

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL
BASIS OF SOCIETY**



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THE ENVIRONMENTAL BASIS OF SOCIETY

A STUDY IN THE HISTORY
OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

BY

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PREFACE

The purpose of this study is to present, in their appropriate historical and cultural settings, theories which attempt to explain the phenomena of individual and social life in terms of the geographic environment. It is not a study of environmental influences but of theories, ancient and modern, which deal with these influences. In a later chapter some of the more important criticisms of environmental doctrines are presented and evaluated, but the fundamental aim of the study is accurately to expound the doctrines rather than to pass judgment upon their scientific validity. While a strictly chronological mode of presentation would have had several advantages, the writer believes that the topical arrangement will be more serviceable for students of social and political theory.

The writer takes this opportunity to acknowledge his indebtedness to a number of friends and associates whose advice and suggestions have been of inestimable value. The work was undertaken at the suggestion of Professor A. A. Tenney, who has read the entire manuscript and has given the writer the benefit of many helpful and discriminating criticisms. To Professor H. E. Barnes he is indebted for an authoritative appraisal of the historical sources drawn upon, and for his generous interest in suggesting additional authorities. Professor Frank A. Ross, Mr. H. N. Shenton and Mr. R. G. Smith have offered a number of constructive suggestions, and Professor Kim-

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