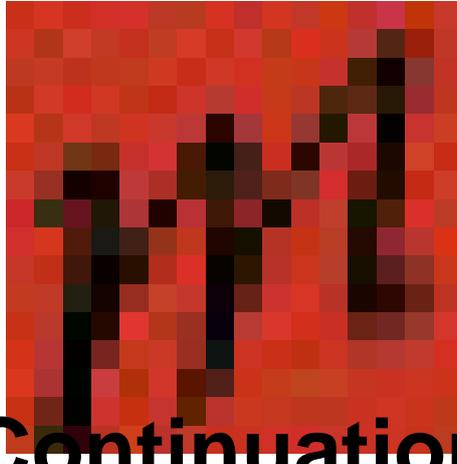


<http://montesquieu.ens-lyon.fr/spip.php?article2917>



XX.10 Continuation of the same subject

- The Spirit of Law - Book XX. On laws in their relationship with commerce, considered in its nature and its distinctions -

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XX.10 Continuation of the same subject

In states that practice commerce of economy, a free port can be established. The economy of the state, which always follows the frugality of individuals, lends its soul, so to speak, to its commerce of economy. What it loses in tributes by the establishment mentioned here is compensated for by what it can derive from the industrious wealth of the republic. But in the monarchical government, such establishments would be counter to reason ; they would have no other effect than to relieve luxury of the burden of taxes. This would be to renounce the sole benefit this luxury can supply, and the sole restraint which under such a constitution it can receive.