

---

---

MONTESQUIEU AND THE DESPOTIC  
IDEAS OF EUROPE

---

---

An Interpretation of *The Spirit of the Laws*

VICKIE B. SULLIVAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS  
CHICAGO AND LONDON

## CONTENTS

---

Acknowledgments	ix
A Note on Citations	xi
Introduction	I
<i>Part I. The Ideas of Montesquieu's Modern European Predecessors</i>	
1. The Greatness of Machiavelli and the Despotic Disease of His Politics—Both Princely and Republican	23
2. Montesquieu's Attack on the Political Errors of Hobbes	50
<i>Part II. Christian Ideas</i>	
3. Religious Ideas and the Force of Christian Ones in Modern Europe	81
4. The Ideas of Early Christianity, Their Absorption in Roman Law, and Their Abusive Reverberations in Modern Europe	111
<i>Part III. The Ideas of the Ancient Legislators</i>	
5. Montesquieu's Opposition to Plato's <i>Belles Idées</i> and Their Diffusion	139
6. Aristotle's "Manner of Thinking" and the Deleterious Use of His Ideas	169
Conclusion	205
Notes	219
Bibliography	267
Index	281