

Works Of Harun Yahya In Nature Magazine

In its 23 November, 2006, issue the world renowned scientific magazine *Nature* carried a special report titled "Anti-evolutionists raise their profile in Europe." The report covered a workshop called "Teaching evolution theory in Europe" organized by a Polish biologist called Maciej Giertych for members of the European Parliament.



The report in *Nature* magazine discussed the place occupied by the subjects of evolution and creation in school curricula in such European countries as Italy, Germany, Poland, France and Great Britain. It also covered the work of the Science Research Foundation in Turkey:

"The movement is by far the strongest in Turkey, however, which is in negotiations to join the European Union. The main Muslim creationist organization [is] the Turkish Bilim ve Araştırma Vakfı... Prominent US creationists are also frequently invited by the group to give talks.

Jones has just returned from the Istanbul book fair, where he says many creationist publications were on sale, and proving extremely popular. 'Creationism is a major issue in Turkish politics; the debate is much more tense than in the United States,' he says. 'All biology textbooks now used in schools are creationist in tone.'"

The report also covered the debate stemming from the teaching of the fact of Creation in various schools in Germany, and what went on following the removal of the theory of evolution from middle school curricula in Italy at the request of Education Minister Letizia Moratti.

The article also cited examples of creation research conducted by creationist groups in Russia, and stated that there was a rapid rise in creationism, particularly in Great Britain:

"Steve Jones, a geneticist at University College London who has lectured widely about evolution, is one of those concerned by the growing influence of creationist groups. 'I have talked about evolution in front of more than 100,000 British schoolchildren in the past 20 years – during most of that time I was never asked questions about creationism,' he says. 'But in the past couple of years, wherever I go I am asked about it.'"

At the end of the report Jones states his belief that the theory of evolution will never lose influence in European countries as it has in the USA and that evolution will always remain powerful, but that he does not feel the same regarding Turkey. These statements reveal the powerful impact of the BAV and of Harun Yahya's works on Darwinism.

SPECIAL REPORT

Anti-evolutionists raise their profile in Europe

The teaching of alternative theories to evolution in schools is not just an issue in the United States. Almut Graebisch and Quirin Schiermeier assess whether creationism is threatening science in Europe.

Being a trained biologist doesn't stop Almut Graebisch from insisting that evolution is a 'falsified hypothesis'. The 70-year-old Polish member of the European parliament, who has a PhD in tree physiology, also wants to spread the word. In October, he organised a workshop for parliamentarians entitled "Teaching evolution theory in Europe: is your child being indoctrinated in the classroom?"

Although the teaching of evolution has become a highly politicised and hotly discussed matter in the United States, such moves are rare in Europe, and Graebisch's activities have so far met with little response in broadening or broadening. But a number of similar incidents over the past couple of years, in various countries, are raising fears among the scientific community that creationism may be on the rise in Europe.

Last month, for example, it emerged that creationism is being taught at two schools in the German state of Thuringia. The incident, albeit minor, has provoked debate in the country. The Christian view of creation should at least be discussed in science classes, argues Karin Wolf, Hesse's Christian Democrat education minister. But the Association of German Biologists warns of the dangers of blurring the division between science and religion.

And in Britain in September, the prominent creationist group Truth in Science sent information packs to every UK secondary school. The material suggests intelligent design should be taught as an alternative to the theory of evolution, although the UK government's education department was quick to say that it does not endorse its use in science classes.

In response, a group called the British Centre for Science Education has been formed to campaign against the teaching of creationism in schools. Meanwhile, British school leavers' knowledge about evolution is considered as poor, and creationist ideas so widespread, that

the universities of Leeds and Leicester are planning to introduce remedial courses next year for first-year science students.

Steve Jones, a geneticist at University College London, who has lectured widely about evolution, is one of those concerned by the growing influence of creationist groups. "I have talked about evolution in front of more than 100,000 British schoolchildren in the past 20 years — during most of that time I was never asked questions about creationism," he says. "But in the past couple of years, whenever I go I am asked about it." He attributes the change largely to the activities of groups such as Truth in Science.

But perhaps the most blatant attempt to ban evolution from the classroom occurred in Italy in 2004. Letizia Moratti, then education minister, caused a public outcry when she removed the theory of evolution from the curricula of Italy's middle schools' on the grounds that teaching Darwin's theory of evolution can instil a materialist view of life in young minds.

Following widespread protest, the education ministry partially reinstated Darwinism into school curricula. A recent study by *Observa Science in Society*, a Vienna-based body that

promotes informed debates on scientific issues, shows that only 11% of Italians support the exclusion of Darwinism from curricula. But almost two-thirds would prefer lessons to cover both evolutionary theory and the creationist view. "Italy is no longer a completely secular country," says Ylona Pervari, a philosopher of science at the University of Milan II in Italy. "We are facing a dramatic and worrying cultural and political regression."

In Russia, meanwhile, creationist societies are receiving strong support from the Protestant minority. Besides wading the waters of Europe and US creationists, Russian groups conduct their own creation research. In Moscow, for example, the ABCTUR Research Geological Lab is looking for geological and



genetic proof of creationism. The society collaborates with creationists in the West and promotes its findings in several Russian and English language creationist journals.

Such examples illustrate the complexity of the issue in Europe compared with the United States. Whereas the US drive towards creationism comes mainly from Protestant fundamentalist groups, the European movement has diverse roots. "There is an aggressive anti-Darwinism inspired by radical Islamic movements in immigrant communities in Britain and France; there is a Catholic creationism growing in Poland; there is Protestant creationism in some schools in England," says Pervari.

The picture is less clear than the Bible on divine creation. But that does not mean Islam accepts evolution, and the influence of Islamic creationist groups in countries such as Britain and France is increasing. The movement is by far the strongest in Turkey, however, which is in negotiations to join the European Union. The main Muslim creationist organisation, the Turkish Bilim ve Ateizm Vakfı, distributes creationist literature in Turkey and elsewhere that often consists of material translated from Christian fundamentalist groups, particularly the Institute for Creation Research, based in

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