

Book Review**Review of John C. Landon's Book: World History and the Eonic Effect: Civilization, Darwinism, and Theories of Evolution**

Stephen P. Smith*

ABSTRACT

John C. Landon's "World History and the Eonic Effect" is a worthy read for anyone interested in cultural evolution and theories of evolution. Historicism, the belief that history unfolds from universal laws (leading to a blind induction without remainder), is exposed as fraud. The best example of fraud is Darwinism, the belief that macro-evolution is explained by random variation and natural selection. In fact, evolution necessarily implies something ineffable; otherwise we fall back into historicism. Fixity of purpose, stuck on historicism, stuck on Darwinian explanations of biological function, leads to the blind leading the blind. You can find this book at Amazon http://www.amazon.com/World-History-Eonic-Effect-Civilization/dp/1413455921/ref=cm_cr-mr-title.

Key Words: world history, eonic effect, civilization, Darwinism, theory of evolution.

Landon notes that this inclination comes with a high "coefficient of murder." Oppressive chains constrain our thinking by dictates that are said to govern all forms of causation, and to break away a free thinker leaves room for the ineffable. We seek freedom! Landon makes much use of Kant's "third antinomy" and Schopenhauer's "will," and both of these relate to our provisionality that finds itself conflicted with the universal.

Landon's "photo finish" catches evolution in action, with real data that reflects our own cultural evolution. The "eonic effect" is noted as a non-random pattern, a "periodization" where an odd convergence is detected. Landon (page 93) writes: "Looking backward, world history reveals a long rhythm, punctuated by three great turning points, the birth of civilization in the early Sumer and Egypt at the end of the fourth Millennium, the broad parallel advance at the onset of classical antiquity, to which increasing perspective should now add the explosion of change between 1500 and 1800. This mysterious drumbeat hides an unsuspected dynamism and answers directly to the enigma of the evolution of human civil existence in a series of discrete periods."

Our historical record is rich, unlike the fossil record where it is impossible to zoom in for a close up. Those that cling to biological evolution, while believing that culture is a mere emergent property completely explained by Darwinian evolution, are facing Landon's challenge. Not only is the fossil record restricted by the "hurricane effect," the noted evolutionary change found missing because of a problem of scale (i.e., when zoom in fails); there is a bigger problem. Landon points out that it is impossible to distinguish evolution from history. A distinction demands a point in time where evolution ends and history begins, and there is no point. What is observed in history is a non-random convergence, a teleology that contradicts Darwinian explanations.

The emergence of mono-theism, and including Buddhism, shows a non-random pattern. Somehow humanity found something sufficient in the world's religions, something beyond the conditions of necessity that lend themselves to explanation. Scientism struggles to explain away what is sufficient,

Correspondence: Stephen P. Smith, Ph.D., Visiting Scientist, Physics Department, University Of California at Davis, CA
E-mail: hucklebird@aol.com

while only pointing to conditions of necessity. Richard Dawkins struggles with this point, but Landon's "eonic effect" has no trouble.

Landon (page 486) writes on the emergence of modernity: "We can see now in a very intuitive fashion the unmistakable resolution of Kant's Challenge, almost like clockwork, for the 'regular movement' in the play of freedom should be obvious. The birth of the State, the discrete freedom sequence, the socio-political core of the great religions seen in the light of our unit of analysis method, all these show very strong correlation with our eonic sequence, a spectacular confirmation of Kant's suspicions. Each of our transitions shows a rapid advance of directed innovation and advance, to the point of echoing each other across time. And how remarkable that is. As we exit the modern transition and achieve the minimum dataset for our eonic pattern, all at once the beautiful vista comes into view, one that we could never have suspected."

Edmund Husserl also writes about the reactivation of history (see my review of "The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology"). L.E.J. Brouwer's intuitionist truth is also based on an experienced construction of mathematical protocol. I have not agreed with Landon on every point. But I agree that when history is reactivated something is strangely felt, call it Landon's "mysterious drumbeat." I believe Husserl and Brouwer felt it too.

References

John C. Landon, 2005, *World History And the Eonic Effect: Civilization, Darwinism, and Theories of Evolution*. Xlibris Corporation.