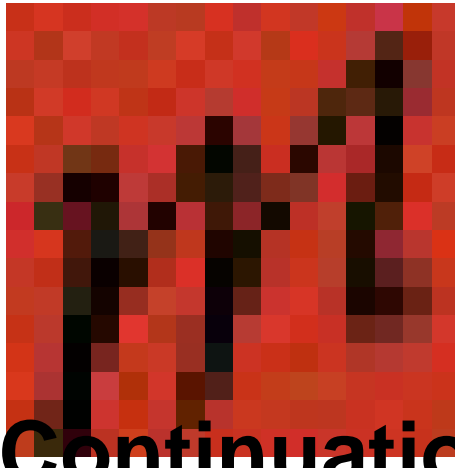


<http://montesquieu.ens-lyon.fr/spip.php?article3034>



XXV.10 Continuation of the same subject

- The Spirit of Law - Book XXV. On laws in their relation with the establishment of religion and its external policy -

Date de mise en ligne : vendredi 7 septembre 2018

Copyright © Montesquieu - Tous droits réservés

XXV.10 Continuation of the same subject

As virtually all religions which zealously strive to establish themselves elsewhere are intolerant, because a religion that can tolerate others is hardly preoccupied by its own propagation, it will be a very good civil law, when the state is satisfied with the religion already established, not to permit the establishment of another.

Here, then, is the fundamental principle of political laws where religion is concerned : when one is free to decide whether to allow a new religion into a state or not to allow it, one should not establish it ; when it is established there, one must tolerate it.