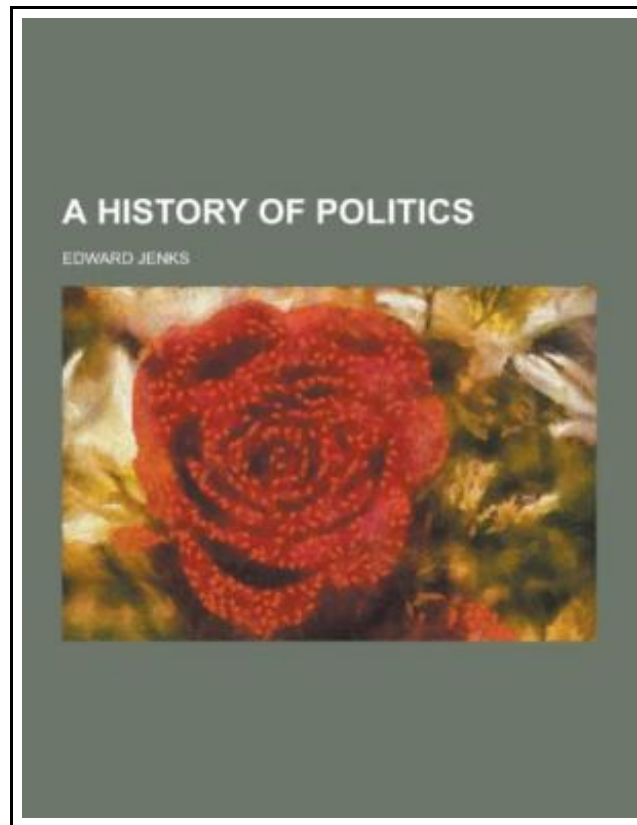


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Theclassics.Us, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1900 edition. Excerpt: . of CHAPTER VI Agriculture and the Clan Origin of agriculture.--As in the case of the taming of wild animals, so in the case of tilling the ground, we are left in the dark as to the benefactor who first made the priceless discovery. Such scanty legends as exist on the subject are evidently the work of later times, or refer to an importation rather than to a discovery of the secret. But, if we have no evidence on the subject, it is one on which we may fairly indulge in scientific speculation. Although the Australian aborigines know nothing of agriculture, they gather the seeds of a wild plant known as nardoo, and, after bruising them in a rude mortar, make them into cakes. Let us suppose, in some country endowed with greater natural wealth than central Australia, that a pack of savages, having gathered a greater store of wild seeds than it could possibly consume, buried the surplus in some earth-heap or mound, and left it in the summer camp till the return of spring. Suppose an unusually wet winter, or an exceptionally early spring. Returning to its summer quarters, the pack might well discover that the stored-up grains had sprouted and assumed something like the shape in which they had known the ears when they had gathered them in the forest the previous autumn. Such an objectlesson would hardly be lost, even on the savage mind. The same thing might well happen...



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