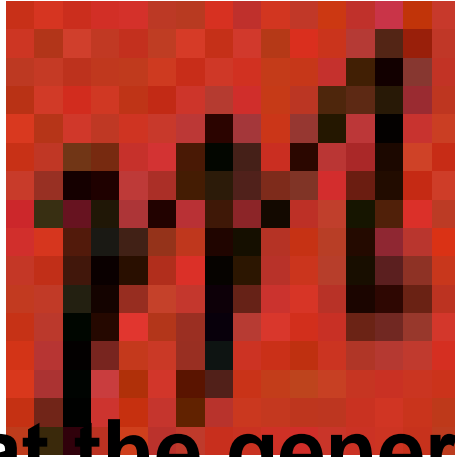


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XIX.4 What the general spirit is

- The Spirit of Law - Book XIX. On the laws in the relation they have to the principles that constitute the general spirit, the ethos, and the manners of a nation -

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XIX.4 What the general spirit is

There are several things that govern men : climate, religion, laws, the maxims of the government, examples of things past, ethos, manners, whence a general spirit is formed that results from them.

To the degree that one of these causes acts with more force in each nation, the others yield to it. Nature and climate almost alone dominate savages ; manners govern the Chinese ; laws tyrannize Japan ; the ethos used to set the tone in Lacedæmon ; government maxims and the ancient ethos set it in Rome.