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VIII.19 Distinctive properties of the despotic government

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

Publication date: vendredi 24 août 2018

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A great empire supposes a despotic authority in the person who governs. The promptness of resolutions must compensate for the distance of the places to which they are dispatched ; fear must prevent the negligence of the remote governor or magistrate ; the law must rest on a single head, which must constantly change, like the accidents that always multiply in the state in proportion to its size.