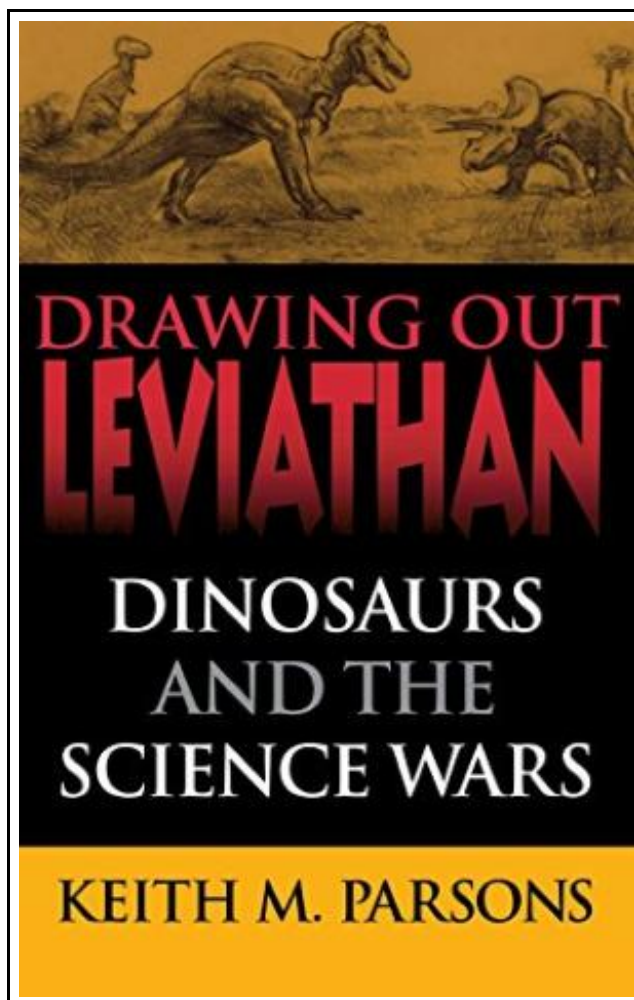


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DRAWING OUT LEVIATHAN: DINOSAURS AND THE SCIENCE WARS (HARDBACK)



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Indiana University Press, United States, 2001. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 242 x 163 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. .are dinosaurs social constructs? Do we really know anything about dinosaurs? Might not all of our beliefs about dinosaurs merely be figments of the paleontological imagination? A few years ago such questions would have seemed preposterous, even nonsensical. Now they must have a serious answer. At stake in the Science Wars that have raged in academe and in the media is nothing less than the standing of science in our culture. One side argues that science is a social construct, that it does not discover facts about the world, but rather constructs artifacts disguised as objective truths. This view threatens the authority of science and rejects science's claims to objectivity, rationality, and disinterested inquiry. *Drawing Out Leviathan* examines this argument in the light of some major debates about dinosaurs: the case of the wrong-headed dinosaur, the dinosaur heresies of the 1970s, and the debate over the extinction of dinosaurs. Keith Parsons claims that these debates, though lively and sometimes rancorous, show that evidence and logic, not arbitrary rules of the game, remained vitally important, even when the debates were at their nastiest. They show science to be a complex set of activities, pervaded by social influences, and not easily reducible to any stereotype. Parsons acknowledges that there are lessons to be learned by scientists from their would-be adversaries, and the book concludes with some recommendations for ending the Science Wars.



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