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AMERICAS PLACE IN HISTORY, VOL. 19 (CLASSIC REPRINT)



Forgotten Books. Paperback. Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. 30 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.1in.Excerpt from Americas Place in History, Vol. 19The time that has been spent in writing history would be poorly repaid if no other use could be made of the material than to file it away for occasional reference. History to-day has a broader meaning, and one of its aims should be to discover laws that will be useful in guiding the conduct of individuals or nations and perhaps ultimately in predicting future events with some degree of probability. To this end the facts must first be reduced to a form in which they can be handled. There can be no induction without reduction by classification and comparison. If we can classify history as we classify plants in botany, we can compare like with like and learn more than if we compared objects or events that had no resemblance. History is a science, and this principle applies to all sciences. In natural history, comparison has led to the discovery of the law of natural selection; in chemistry, to the periodic law; in philology, it has thrown light on the early history of mankind. The rules of grammar also are based upon it. A rule that has one exception in ten, points to the cause of the rule and to the cause of the exception, and reduces the work of analysis and even of memory by ninety percent. The principle applies also to algebra. When a school boy tried to reduce a polynomial by taking 9a from 15b, my honored professor would advise him that he could not subtract from sugar an old shoe. Without vouching for the rigid truth of the aphorism, it illustrates the principle that comparison should be based upon a...

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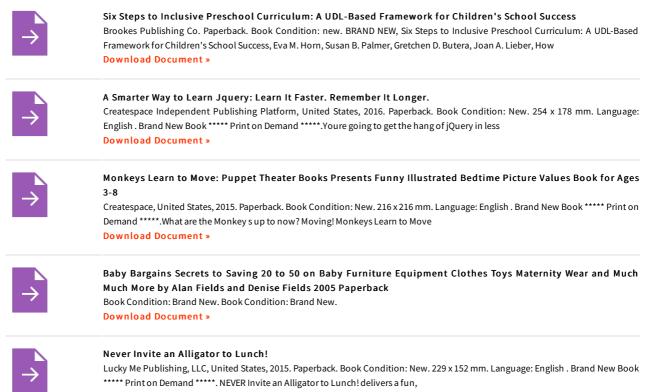
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