

The *Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin is universally recognized as one of the most important science books ever written. Published in 1859, it was where Darwin argued for both the fact of evolution and the mechanism of natural selection. The *Origin of Species* is also a work of great cultural and religious significance, in that Darwin maintained that all organisms, including humans, are part of a natural process of growth from simple forms. This Companion commemorates the 150th anniversary of the publication of the *Origin of Species* and examines its main arguments. Drawing on the expertise of leading authorities in the field, it also provides the contexts—religious, social, political, literary, and philosophical—in which the *Origin* was composed. Written in a clear and friendly yet authoritative manner, this volume will be essential reading for both scholars and students. More broadly, it will appeal to general readers who want to learn more about one of the most important and controversial books of modern times.

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