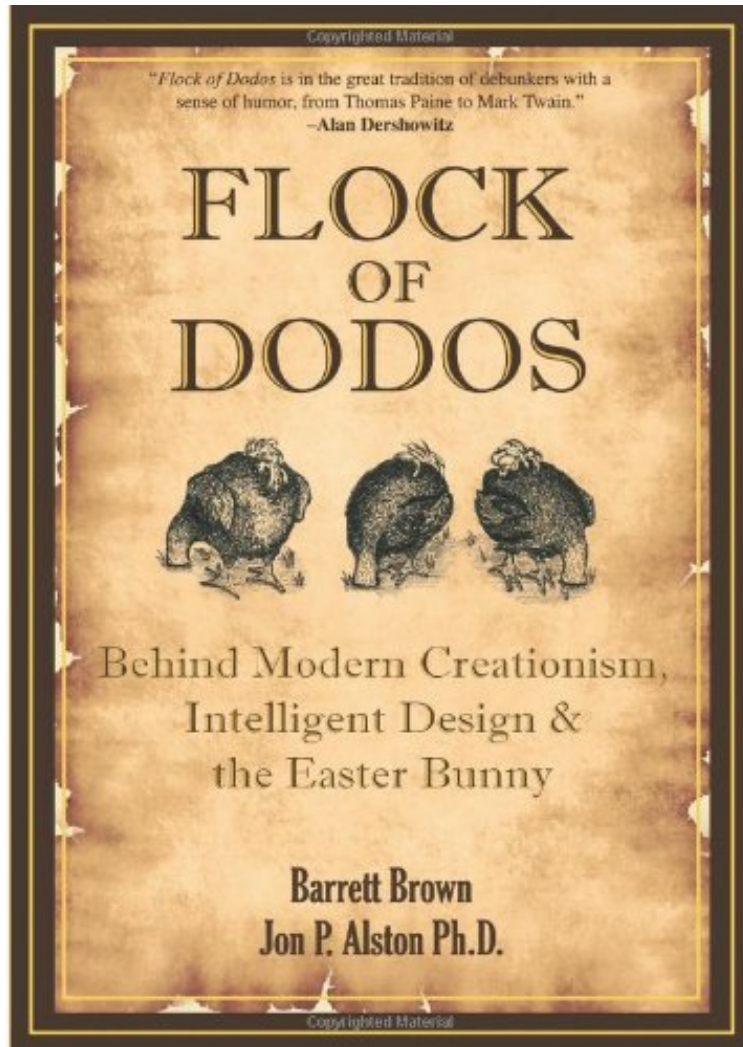


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## Flock of Dodos: Behind Modern Creationism, Intelligent Design and the Easter Bunny

Barrett Brown, Jon P. Alston

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**Barrett Brown, Jon P. Alston : Flock of Dodos: Behind Modern Creationism, Intelligent Design and the Easter Bunny** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flock of Dodos: Behind Modern Creationism, Intelligent Design and the Easter Bunny:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Shooting fishBy mrliterallIf you ever needed an example of shooting fish in a barrel, just look to the book Flock of Dodos by Barrett Brown and Jon P. Alston, a brief but amusing look at the world of Creationism. When you're dealing with a group of intellectually limited people like the idea men of the

