

About the Darwin Era



This is the first release of the Darwin Era Calendar. Some remembrance days are self-evident, but many others are still matter of discussion and consensus. Hence, this calendar is not a final release but a work in progress.

You are invited to join darwin-era.org, a non-profit open-community organization, to participate in the design of this calendar.

In the last decades the number of atheists on earth has increased significantly. The phantastic **scientific discoveries** of the last century, the **globalization** of the last decade, and the brave **engagement** of intellectuals all over the world led to a strong self-conscious **new atheist** movement.

After thousands of years of superstition, hundreds of religions that came and went, we believe that mankind has now the **chance** to become **adult**. There is no more reason to hold on to **irrational** traditions that impede the advancement of the human civilization. Science gave us the key to our **existence**: an explanation about **life** and the **universe**, and our **position** herein. Science tells us that we are **solely responsible** for the future of life on earth. We cannot pass our responsibility to someone else (for example to a god).

Alas the whole world still follows religion-based calendars (Gregorian, Islamic, Jewish, etc) which defined holidays that remember saints, religious leaders etc. We feel that atheists should have their own calendar, commemorating great **humanists** and scientists instead of saints or mythical creatures.

But which year should mark our '**year zero**'? Which is the most pregnant day that marks the most important leap in intellectual enlightenment? It is clearly the publication of **Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* in 1859**. It was THIS masterpiece that changed everything. The 'Origin' worried the churches even more than Copernicus' *De Revolutionibus* or Galilei's *Dialogues on two world systems* because Darwin discovered a provable explanation about the origin of man (and all other species) without the need to assume any creator.

The first time in human history, mankind recognized their real origins. Darwin taught us that the religious explanations that dictated the world view for many thousands of years are **completely wrong**. The Origin of the Species became the definite **fundament** of atheism.

In the **150 years** since the 'Origin' has been published its defenders often had a hard life. Even today many people still demonize and decline the scientific truth of the evolution because it **conflicts** with their beliefs. Creationism and Intelligent Design Theories are quite popular today.

The Darwin Era should represent a new age of **enlightenment**. Use this calendar to express that you believe in a humanistic **free-thinking** movement, where **reason** and scientific research should replace superstition and belief.

Help spreading the concept of the Darwin Era if you think that it is time to stop the millennia of religious **indoctrination**, depression, and violence.

