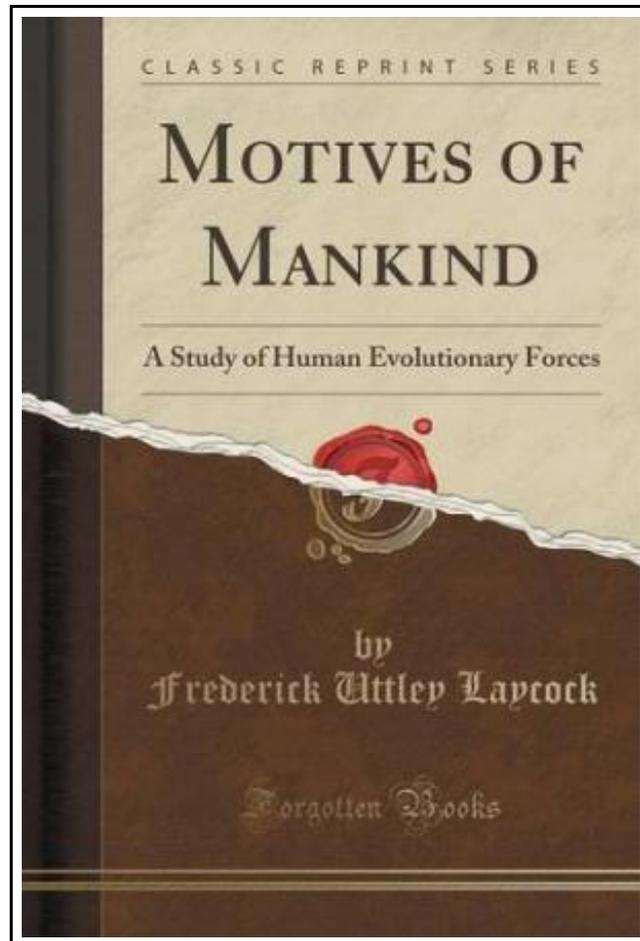


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Motives of Mankind: A Study of Human Evolutionary Forces Chapter I. Economic Man. - Social institutions are the result of slow growth. The natural tendencies we call economic laws are substantially changeless. Difference between human and natural laws is important but too much disregarded. Human need for material subsistence is the motive of economic activity, and the occasion of much tragedy. Adam Smith should have commenced with this need instead of the labour used to supply it. All conduct is traceable to motives and desires; and each seeks to accomplish his desires in the easiest manner known to him. Chapter II. Man's Relation to Land. - We thus get the economic law of rent. Land is essential to production of subsistence but is of unequal value. Some land is as profitable at a rent as other land rent free. This surplus value is vitally distinguishable from the value added by human effort. To tax the natural surplus value for common purposes cannot deter effort; it will rather discourage idleness; but to tax the result of labour will diminish the endeavour. The margin of cultivation is a formula indicating what land is for the time being worth using. The so-called law of diminishing returns may well be disregarded in face of the progress of human knowledge and skill. Freedom to seek the greatest advantage from the smallest expenditure results in increased return through change of kind and improvement of method without lowering the margin of cultivation. Demand may be enlarged without increase of population: the growth in variety indicating progress. The one condition of this increase in demand is freedom to produce the supply....

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