

**“What Happened in History”, or  
Grand Theories in Search of Reality**

A. Frames of Reference: Ways of How We Perceive the Universe and Why Its Important

1. Aristotle’s Principle of Continuity
2. Copernican Principle
3. Principle of Mediocrity
4. Anthropic Principle (Weak, Strong, Participatory, Final — Omega Point)
5. Wastefulness Hypothesis
6. Steady State Theory
7. Principle of Beauty
8. Goldilocks Principle (Biological Selection Effect)

B. Beginning of Life

1. Evolutionists—Gradualism vs. Punctuated Equilibria
  - a. Charles Darwin (1809–1882), *Origin of the Species* (1859)
  - b. Alfred Russel Wallace (1823–1913)
  - c. Stephen Jay Gould and Niles Eldredge
2. Creationists—“Survival of the Fittest?”

Video: *Fit to Rule* a.k.a. *Darwin's Revolution* from James Burke, “The Day the Universe Changed”

1. Great Chain of Being (*Scala natura*)—everything is arranged hierarchically
2. Georges Buffon (1707–1788)—French paleontologist
3. Georges Cuvier (1769–1832)—French paleontologist — Comparative Anatomy
4. William Smith (1769–1839)—English geologist
5. William Buckland (1784–1856)—English geologist
6. James Hutton (1726–1797)—Scottish geologist — Uniformitarianism
7. George Poulett Scrope (1797–1876)
8. Charles Lyell (1797–1875)—English Geologist—*Principles of Geology* (1830)
9. Thomas Malthus (1766–1834), *Essay on the Principle of Population* (1799)

C. Differentiation of Man and Ape: Which Came First, the Jaw or Big Head?

1. Australopithecus
  - a. africanus—Taung Baby (Raymond Dart) [ca. 2.5 million years]
  - b. afarensis—Lucy (Donald Johanson) [ca. 3.5 million years]
  - c. ramidus (Timothy White, Gen Suwa, Berhane Asfaw) [ca. 4.5 million years]
2. Homo
  - a. habilis—Olduvai Gorge (Louis Leakey) [ca. 2.2 million years]
  - b. erectus—Java Man (Eugene Dubois), Peking Man [ca. 1.8 million years]
  - c. sapiens—Neanderthal [ca. 200,000 years], Cro-Magnon [ca. 40,000 years]

Video: *Worlds Without End* a.k.a. *Changing Knowledge, Changing Reality* from James Burke, “The Day the Universe Changed”

#### D. Clash of Paradigms

1. Piltdown Man (Dawn Man)
  - a. Charles Dawson (1844–1916)
  - b. Sir Arthur Keith (1866–1955)
  - c. Arthur Smith Woodward (1864–1944), *The Earliest Englishman* (1948)
  - d. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881–1955) – “Omega Point”
  - e. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859–1916)
  - f. Martin A. C. Hinson
  - g. Horace de Vere Cole (1881–1936)
2. Continents on the Move
  - a. Traditional View: continents are stationary
  - b. Alfred Wegener, German meteorologist, (1880–1930), Pangea (1912)

#### E. Theories of Archaeological Research

1. Theory of Uniformitarianism
2. Theory of Superposition
3. Three-Age Theory: (1) Stone Age; (2) Bronze Age; (3) Iron Age

#### F. Theories of Cultural Development

1. Diffusionist Theory
  - a. Sir Grafton Elliot Smith (1871–1937)
  - b. Out of Africa
  - c. The Search for Eve
2. Separate Evolvement Theory
  - a. Franz Boas (1858–1942)
  - b. Historical Particularism

#### G. Historical Linguistics

1. Indo-European people — Sir William Jones (1746–1794)—English philologist
2. Mesopotamia: Sumerian, Semite, Elamite

#### H. Theories of Civilization

1. Geographical
  - a. Climate, Heredity, and Geography (Ellsworth Huntington)
  - b. Misuse of Natural Resources (Soil Exhaustion; Deforestation)
  - c. Topographical (Henry Thomas Buckle)
2. Nutritional/Health
  - a. Nomad (Franz Oppenheimer)
  - b. Parasite (William H. McNeill)
3. Human Nature/Natural
  - a. Adversity (Arnold J. Toynbee)
  - b. Great Man (James Breasted)
  - c. Organic (Oswald Spengler)
4. Social Organization
  - a. Marxist (V. Gordon Childe)
  - b. Hydraulic (Karl Wittfogel)
5. *Deus ex machina*
  - a. Theophany (Hegel: The Rise of Liberty)
  - b. Chariots of the Gods (Erich von Däniken)
6. Psychological
  - a. Oedipal Complex (Sigmund Freud)
  - b. Bicameral Mind (Julian Jaynes)