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# XXI.2 On the peoples of Africa

- The Spirit of Law - Book XXI. On laws in the relation they have to commerce, considered in the transformations it has seen in the world -

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## XXI.2 On the peoples of Africa

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Most of the peoples of the African coasts are savages or barbarians. I believe that is largely because nearly uninhabitable lands separate small countries which can be habitable. They have no industry, they have no arts ; they have an abundance of precious metals which they receive directly from the hands of nature. All civilized peoples are therefore in a position to deal advantageously with them ; they can induce them to prize things of no value, and get a very high price for them.