

Approaches to the Social Life of Earliest Man

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Contents:

- A. Towards a Definition of "Earliest Man"
 - I. The Cultural (and Mental) Angle of Approach
 - II. Approach from the Biological, Somatological Angle
 - B. Dubious Nature of the Approach by General Conceptions and Constructs
 - I. The Evolutionist Reconstruction of the Earliest Forms of Society
 - II. The Pretended Mental and Moral Inferiority of Earliest Man
 - 1. Pretended Proof by Application of Supposed Phylogenetic Laws
 - 2. Other Alleged Proofs
 - a) Structure and Size of Brain
 - b) Slow Progress in Technology
 - c) LÉVY-BRUHL's Theory of the Primitive Mind
 - 3. Basic Identity of Mental Power in Early and Later Man as Point of Departure
 - C. Methodically Founded Approach by the Study of Analogies
 - I. The Distance between the Terms of Comparison
 - 1. Quantitative Distance between the Terms of Comparison
 - 2. Qualitative Comparison
 - a) From the Mental Point of View
 - b) From the Biological Point of View
 - II. Modern Wildbooters the most Useful Term of Comparison
- Addenda

The social life of earliest man is withdrawn from our observation. Archaeological discoveries can give us no direct information of this kind so that the whole question would seem to be a matter of speculation only. Some important clues can, nonetheless, be brought to light by comparative studies.

A. Towards a Definition of "Earliest Man"

It is, to say the least, doubtful whether any of the archaeological discoveries which have been made so far relate to earliest man in the exact sense of the term. When speaking of "earliest man" we should therefore always add "as yet known". Even so we are not making use of an unequivocal term, since we are dealing with a line of demarcation that is difficult to draw. If the theory of