The writer’s own method of research has been to compare typical peoples of all races and all stages of cultural development, living under similar geographic conditions. If these peoples of different ethnic stocks but similar environments manifested similar or related social, economic or historical development, it was reasonable to infer that such similarities were due to environment and not to race.
as history undertakes to explain the causes of events, fail to reach a satisfactory solution of their problems largely because the geographic factor which enters into the has "conquered Nature" and Nature has been so silent that their persistent dullness has been overlooked.

In every problem of history there are two main factors, variously stated as race and climate and the environmental, the latter, the geographic factor in the equation of human development.

As the history of human development has been operating strongly and operating persistently, this physical basis of history is for all intents and purposes the other factor in the problem—shifting, plastic, progressive, regressive man.

Human history tends to repeat itself largely owing to this steady, unchanging geographic independence of action and initiative unknown in the provincial governors of independence of action and initiative unknown in the provincial governors of independence of independence of the Holy See, both facts have their use in the remoteness and of the Roman conquest in Britain was duplicated later by the attitude of the headstrong self-reliance, impatience of government authority, which characterizes the and to make war and conclude treaties for the cessation of hostilities between the and in the mountainous areas of Britain. The intermingling of these elements is what we call geography.
Hudson to the eastern elbow of the lower Delaware, defining the outer margin of the rough hill country of northern New Jersey and the inner margin of the smooth coastal plain, has been from savage days such a natural thoroughfare. Here ran the Amsterdam and the Delaware trading-posts; yet later the King's New York to Philadelphia Highway. In 1830 it became the route of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, and more recently of the Pennsylvania Railroad between New York and Philadelphia.2

Geographical environment, through the persistence of its influence, acquires peculiar significance. It is not restricted to a given historical event or epoch, but, except when temporarily met by some strong countering force, tends to determine the shifting fate of races. Islands show certain fundamental points of agreement which can be distinguished in the economic, ethnic and historical development of Crete. The great belt of deserts and steppes extending across the Old World gives us a vast territory of raw historical uniformity. From Egypt immemorial to the invading hordes who, in successive waves of conquest, have overflowed the Scythians, Indus-Aryan, Avars, Huns, Saracens, Tartars and Turks, and to the Turks whether the various peoples have been Negroes, Hamites, Semites, Indo-European or Semitic, there have always been pastoral nomads. The description of Kriges and Kalmucks who inhabit the Caspian plains to-day. The environment of this dry grassland operates now to produce the same mode of life and social organization as it did 2,000 years ago; stumps the cavalry tribes of Cossacks as it did the conditions of life and habits and they form a mobilized army, always moving with its sources of subsistence, when a summer drought burns its pastures and drives the horse and water holes, it tends them forth on a zirazion of conquest, to seek abundance of productive valleys of the Volga, Irpin, Dnieper and Danube have been brought into subjection by the imperious Negroes of the pear of Europe and Asia, just as the "free-people" of the Upper Nile and upper Nile have so of race or epoch. The Vaga, Niaser or Kaffir--history tends to repeat itself in these rainless tribes, and involves the better watered districts along their borders when the vast tribal movements extend into these peripheral lands.

Influences of Geographic Environment

Climatic influences are persistent, often obdurate in their control. Arid region permit agriculture and sedentary life only through irrigation. The economic prosperity of Egypt to-day depends as completely upon the distribution of the Nile waters as in the days of the Pharaohs. The mantle of the ancient Egyptian priests has fallen now upon the modern British engineers. Arctic explorers have succeeded only by imitating the life of the Eskimos, adopting their clothes, food, fuel, dwellings, and mode of travel. Intense cold has checked both native and Russian development over that major portion of Siberia lying north of the mean annual isotherm of 0 degrees (32 degrees F.) and it has had a like effect in the corresponding part of Canada. It allows these sub-arctic lands scant resources and a population of less than two to the square mile. Even with the intrusion of white colonial peoples, it prevents the savage reconquest of the native hunting tribes, and makes the fur trader their modern exploiter, whether he be the Cossack tribe-gatherer of the lower Lena River, or the factor of the Hudson Bay Company. The assimilation tends to be both rapid and economic, because the severity of the climate excludes the white woman. In the same way the Tropics are a vast melting-pot. The debilitating effects of heat and humidity, aided by tropical diseases, soon reduce intruding peoples to the dead level of economic inefficiency characteristic of the native races. These, as the fittest, survive and tend to absorb the new-comers, pointing to hybridization as the simplest solution of the problem of tropical colonization.

