**DOUBT**

**BY JENNIFER MICHAEL HECHT**

**The first recorded case of an indictment for Atheism occurred in Greece in 467 b.c.e. Anaxagoras realized that heavenly objects were not gods but probably metallic, rocky objects when he examined a meteorite which had fallen nearby. Thus began the battle between science and religion that has continued for almost 2,500 years.**

**One of the earliest systems of Rationalist thought was that of the Carvaka of India who recognized that there was no "soul" separate from the human body. Not only were they 2,500 years ahead of their time - they were ahead of 90% of all people, in our time. Jainism and Buddhism likely developed from the beliefs of the Carvaka.**

**Darwin's theory of evolution provided doubters with scientific evidence upon which to base their doubt. Atheism was now entering a new phase with the support of provable science.**

**As the 19th century neared an end, scientists like Thomas Edison and others enter the fray and begin taking a toll on religious belief.**

**In the 20th century, an entire nation, Russia, attempted to set up an atheist regime. Unfortunately, the leader, Joseph Stalin was an evil man giving believers ammunition to use against atheism in the debate over morality.**

**Scientists continued to swing over to the atheist side, including such heavyweights as Albert Einstein.**

**GRADE B+**

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