

Darwin and the Darwinian Revolution

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This year celebrates the bicentennial of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his *On the origin of species*, which launched the Darwinian Revolution, not only in the history of biology, but also in the history of humanity. However, as famous as he is, not many people understand his scientific contributions. For those from non-Christian and non-European tradition like us, it is especially difficult to grasp the implications of the doctrine of Darwinism and to appreciate the debates on evolutionism vs. Christianity.

In this lecture, first of all, I'll introduce the context in which Darwin found his vocation, including the tradition of natural history in Europe, the British Admiralty's ambition of scientific exploration during the post-Napoleonic War decades, and the challenge sciences brought to the Christian faith.

Then, I will depict Darwin as the last gentleman scientist at the dawn of the era of professional scientists. Darwin took full advantage of his family wealth to advance science and devoted his life to scientific research. He belonged to the good old days when the pursuit of science was not contaminated by material rewards.

Last but not least, the gist of Darwinian evolutionism will be discussed so as to debunk popular misunderstandings introduced into China more than one hundred years ago through translation.