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# XVIII.5 On island peoples

- The Spirit of Law - Book XVIII. On laws in their relationship to the nature of the terrain -

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Island peoples have more affinity for liberty than continental peoples. Islands are ordinarily relatively small [1] ; part of the people cannot be so well employed oppressing the rest ; the sea separates them from the great empires, and one tyranny cannot come to the aid of another ; conquerors are halted by the sea, the islanders are not caught up in the conquest, and more easily preserve their laws.

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[1] Japan is an exception to this by virtue of its size and its servitude.