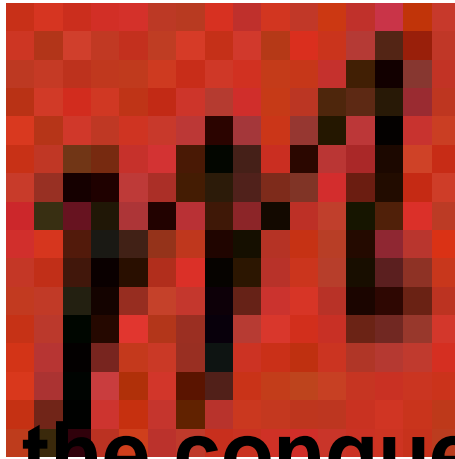


<http://montesquieu.ens-lyon.fr/spip.php?article2790>



XIII.16 On the conquests of the Mohammedans

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

Publication date: jeudi 6 septembre 2018

Copyright © Montesquieu - Tous droits réservés

XIII.16 On the conquests of the Mohammedans

It was these excessive tributes [1] that enabled the strange facility the Mohammedans found in their conquests. Instead of that continual succession of extortions which the subtle avarice of the emperors had thought up, those peoples found themselves subjected to a simple tribute, easily paid and similarly received, being better off obeying a barbarian nation than a corrupt government under which they were suffering all the disadvantages of a liberty they no longer had along with all the horrors of a present servitude.

[1] See in history the greatness, the bizarreness, and even the folly of these tributes. Anastasius thought up one for breathing the air : *ut quisque pro haustu æris penderet.*