Creationist/Intelligent Design movement, it's not exactly difficult to make fun at them. If I had to guess, the primary writer of *Flock of Dodos* is Brown, whose background is with *National Lampoon*. Alston, on the other hand, probably provided more of the concepts. Whatever the case, this is a funny book that shows the vast contradictions and fallacies of the so-called Intelligent Design movement. Unlike many books on the topic of debunking this pseudoscience, *Flock of Dodos* does not really rely on the scientific flaws, but dwells more on the political and religious rationale (or should it be irracionale?) of the movement. For example, while Intelligent Design proponents will often pretend that religion plays no part in their "theory", the record shows otherwise. The IDers (or as I've heard them referred to, IDiots) will resort to all sorts of lies and bullying to get their way and fulfill their ultimate agenda of bringing religion (which is to say their religion, a fanatical and disturbing form of Christianity) into the classroom and government. Quoting people out of context and indulging in scare tactics may be part of the game of politics, but in the world of science, it cannot win. *Flock of Dodos* may preach to the choir, but it also provides that choir with some additional tools to appropriately mock Creationists. At just over 150 quick pages, it may be a bit small for the cover price, but if you can get it at a discount (such as through ), it is worth getting.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Wacky World of Creationism Gets Punk'd. By Kevin Currie-Knight" {T}he leaders of the Intelligent Design movement, as we shall see, are so incredibly dishonest that they could cause a veteran heroin addict to blush - not out of any moral objection on the part of the addict, but rather out of embarrassment that anyone could be do damned bad at lying." (Kindle Edition, loc. 40) Brown and Austin's book, "*Flock of Dodos*" is a crass and mocking work of rhetoric against creationism and intelligent design. Anyone wanting a scholarly and measured discourse should look elsewhere (there are scores of good anti-ID books at the scholarly level). Anyone wanting a smoking hot and comedic look at lunacy, this is the place for you! The book starts off making fun of the most easy to make fun of: the "scientific" creationists like Ken Ham and Henry Morris (oddly, Kent "Dr. Dino" Hovind is not mentioned. Maybe its because he is in jail.) Our authors make fun of their (as always) futile attempts to find, much less explain the possibility of, Noah's arc, their ignorance of any type of science, and their explanation of last resort - "then, a miracle happened." Next, we go onto another crew, that of intelligent design. These guys are a bit harder to make fun of - they are creationists who wear ties and speak like scientists. That, of course, doesn't keep our authors from trying their dangdest. This chapter is a more funny and condensed version of Forrest and Gross's "*Creationism's Trojan Horse*," where the ID crowd is rightly accused of double speak. When talking to scientists (rather, yelling to get their attention), they speak of "irreducible complexity." When talking to Christians (as they do constantly!), they speak of Jesus. The next several chapters are a humorous but forceful critique of the dangers that creationism in any form poses to science and culture. If a strange brand of Christians can force the courts to demand that a view be taught because it is more friendly to scripture (this has not happened yet), there is no telling what the next move would be. And if Christians can force the courts to decide what is and is not science, then science ceases to be independent. The authors conclude that "[r]ather than a new and exciting theory, the Intelligent Design movement is nothing less than an attempted coup by which a contingent of Constantne's hopes to overthrow the legitimacy of the Enlightenment." (loc. 1011) If this sounds like an extreme judgment, bordering on caricaturization, that is because - at least to my eyes - it is. Other reviewers have complained that this book is just an empty work of biting and alarmist rhetoric. Okay. It is certainly no worse than Ann Coulter's "*Godless*," let alone Ben Stein's "*Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*," both of which were gobbled up by the ID crowd in droves. Rhetoric and humor can be good. It is sometimes fun to laugh at people that deserve to be mocked. This book is proof. (Now, we just need to find that pesky proof of evolution...)

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. a reason to buy a kindle By marymccutcheon A new copy of *Flock of Dodos* costs ... what??? about \$150. A used copy costs almost as much. A kindle version is under \$10. So that did it for me. I bought a kindle. Now for the book. It was delightful and hit a lot of nails on the head. Everyone should read this ESPECIALLY believers in Intelligent Design and Creationism. Yeah. They might be offended, but they need to see what's wrong with their ideas. Thanks for this great book.

What is creationism? Is it science, theology, both, neither? Who's behind it? And why should you give a damn in the first place? Ex-National Lampooner Barrett Brown and Professor of Sociology Jon P. Alston, Ph.D, answer these questions, and perhaps one or two more, in a superbly unorthodox, serenely offensive and splendidly hilarious look at the forces behind the most talked-about pseudo-theory in modern history.

From the Publisher "*Flock of Dodos* is in the great tradition of debunkers with a sense of humor, from Thomas Paine to Mark Twain." -- Alan Dershowitz "*Jesus Christ and lesbian monkeys* in the same book. Brilliant. `Smart' and `funny' in the same book. Genius." -- Cenk Uyger, *The Young Turks*, Air America Radio "*Simultaneously smart, insightful, and hilarious! Even though refuting creationism is like shooting tiny Noah's Arks in a barrel, Brown and Alston dissect the movement with a wholly unique wit and perspective. The best book I've read in years.*" -- Bob Cesca, *The Huffington Post*, Founder, Camp Chaos Entertainment "*Here's the problem with America's born-again wackos: only a gifted comic is capable of describing them, but no one with a sense of humor can stomach being around them. That's why there are so few books like *Flock of Dodos*. With their painstaking attention to historical detail and amusingly*

violent writing style, Brown and Alston have given the religious right exactly the righteous, merciless fragging it deserves. I wish I could tie James Dobson down and make him eat every page." -- Matt Taibbi, Rolling Stone Magazine, author of Spanking the Donkey About the Author Jon P. Alston is Professor of Sociology at Texas AM University. He is the author of seven other books and more than seventy articles and anthology contributions. Barrett Brown has written for several national magazines including National Lampoon, Cracked, Jest, Wired, Playboy and for nerve.com.