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Recommended Citation

The Cambridge Companion series is collection of edited essays by distinguished scholars on major philosophers, ranging from Plato to Bertrand Russell. Although the authors acknowledge Charles Darwin is not a philosopher, they state his conclusions reached as a scientific thinker come to bear upon fundamental questions of being, knowledge, virtue, and justice. In short, the emphasis of this companion is on Darwin as a thinker and his influence on philosophy. In this 2d edition two additional chapters are included—on Darwin, Hume, and human nature, and on Darwin’s theories in the intellectual long run. Also, the introduction, Guide to Further Reading, and the List of References have all been updated, along with some of the essays. The 19 chapters (over 500 pages) are grouped into 4 parts. The first cluster explores how Darwin acquired his particular scientific outlook and continues by examining Darwin’s theories, from those recorded in his private notebooks to ones discussed in his most important book, *On the Origin of Species*. The second section of chapters looks at Darwin in context, in particular his theorizing in relationship to Victorian England and how his ideas were received and influenced others at the time. Part 3 looks at modern philosophical themes, such as metaphysical and epistemological issues, evolutionary biology, concepts of the mind and social theory, and belief in God. In the final cluster of chapters, scholars discuss their personal views on the direction Darwinian principles will have in future philosophical inquiries, often in disagreement with one another. This *Companion* is well documented with over 40 pages of references and a short annotated Guide to Further Reading on Darwin. Overall, this is a good introduction to Darwin’s theories and how they influence philosophy and is accessible to both nonspecialists and those with more training.—Kevin McDonough