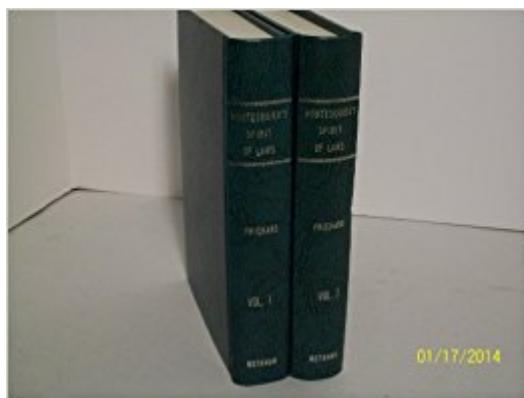


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# The Spirit Of Laws (Bohn's Standard Library)



## Synopsis

The Spirit of the Laws is a treatise on political theory first published anonymously by Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu in 1748 with the help of Claudine Guérin de Tencin. Originally published anonymously partly because Montesquieu's works were subject to censorship, its influence outside of France was aided by its rapid translation into other languages. In 1750 Thomas Nugent published the first English translation. In 1751 the Catholic Church added *De l'esprit des lois* to its Index Librorum Prohibitorum ("List of Prohibited Books"). Yet Montesquieu's political treatise had an enormous influence on the work of many others, most notably: Catherine the Great, who produced *Nakaz* (Instruction); the Founding Fathers of the United States Constitution; and Alexis de Tocqueville, who applied Montesquieu's methods to a study of American society, in *Democracy in America*. Macaulay offers us a hint of Montesquieu's importance when he writes in his 1827 essay entitled "Machiavelli" that "Montesquieu enjoys, perhaps, a wider celebrity than any political writer of modern Europe." Montesquieu spent around twenty one years researching and writing *De l'esprit des lois* (The Spirit of the Laws), covering many things like the law, social life, and the study of anthropology and providing more than 3,000 commendations. In this political treatise Montesquieu pleaded in favor of a constitutional system of government and the separation of powers, the ending of slavery, the preservation of civil liberties and the law, and the idea that political institutions ought to reflect the social and geographical aspects of each community. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: French

Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755) was a French jurist, satirist, and political and social philosopher during the Enlightenment. His most well-known work, *The Spirit of Laws*, profoundly influenced European and American political thought and was relied on by the framers of the US Constitution. Wanda McCaddon (a.k.a. Nadia May or Donada Peters) has narrated well over six hundred titles for major audiobook publishers, has earned numerous Earphones Awards, and was named a Golden Voice by *AudioFile* magazine. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I purchased this very important book as an MP3 audiobook and I can honestly say that on such an important book as this the choice of Wanda McCaddon to narrate this book was a very big mistake. I am not alone in my views when I say that this woman has been the most difficult narrator I have ever had to listen to. Her voice is whining, irritating and penetrating and I was astonished to read that she has narrated well over six hundred titles for major book audio publishers. I so wish to continue listening to this MP3 audiobook, but the narrator is making it extremely difficult for me to achieve this, more than five minutes at a time make this listening project very painful. Tragically this set contains two MP3's which means one has to listen to this terrible narrator for at least 22 and half hours. I contacted Blackstone audio with regards to this issue, advising them to listen and at least provide their opinion, but I have had no response. Guess they do not care. It would have been much better read by a man, or anybody other than Wanda. Very disappointing. Wanda obviously can pronounce the most difficult of names easily but her narration sends one into insanity.

Montesquieu was one of the great philosophers who impacted the writings of the US Constitution and bill of rights for separation of powers; without separation of powers there would be tyranny. Really love this book...great for research and better understanding of Montesquieu.

I hadn't realized that this was a facsimile of the original (not sure if that was posted or not). Regardless, this is a beautiful book and the old English print is a something that takes some time to get used to, but well worth it in the end. Seems more original and "pure" without some academic bloviating with his introduction.

Montesquieu give a decent view of the law that many of the founding fathers would have been

familiar with. Therefore, I find it to be good reference material.

This was a gift for a friend. They enjoyed it very much.

everyone needs to read this book.

I am only using this publication for research and find it most helpful.

A have-to-read classic.

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