

<http://montesquieu.ens-lyon.fr/spip.php?article2695>



# VIII.20 Consequence of the preceding chapters

- The Spirit of Law - Book VIII. On the corruption of the principles of the three governments -

Date de mise en ligne : vendredi 24 août 2018

---

Copyright © Montesquieu - Tous droits réservés

---

## VIII.20 Consequence of the preceding chapters

---

If the natural property of small states is to be governed as republics, that of medium states is to be subject to a monarch, and that of large empires to be dominated by a despot, it follows that, to preserve the principles of the established government, the state must be maintained at the size it already had, and that such a state will change in spirit to the degree that its borders are contracted or extended.