Francesco Redi and Louis Pasteur. There are many such examples in the history of science.

In a fourth sense, some people define science as the enterprise of providing natural explanations for everything—that is, accounting for all phenomena in terms of material objects and the physical forces among them. This is sometimes called “methodological naturalism,” the view that science is limited to materialistic explanations because repeatable experiments can be done only on material objects and physical forces.

In principle, methodological naturalism is not a claim about reality, but a limitation on method. It does not rule out the existence of a non-material realm. But in practice many scientists assume that if they search long enough they will find a materialistic explanation for whatever they are investigating. This assumption that there are materialistic explanations for everything is not just a statement about method. It is equivalent to materialistic philosophy, which regards material objects and physical forces as the only realities.^{11,12} Mind, free will, spirit, and God are considered illusions. Intelligent design (ID), the view that some features of the world are due to an intelligent cause rather than to unguided natural processes, is also regarded as an illusion.

Not all scientists today are materialists, and indeed modern science was launched primarily by European Christian theists. Nevertheless, science today is dominated by materialistic philosophy. Priority is given to proposing and defending materialistic explanations rather than to following the evidence wherever it leads. This is materialistic philosophy masquerading as empirical science, and I call it *zombie science*.

I am not calling scientists (or any other real people) zombies. But whenever people persist in defending a materialistic explanation after it has been shown to be inconsistent with the evidence, and is thus empirically dead, they are practicing zombie science.

We find the most prominent displays of zombie science in evolutionary biology.

What is “Evolution”?

EVOLUTION IS another term that can mean different things: simple change over time; the history of the cosmos; the progress of technology; the development of culture; or the fact that many plants and animals now living are different from those that lived in the past. In these general senses, evolution is uncontroversial.

Evolution can also mean minor changes within existing species from generation to generation. There is abundant evidence for such changes; they are obvious in our own families. People have also been observing such changes in other species for thousands of years—certainly since the domestication of plants and animals. So evolution in this sense is also uncontroversial.

In 1859, Charles Darwin proposed that minor variations within existing species are preserved or eliminated by natural selection (survival of the fittest), and that given enough time this process generates new species, organs, and body plans. Darwin argued that variations and selection are unguided, so the results of evolution are left to the working out of what he called chance. “There seems to be no more design in the variability of organic beings, and in the action of natural selection,” he once wrote, “than in the course which the wind blows.”¹³

Evolution as Materialistic Science

DARWIN DESCRIBED his most famous book, *The Origin of Species*, as “one long argument.”¹⁴ It was basically an argument *against* creation by design, and it took the following form: The facts of biology are “inexplicable on the theory of creation” but make sense on his theory of descent with modification.¹⁵ Starting with the fourth edition of his book, Darwin went further and argued that the idea that living things were created according to a plan “is not a scientific explanation.”¹⁶ Design was, as it were, ruled out of court by definition.

It is often claimed that people in the nineteenth century were converted to Darwin’s theory because he provided so much evidence for it, but this is not true. For one thing, Darwin could offer no evidence for

natural selection, only “one or two imaginary illustrations.”¹⁷ And despite the title of his most famous book, he failed to explain the origin of species. People were converted to Darwin’s theory mainly because it fit the increasingly materialistic tenor of the times.

Historian Neal C. Gillespie wrote that “it is sometimes said that Darwin converted the scientific world to evolution by showing them the process by which it had occurred. Yet the uneasy reservations about natural selection among Darwin’s contemporaries and the widespread rejection of it from the 1890s to the 1930s suggest that this is too simple a view of the matter. It was more Darwin’s insistence on totally natural explanations than on natural selection that won their adherence.”¹⁸

This explains why we hear little about the co-discoverer of natural selection, Alfred Russel Wallace. Although the theories of both men were first publicly presented on the same day in 1858, Wallace was skeptical that unguided variation and survival of the fittest could account for things such as “the brain, the organs of speech, the hand, and the external form of man.” He concluded instead that evolution must have been directed by an “Overruling Intelligence.”¹⁹

Darwin was horrified by this idea. As historian Michael Flannery has pointed out, Wallace’s idea challenged Darwin’s entire framework, “a framework that served not only to bolster a materialistic metaphysic but, in effect, proposed to become its operative manifesto.” The “inescapable conclusion,” according to Flannery, is “that Darwinian evolution, far from being a scientific [i.e., empirical] theory, is ‘one long argument’ in favor of an *a priori* metaphysic.”²⁰

So the “Darwinian revolution” was a triumph of materialistic philosophy.²¹ Even so, Darwin’s theory did not rise to prominence in biology until the 1930s, when it hitched a ride with a theory of genetics that was empirically much better supported. (See Chapter 4.) The combination of the two became known as “the modern synthesis” or “neo-Darwinism.”

