

# The Rise and Fall of Society

An Essay on the Economic Forces  
That Underlie Social Institutions

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## To Francine

When you are old enough to read this book there will be a Society and there will be a State, and both will take their character from the reigning ideas of the times. I suspect that these ideas, planted in the American mind before you were born, will be so different from those expressed in this book that you may have some difficulty in understanding how your grandfather "got that way." That could provide you with some good, clean fun--trying to reconstruct a long-lost pattern of thought.