

SOURCE BOOK FOR
SOCIAL ORIGINS

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ETHNOLOGICAL MATERIALS, PSYCHOLOGICAL STAND-
POINT, CLASSIFIED AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOG-
RAPHIES FOR THE INTERPRETATION
OF SAVAGE SOCIETY

BY

WILLIAM I. THOMAS

Author of Sex and Society

*In good sooth, my masters, this is no door. Yet is it a little
window, that looketh upon a great world.*

—Quoted in RISLEY, *The People of India*, title-page

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WILLIAM JONES
KILLED IN LUZON

PREFACE

This book will be found very interesting, if read slowly. It had its origin in the necessities of the classroom, but in its preparation I have had a growing hope that it may be a means of extending the interest in the beginnings of human society to a larger public. The study of savage and prehistoric man is one of the most fascinating and important of the social sciences, and at the same time one of the most esoteric. It is not only inherently delightful, but, as I have attempted to indicate in the introductory chapter, it has a vital though incompletely realized relation to historical, sociological, and pedagogical studies. On every score it deserves a wider recognition, and I should be happy if I could assist it to come into its own. It is impossible, at any rate, that the scientific and comparative method connected with the movement we call Darwinism should not in the long run be extended to the study of man himself.

Human activities cannot be isolated or arranged according to any fixed order of development. Any one of them is related to all the others. But for convenience I have grouped the materials I have been able to include in the space at my command in seven parts, the external environment and the mind of man coming first, and the activities growing out of these following in a more or less arbitrary order.

In the choice of the papers which form the bulk of the book the proportion of bare fact and of more generalized statement has of course been a problem, and it has turned out that most of the selections have a thread