Microevolution and Macroevolution

IN THE 1930s, neo-Darwinian biologist Theodosius Dobzhansky used the word “microevolution” to refer to minor changes within existing species, and the word “macroevolution” to refer to the origin of new species, organs, and body plans. “There is no way toward an understanding of the mechanisms of macroevolutionary changes,” he wrote, “which require time on a geological scale, other than through a full comprehension of the microevolutionary processes observable within the span of a human lifetime and often controlled by man’s will. For this reason we are compelled at the present level of knowledge reluctantly to put a sign of equality between the mechanisms of macro- and microevolution, and proceeding on this assumption, to push our investigations as far ahead as this working hypothesis will permit.”²²

As we saw above, microevolution is not controversial. But Darwin did not write a book titled *How Existing Species Change Over Time*. He wrote a book titled *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*. And while he didn’t use Dobzhansky’s words (which came later), Darwin’s theory was that microevolution—given enough time—produces macroevolution. Yet despite an enormous amount of biological research since the 1930s, the “sign of equality” between microevolution and macroevolution remains nothing more than what Dobzhansky called it: a hypothesis. And indeed, it remains a hypothesis starving for lack of evidence.

People speaking for the current scientific consensus often lump microevolution and macroevolution together and refer to them simply as evolution—a verbal sleight of hand in place of evidence for Dobzhansky’s hoped-for “sign of equality” between the two. Such confusion is regrettable, but common.

The scientific consensus also follows Darwin in insisting that evolution is unguided, though its adherents can be evasive about this point when it suits their rhetorical purposes. I want to dispel as much fog as possible in these pages, but I also want to avoid cumbersome language,

so I will use “evolution” throughout the book to refer to “unguided macroevolution” except where I specify otherwise.

Nothing in Biology

IN 1973, Dobzhansky wrote an article titled “Nothing in Biology Makes Sense Except in the Light of Evolution.”²³ And by evolution Dobzhansky meant neo-Darwinian evolution. His statement has become a guiding principle in the lives of most modern biologists. It is now a fundamental assumption underlying most research and writing in the discipline.

People who believe Dobzhansky’s statement insist that they do so because of the evidence, but what follows below will show that this is not the case.²⁴ A person does not have to believe in materialism to believe in evolution, but evolution is a materialistic story. And since the materialistic story trumps the evidence, it is zombie science.

Icons of Evolution

ACCORDING TO the current scientific consensus, there is “overwhelming evidence” for evolution. The evidence is typically represented by images that have been used so often they have achieved the status of “icons.” In 2000, I wrote a book analyzing ten of them:²⁵

The Miller-Urey Experiment: A 1953 experiment that supposedly showed how the chemical building blocks of life could have formed spontaneously on the early Earth;

Darwin’s Tree of Life: A branching tree diagram used to illustrate the notion of descent with modification of all living things from common ancestors;

Homology in Vertebrate Limbs: Similarities in limb bones used as evidence that vertebrates (animals with backbones) are all descended from a common ancestor;

Haeckel’s Embryos: Drawings of similarities in early embryos used as evidence that all vertebrates (including humans) evolved from fish-like animals;

Archaeopteryx: A fossil bird with teeth in its mouth and claws on its wings, often cited as the missing link between ancient reptiles and modern birds;

Peppered Moths: Photos of moths resting on tree trunks, supposedly providing evidence for evolution by natural selection;

Darwin's Finches: Thirteen species of finches on the Galápagos Islands that are used as evidence for the origin of species by natural selection;

Four-Winged Fruit Flies: Fruit flies with an extra pair of wings that supposedly provide evidence that DNA mutations provide the raw materials for macroevolution;

Fossil Horses: Fossils once used to show that evolution proceeds in a straight line and later used to show that it doesn't; and

The Ultimate Icon: Drawings of ape-like creatures gradually evolving into humans, used to show that we are just animals produced by purposeless natural causes.

All these “icons of evolution” misrepresent the evidence, and as we shall see, many biologists have known this for decades. So by the year 2000 the icons should have been removed from biology textbooks. Yet they were, and still are, used to convince students that evolution is a fact.

Chapter 2 looks at the icon at the center of evolutionary theory, Darwin's tree of life. The chapter also examines how evolution has corrupted the concept of homology. Chapter 3 summarizes why the other eight icons were dead in 2000 and documents how they are nevertheless still being used today. Chapters 4 through 8 introduce six additional icons of evolution that—like the ten icons listed above—are used to mislead and indoctrinate people about evolution. Chapter 9 describes how zombie science has spread beyond science to religion and education, and how it continues to corrupt science generally.

Yet, as I will also show, there are some rays of hope.