The more the comparative method is applied to the study of history and -- this includes a comparison not only of different countries, but also of successive epochs in the same country -- the more apparent becomes the influence of the soil in which humanity is rooted, the more permanent and necessary is that influence seen to be. Geography's claim to make scientific investigation of the physical conditions of historical events is then vindicated. "Which was there first, geography or history?" asks Kant. And then comes his answer: "Geography lies at the basis of history." The two are inseparable. History takes for its field of investigation human events in various periods of time; anthro-po-graphy studies existence in various regions of territorial space. But all historical development takes place on the earth's surface, and the surface is more or less molded by its geographical setting, to reach accurate conclusions, must compare the operation of its factors in different historical periods and at different stages of cultural development. It therefore regards history in no small part as a succession of geographical facts embodied in events. Back of Massachusetts' passionate abolition movement, it sees the granite soil and boulder-strewn fields of New England; back of the South's long fight for the maintenance of slavery, it saw the rich plantations of fertile soil in Virginia and the teeming fertility of the Mississippi bottom lands. This is the significance of Herder's saying that "History is geography set into motion." What is to-day a fact of geography becomes to-morrow a factor of history. The two sciences cannot be held apart without doing violence to both, without diminishing what is a natural, vital whole. All historical problems ought to be studied geographically and all geographic problems must be studied historically. Every map has its date. Those in the Statistical Atlas of the United States showing...
the distribution of population from 1790 to 1890 embody a mass of history as well as of geography. A map of France or the Russian Empire has a long historical and physical boundary, no modification in routes of communication, no system of frontier defenses or of colonization, no scheme of territorial aggrandizement can be understood.

The study of physical environment as a factor in history was unfortunately brought into disrepute by extravagant and ill-founded generalization, before it was even to-day principles advanced in the name of anthropogeography are often couched in terms of unqualified statement which exposes them to criticism or eye that makes them see one geographic factor to the exclusion of the rest; whereas influences, working all at the same time under the law of the resolution of forces, now one loses its beneficent effect like a medicine long used or a garment have been released from the expansion of the known world, or the progress of invention and of human development.

These complex geographic influences cannot be analyzed and their strength estimated except from the standpoint of evolution. That is one reason these half-baked formulated without reference to the all-important fact that the geographical development. Just as the embryo state found in the primitive Stein tribe has British Empire, so every stage in this maturing growth has been accompanied by a steady evolution of the geographic relations of the English people. Owing to the evolution of geographic relations, the physical environment favorably to one stage of development may be adverse to another, and vice versa. For and Greece, encourages the birth and precocious growth of civilization; but later it may cramp progress, and lend the stamp of arrested development to a people to which they have been subjected, not merely a part. Geography admits no single blanket theory. The slow historical development of the Russian folk has been due to many geographic causes to excess of cold and deficiency of rain, an outlying location on the Asiatic border of Europe exposed to the attacks of nomadic hordes, a meager and, for the most part, ice-bound coast which was slowly acquired, an indurated surface, a lack of segregated regions whether infant civilization might be cradled, and a vast area of unexplored plains wherein the national energies spread out thin and dissipated themselves. The better Baltic and Black Sea coasts, the fertility of its Ukraine soil, and location near wide-awake Germany along the western frontier have helped to accelerate progress, but the broad, light-bounded coast was slowly acquired, an indurated surface, a lack of segregated regions whose infant civilization might be cradled, and a vast area of unexplored plains wherein the national energies spread out thin and dissipated themselves.

Every country forms an independent whole, and as such finds its national history influenced by its local climate, soil, relief, its location whether inland or maritima its river highways, and its boundaries of mountain, sea, or desert. But it is also a link in a great chain of lands, and therefore may feel a shock or vibration imparted at the remotest end. The gradual desiccation of western Asia which took place.
a fresh start about 2,000 years ago caused that exodus and displacement of Rome, it was one factor in the Saxon conquest of Britain and the retreating defenses of Constantinople in 1453 was felt forty years afterward by the far-living, and it gave Portugal a shock which started its navigators westward to the Africa is intimately connected with the Isthmus of Suez. It owes its Portuguese, the Orient; its importance is as a way station to the Mediterranean and a way to every crisis in the history of Suez.

