

Humboldt:—"The final and highest truths of the geographical sciences are included in the statement that the structure of the earth's surface, and the differences of climate dependent upon it, visibly rule the course of development for our race, and have determined the paths for the changes of the seats of culture, so that a glance at the earth's surface permits us to see the course of human history as determined (or, one may say, purposed) from the beginning, in the distribution of land and water, of plains and heights."

In this section, we are dealing with the interpretation of peculiarities in various societary forms. It may be difficult to decide whether a characteristic should be compared to an "environmental modification" (i.e., the direct effect of external influence, producing a change which transcends the limits of elasticity and therefore persists), or to an environmental adaptation resulting more indirectly from the selection of "variations." But in either case it has to be interpreted in relation to the environment. It is hardly necessary to say that this line of interpretation is not restricted to physical features, but applies to the whole character of the societary form. Thus, without pressing the point, we may simply allude to the thesis that morality is closely correlated to the environmental conditions.

To sum up: *The environmental influences in the widest sense cannot be overlooked in social interpretations. They affect both body and mind, both the individual and the group. But it should be noted that they are conditions rather than causes of social evolution.* "Outer nature," Keasbey says tersely, "may determine the form, but cannot account for the fact of society."