

# **THE SCIENCE OF SOCIOLOGY**

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The Science of Sociology by Wallace E. Nevill

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**WALLACE E. NEVILL**

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OF SOCIOLOGY**



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# The Science of Sociology.

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## PART I.

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### CHAPTER I.

Students of the evolution through which our system of government is going have been giving much attention of late to the increasing power of the Senate. . . . The laws of evolution apply to governments as to individuals, and when once a certain tendency of growth has been firmly set, the progress in that direction is apt to be rapid.

—*The Call* editorial, San Francisco, Feb. 21, 1902.

Herbert Spencer says "EVOLUTION" is the universal law displayed alike in the development of a planet and of every seed which germinates upon its surface. Undoubtedly, every organism in all Nature, tree, plant, animal—grows from its seed after its kind, through progressive stages, to maturity and consequent perfection, unless there happens some unnatural or arbitrary interference with its unfoldment. Illustrations of this universal law—this "metamorphosis"—are

- Herbert Spencer.** found in every barn yard and in every garden, "EGG, LARVA, PUPA, IMAGO, FOR EXAMPLE." In a plant we see the blade, the ear, and after that the full corn in the ear. In the "genus homo," we have first the infant "MULING AND PUKING IN THE NURSE'S ARMS," and then the "WHINING SCHOOLBOY," etc., etc., and on up to manhood "HIS ACTS BEING SEVEN AGES." We must reflect, however, that man individually, apparently, loses all he has gained, and lands at last "SANS EVERYTHING." Moreover, at times, "THE PROGRESS IN THAT DIRECTION IS APT TO BE RAPID."
- Shakespeare.**
- La Certe.** Now "Evolution" is continuous progressive change from resident forces.

### IS SOCIETY AN ORGANISM?

- Hume.** If the laws of evolution apply to governments why have we not a perfect social state by this time? Why did Mr. Hume find it necessary to write an essay "THAT POLITICS

MIGHT BE REDUCED TO A SCIENCE?" Why does Mr. Mallock, in our own time, confess "WE HAVE NOT ANY SCIENCE OF SOCIETY"? What has "Evolution" been doing for the past two thousand years? Does it work for a little time and then go to sleep for a period? If not, how does "YE EDITOR," who knows what "STUDENTS" have been doing of late, account for the "DARK AGES" following so closely upon the splendid civilizations of Greece and Rome? If Society be an organism, and evolution the law, wherein can we trace continuous "PROGRESSIVE" CHANGE? Here are we, confronted with problems which have been discussed from every conceivable standpoint, by all the master minds back through the ages into the remotest antiquity, and now things are so fixed that "EVOLUTION" is going to do what they failed to accomplish!!

ALFRED RUSSELL WALLACE actually gives us a list of the great inventions