

Contents

Part I Religion Through the Eyes of a Biologist

Evolution in All Its Facets	3
References.	12
The Scientific Approach to Religion	15
References.	24
What Do We Know? What Can Be Known?	25
References.	40
Understanding Religion from the Inside.	43
References.	56

Part II About Evolutionary Biology and the Evolution of Religion

Evolution: The Modern Synthesis	59
References.	70
Extended Evolutionary Synthesis, Epigenetics and the Contingency of Evolution	73
References.	86
Gene-Culture Coevolution	89
References.	100

Part III Phenomenology of Paleolithic Religion

A Story Told Backwards.	103
References.	111

The Beginning and the End: Pre-Human and Neolithic Religion	113
References.	121
Hominin Pre-Adaptations: Background to the Evolution of Religion	123
References.	133
Part IV CSR: The Cognitive Science of Religion	
Evolutionary Psychology and Religion	137
References.	149
Religious Fanaticism	151
References.	166
Practical Religion and Spirituality	167
References.	179
Magic, Religion and Evolutionary Ethics	181
References.	193
Part V Modeling the Evolutionary Path to Culture and Religion	
Multi-Level Models of Religious Evolution	197
References.	203
Conclusion and Outlook	205
References.	212