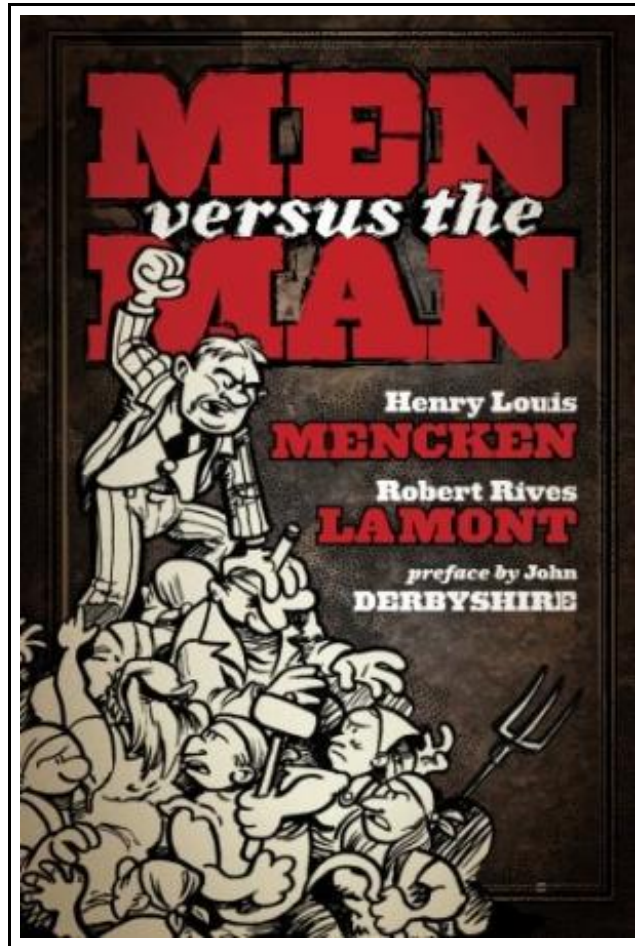


## Men Versus the Man: Socialism Versus Individualism



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## MEN VERSUS THE MAN: SOCIALISM VERSUS INDIVIDUALISM



Underworld Amusements. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Josh Latta (illustrator). Paperback. 204 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.6in. There is no irony in the fact that H. L. Mencken is a tall figure in the history of letters, and Robert Rives La Monte is wholly forgotten. La Monte, who worked at the Baltimore News as well as being an editor for the International Socialist Review, was a true believer in the promise of Socialism. Here he writes six letters trying to convince H. L. Mencken to reject his selfish ways and become a comrade in the revolution, to usher in a perfect world of total equality and universal brotherhood. Mencken, long time writer for the Baltimore Sun, editor of The American Mercury, and prolific author and essayist, was the absolute worst choice of target for an evangelist of the common man. There have been few who were as openly resolved to a robust Nietzschean individualism. And so, in one of the turn of the last centuries greatest flame wars, we have the Bard of Baltimores six responses to those appeals. The battle of the collective good versus individual liberty still rages in pitched battles. La Montes voice is rightfully now just one of many faceless advocates of class-warfare, and Menckens personality survives as the greatest advocate of social Darwinism and thus ultimately Menckens own views. (It) shows how (Menckens) political thinking had solidified hardened, really. The law of the survival of the fittest, he declares, is immutable, thus making socialism an absurdity; human progress is the product of the will to power, and all social arrangements failing to take this fact into account are doomed to failure; inequality is natural, even desirable, both in and of itself and as an alternative to mob rule; the world exists to be run by the...



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