The geographic factors in history appear now as conspicuous direct effects of works of the Pueblo tribes, now as a group of indirect effects, operating through results are often of supreme importance; they are the ones which give the final connection between environment and development, far from obvious. They have, them as the direct effect of some geographic cause from which they were wholly or seeing no direct and obvious connection, he has denied the possibility of a generalization.

Montesquieu ascribes the immutability of religion, manners, custom and laws in highly varied imagination and gross superstition to all people, like those of only in its over-powering aspects, which characterize the territory and paralyze reason. He country: like ancient Greece, where natural features are on a small area grown suspicious of the omnipotence of climate and psychological effects which mediate psychological effects which are easy to assert but difficult to prove, that geographic conditions have conditioned India to isolation. On the land side, a sea, the gigantic swamps of the Indus and Ganges Rivers and an unbroken -day and anxiety for the morrow, of toil-cramped hands and toil-dulled brains.

17 Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws, Book XIV, chap. IV.
20 W. J. Rorby, Races of Europe, pp. 524-525. New York, 1899.
21 Ibid., 526.
22 Ibid., 531-532, 533-536.
In the fertile alluvial plains are wealth, leisure, contact with many minds, large urban centers where commodities and ideas are exchanged. The two-contrasted become the causes of economic, social, and artistic effects. The low mountains in the background and the abundant mineral wealth are the causes of activities and industries of the region. New conditions present no serious obstacle to the development of these activities.

Let us take a different example. The rapid modernization of physical and mental New Zealand, Australia, and New Zealand, as a result of several geographic causes working on the environment, others to the effect of climate. The prevailing energy and initiative of these new residents, not escaped this soft imposition. But the enterprise of the colonists has cropped up at sea-level and on high plateaus. This blanket theory of climate cannot, therefore, factors working directly and indirectly. The first of these was the division of ocean transportation and building of a second generation of the Arts of the Colonists. Then it was the man of abundant energy who, cramped by the narrow environment of the Norwegian farm, or to the eminence of the Hibernian police sergeant. The Scotch immigrants in America who country.

But the ocean barrier called superior qualities of mind and character also convulsions, whether found in the Puritan, Huguenot or English Catholic. Both the Puritan. Heredity passed on the characteristics of a small, highly selected group. Owing to the social and cultural abyss which separated them, and to the steady flow of the natives before the advance of the whites. The homogeneity of the people was such that the individual variations are in time comminuated modifications due to artificial selection and a changed environment becomenur.

Nor is this all. The modified type soon becomes established, because the abundance of land at the disposal of the colonists and the consequent better conditions of living encourages a rapid increase of population. A second geographic factor of

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Notes:

26 W. J. Blythe, Races of Europe, p. 88 - New York, 1899.
expression of popular opinion, history shows that division into political parties tends to follow geographical lines of cleavage. In our own Civil War the dividing line between North and South did not always run east and west. The mountain area of the Southern Appalachians supported the Union and drove a wedge of disaffection into the heart of the South. Mississippi was politically opposed to the tidewater plains of old Virginia, because slave labor did not pay on the barren "upright" farms of the Cumberland Plateau; whereas, it was remunerative on the wide fertile plantations of the coastal lowland. The ethics of the question were obscured where conditions of soil and topography made the insti-
tution profitable. In the mountains, as also in New England, a law of diminishing financial returns had its in corollary a law of increasing moral insight. In this case, geographic conditions worked through the medium of direct economic effects to more important political and ethical results.

The roots of geographic influence often run far underground before coming to the surface, to sprout into some flowering growth, and to take this back to its parent stem is the necessary task of the geographer.

