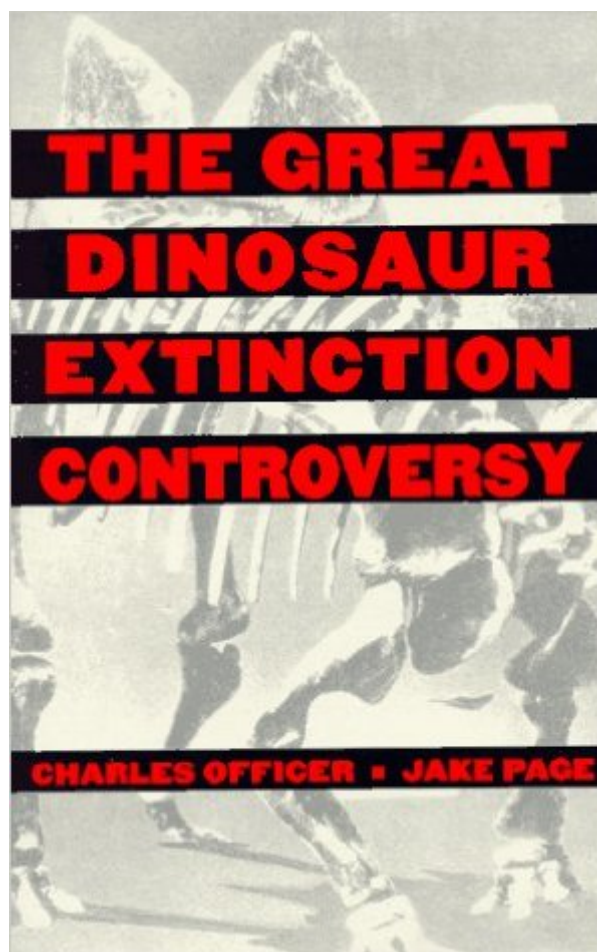


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The Great Dinosaur Extinction Controversy (Helix Books)



Synopsis

In 1980 Nobel Laureate Luis Alvarez announced his theory that the dinosaurs met their final demise when a meteorite crashed into Earth. Instantly embraced by the media, this theory became the hottest scientific fact. However, many in the scientific community did not support Alvarez's theory. This book chronicles the fantastic story of how this hypothesis became so widespread, reveals the myriad scientific research that proves it wrong, and offers an alternative explanation for the extinctions.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (7 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

In 1980, Nobel Prize winning physicist Luis Alvarez suggested (see "T. rex" and the Crater of Doom (Princeton Science Library)) that a gigantic meteorite striking the earth 65 million years ago had caused the extinction of the dinosaurs, by causing a cloud of dust around the earth which suppressed photosynthesis and plant growth, and the dinosaurs finally died of starvation. There are lots of books discussing the controversy (e.g., The Dinosaur Heresies: New Theories Unlocking the Mystery of the Dinosaurs and Their Extinction, Mass-Extinction Debates: How Science Works in a Crisis). This 1996 book argues forcefully against this theory. The authors state in the Preface, "Indeed, most of the 'science' performed by the Alvarez camp has been so inexplicably weak, and the response to it so eagerly accepting by important segments of the scientific press (never mind the popular press and the tabloids), that some skeptics have wondered if the entire affair was not, on the impact side, some kind of scam... We have instead confined ourselves largely to addressing

the scientific merits of the case."They write, "There was no paleontological evidence for an instantaneous extinction event for those species--in all, 50 percent of all extant species--around K-T times. Not for dinosaurs, nor flying reptiles....

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