



Punctuated Equilibrium

By Stephen Jay Gould

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 228 x 146 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In 1972, Stephen Jay Gould took the scientific world by storm with his paper on punctuated equilibrium, written with Niles Eldredge. Challenging a core assumption of Darwin s theory of evolution, it launched the career of one of the most influential evolutionary biologists of our time - perhaps the best known since Darwin. Now, 35 years later, and five years after his untimely death, Punctuated Equilibrium (originally published as the central chapter of Gould s masterwork, The Structure of Evolutionary Theory) offers his only book-length testament on an idea he fiercely promoted, repeatedly refined, and tirelessly defended. Punctuated equilibrium holds that the great majority of species originate in geological moments (punctuations) and persist in stasis. The idea was hotly debated because it forced biologists to rethink entrenched ideas about evolutionary patterns and processes. But, as Gould shows here in his typically exhaustive coverage, the idea has become the foundation of a new view of hierarchical selection and macroevolution.

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