



Darwinism and Politics (Paperback)

By David George Ritchie

Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. It is impossible for a great idea to become dominant in any department of science without affecting men s thoughts on all other subjects that keenly interest them. This is illustrated in our own time by the ideas of the struggle for existence and the survival of the fittest ; from biology they have been inevitably transferred to sociology and economics. Ernest Haeckel used them, justifiably enough perhaps, to prove the impossibility of realizing the ideal of equality which he attributed to socialists, and at the same time to demonstrate, as against Virchow, how harmless Darwinism was to society. Mr. Herbert Spencer and his followers go very much further than this, and regard the two principles as an unassailable basis for a policy of laissez faire, and as a justification for denouncing the very moderate amount of restraint upon the individual that English radicals have of late years been advocating. Fortunately the growth of historical culture has been too great to permit Mr. Spencer s sociology to take much hold upon students of economics. But among the professed students of biology,...

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