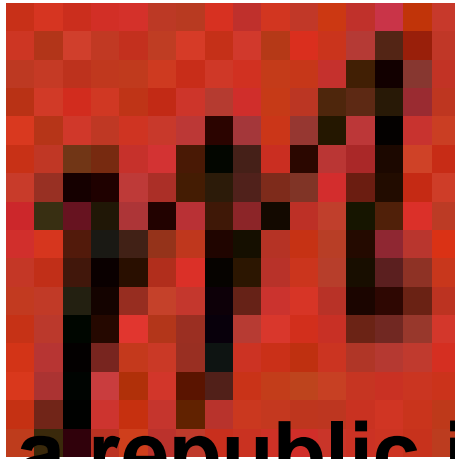


<http://montesquieu.ens-lyon.fr/spip.php?article2778>



## XIII.4 On a republic in such a situation

- The Spirit of Law - Book XIII. On the relations which the levying of tributes and the magnitude of public revenues have with liberty -

Date de mise en ligne : jeudi 6 septembre 2018

---

Copyright © Montesquieu - Tous droits réservés

---

### XIII.4 On a republic in such a situation

---

When a republic has reduced a nation to tilling land for it, the citizen ought not to be allowed to increase the slave's tribute. It was not permitted in Lacedæmon ; they thought the Helots would till the land better when they knew that their servitude would not increase [\[1\]](#) ; they believed the masters would be better citizens when they desired no more than they were accustomed to having.

---

[\[1\]](#) Plutarch.