

HISTORY OF SCIENCE

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ABSTRACT

Evolution and Morality as Interpreted by T. H. Huxley and Herbert Spencer. ELIZABETH HUNT, Department of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405.—Thomas Henry Huxley (1825-1895) and Herbert Spencer (1820-1903), biologists and Darwin critics, were both renowned as moralists during their lifetimes. Huxley, Darwin's staunch supporter, addressed himself often to the meaning of morality in humans whom he saw as products of evolution by natural selection. Huxley's work as a biologist and his particularly interesting idea of morality have been overshadowed by his reputation as "Darwin's bulldog." Because ideas originally developed by Darwin are paramount in biology today, Huxley's impact upon evolutionary thought is worth serious consideration. Spencer, whose idea of evolution was founded upon other principles than that of natural selection, was a tremendously prolific moralist. Spencer's life-work, *Synthetic Philosophy*, is a five-part treatise on biology, psychology (a discipline Spencer founded), sociology and morality. Spencer's understanding of evolution was not merely the crux of his biological theories; Spencer also felt that this evolutionary mechanism was the driving force in society and morality as well. How science has influenced our ideas of morality (and the reverse) in the 19th century is apparent in the works of Huxley and Spencer.