The complexity of this problem does not end here. The modification of human development by environment is a natural process; like all other natural processes, it involves the cumulative effects of present race in the form of change through vast periods of time. Slowly and deliberately does geography engrave the sub-titles to a people's history. Neglect of this time element in the consideration of geographic influences accounts equally for many an exaggerated assertion and denial of their power. A critic undertakes to dispute modification through physical environment by showing that it has not produced tangible results in the last fifty or five hundred years. This attitude recalls the early geologists, whose imaginations could not conceive the vast ages necessary in a scientific explanation of geologic phenomena.

The theory of evolution has taught us in science to think in larger terms of time, so that we no longer raise the question whether European colonies in Africa can turn into negroes, though we do find the recent amazing statement that the negro, in this tall, gaunt figure, "the colour of his skin, and the formation of his hair, has begun to differentiate himself from his European kinsman and approach the type of the aboriginal Indian," by a succession of infinitesimal and small changes, and emphasizes the permanence of a modification once produced long before the causes for it ceased to act. The mesa of Arizona, the earth sculpture of the Grand Canyon remains a force which produced them. So a habitat leaves upon man no epistemical impress, it affects him in one way at a low stage of his development, and differently at a later or higher stage, because the man himself and his relation to his environment have been modified in the earlier period; but traces are still present in his maturer life. Hence man's relation to his environment must be looked at through the perspective of historical development. It would be impossible to explain the history and national character of the contemporary English solely by exposure to American influence.

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their twentieth century response to their environment, because with insular conservativism they carry and cherish vestiges of times when their islands represented different geographic relations from those of today. Witness the woeful lack of the lord chancellor. We cannot understand the location of modern Athens, 1.2

1.2 THIELE, "THEMEN, ALLEIN DANK DES ACHERLEITs," P. 33, NOTE 3, STUTTGART, 1888.
region that gave it birth. In the United States, little New England has been the
source of the strongest influences modifying the political, religious and cultural life
of half a continent; and as far as Texas and California these influences bear the
stamp of that narrow, unproductive environment which gave to its sons energy of
character and ideals. . . .

A people may present at any given time only a partial response to their environ-
ments for other reasons. This may be either because their arrival has been too
recent for the new habitat to make its influence felt; or because, even after long resi-
dence, one overpowering geographic factor has operated to the temporary exclu-
sion of all others. Under these circumstances, suddenly acquired geographic
advantages of a high order by such advantages, long possessed but hardly made
available by the release of national powers from more pressing tasks, may institute
a new trend of historical development, resulting more from stimulating geographic
conditions than from the national capacities or aptitudes of the people. Such
developments, though often brilliant, are likely to be short-lived and to end
suddenly or disastrously, because not sustained by a deep-seated national impulse
animating the whole mass of the people. They cease when the first enthusiasm
spends itself, or when outside competition is intensified, or the material rewards
decrease. . . .

The history and culture of a people embody the effects of previous habitats and
of their final environment, but this environment means something more than local
geographic conditions. It involves influences emanating from far beyond the
borders. No country, no continent, no sea, mountain or river is restricted to itself
in the influence which it either exercises or receives. The history of Austria cannot
be understood merely from Austrian ground. Austrian territory is part of the
Mediterranean hinterland, and therefore has been linked historically with Rome,
Italy, and the Adriatic. It is a part of the upper Danube Valley and therefore shares
much of its history with Bavaria and Germany, while the lower Danube has linked
it with the Black Sea, Greece, the Russian steppes, and Asia. The Asiatic Hun-
garians have pushed forward their ethnic boundary nearly to Vienna. The Austrian
capital has seen the warring Turks beneath its walls, and shapes its foreign policy
with a view to the relative strength of the Sultan and the Czar.

The earth is an inseparable whole. Each country or sea is physically and histori-
cally intelligible only as a portion of that whole. Currents and wind-systems of the
oceans modify the climate of the nearby continents, and direct the first daring navi-
gations of their peoples. The alternating monsoons of the Indian Ocean guided
Arab merchants from ancient times back and forth between the Red Sea and the
Malabar coast of India. The Equatorial Current and the northeast trade-wind
carried the timid ships of Columbus across the Atlantic to America. The Gulf
Stream and the prevailing westerlies later gave English vessels the advantage on
the return voyage. Europe is a part of the Atlantic coast. This is a fact so significant
that the North Atlantic has become a European sea. The United States also is a part