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CHARLES DARWIN AND EVOLUTION

In the second half of the 19 century **ideological conflicts** regarding science, industrialization, sexuality and religion **grew a sense of pessimism and doubt about the stability of Victorian society**. In 1859 Charles Darwin contributed to the evolutionary theory with his theory of natural selection and the absence of God, against the theory of creation. The philosopher Herbert Spencer applied the natural selection on social life regarding the economic competition, where the poor didn't deserve compassion.

1871, DARWIN'S THE DESCENT OF MAN AND SELECTION IN RELATION TO SEX

Darwin's theory talk about:

- **Man evolved through adaptation in a struggle for survival**
- **Physical** conditions are determinant
- **Man evolved from a monkey**

DARWIN VS GOD?

Darwin wasn't the first to talk about a connection between humans and monkeys but tried to explain how. His "On the origin of species" didn't create a clash of science and religion : many writers already considered the Genesis as a metaphor and believed that current species are linear descendants of previous ones.

Darwin appeared to have found the hidden link that explained how all the different genera and species were related, but others criticized it for the absence on the role of a Creator and of the link with the son of God.

Natural selection was much less welcome because Darwin simply gave natural reason to life changes across time. Many believed that the natural selection was divinely guided.