

Explorers, evolutionists, eugenicists, sexologists, and high school biology teachers--all have contributed to the prominence of the biological sciences in American life. In this book, Philip Pauly weaves their stories together into a fascinating history of biology in America over the last two hundred years. Beginning with the return of the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1806, botanists and zoologists identified science with national culture, linking their work to continental imperialism and the creation of an industrial republic. Pauly examines this nineteenth-century movement in local scientific communities with national reach: the partnership of Asa Gray and Louis Agassiz at Harvard University, the excitement of work at the Smithsonian Institution and the Geological Survey, and disputes at the Agriculture Department over the continent's future. He then describes the establishment of biology as an academic discipline in the late nineteenth century, and the retreat of life scientists from the problems of American nature. The early twentieth century, however, witnessed a new burst of public-oriented activity among biologists. Here Pauly chronicles such topics as the introduction of biology into high school curricula, the efforts of eugenicists to alter the breeding of Americans, and the influence of sexual biology on Americans' most private lives. Throughout much of American history, Pauly argues, life scientists linked their study of nature with a desire to culture--to use intelligence and craft to improve American plants, animals, and humans. They often disagreed and frequently overreached, but they sought to build a nation whose people would be prosperous, humane, secular, and liberal. Life scientists were significant participants in efforts to realize what Progressive Era oracle Herbert Croly called the promise of American life. Pauly tells their story in its entirety and explains why now, in a society that is rapidly returning to a complex ethnic mix similar to the one that existed for a hundred years prior to the Cold War, it is important to reconnect with the progressive creators of American secular culture.

Targumic Approaches to the Gospels: Essays in the Mutual Definition of Judaism and Christianity (Studies in Judaism), Arboreal Group Theory: Proceedings of a Workshop Held September 13-16, 1988 (Mathematical Sciences Research Institute Publications), Alphonse Mucha Poster Art (Fine Arts), The Economics of Property Rights: Towards a Theory of Comparative Systems (International Studies in Economics and Econometrics), The Democratic Imagination in America: Conversations with Our Past (Princeton Legacy Library), The National Geographic Photography Field Guide: Secrets to Making Great Pictures, Rumsfeld's War: The Untold Story of America's Anti-Terrorist Commander, On a Clear Day You Can See LA, Comte d'Antraigues: Un Disciple Aristocrate de J.-J. Rousseau de la Fascination au Reniement 1782-1797 (French Edition),

Biologists and the Promise of American Life: From Meriwether Lewis to Alfred Kinsey. Pauly, Philip J. Biologists and the Promise of American.

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