



# Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion

*Edward J. Larson*

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## **Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion**

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In the summer of 1925, the sleepy hamlet of Dayton, Tennessee, became the setting for one of the 20th century's most contentious dramas: the Scopes trial that pit William Jennings Bryan and the anti-Darwinists against a teacher named John Scopes into a famous debate over science, religion, and their place in public education. That trial marked the start of a battle that continues to this day—in Dover, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Cobb County, Georgia, and many other cities and states throughout the country. Edward Larson's classic, *Summer for the Gods*, received the Pulitzer Prize in History in 1998 and is the single most authoritative account of a pivotal event whose combatants remain at odds in school districts and courtrooms. For this edition, Larson has added a new preface that assesses the state of the battle between creationism and evolution, and points the way to how it might potentially be resolved.

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