

freedom was realized. It was Rome who conveyed to the modern world the true idea of conquest. She considered that as long as anything was external to the empire it was a barrier to its advance. Accordingly it became the aim of every Roman citizen to transform the external into the internal. In the very beginning Rome brought about her conquests by laying violent hold upon those nations which stood without her gates and dragging them within. To Rome, the only way to realize her sense of freedom was to have nothing outside at all.

Previous to the Roman era, conquest had but one meaning—extermination. The enemies of Persia and Sparta knew but one fate—the sword. But the Roman empire was by no means desirous to exterminate its enemies. What Rome did desire was to transform her enemies into national dependencies. She was quite willing that the opposing nation should retain its manners, its religion and its laws, provided only it would consent to have the Roman wall extend beyond its boundaries. In short her whole political policy consisted in a process of appropriation. In this way she gathered to herself and transferred to her service those very influences which in days of old had threatened her own existence. In Rome we find the first empire which has subdued her foes by utilising them—the first which has risen to power by converting her enemies into members of her own body.

Nor are the Roman ideals of power and of conquest the only distinguishing features between her and the other ancient empires. The Roman ideal of law was a most destructive feature of her imperial greatness—a feature which the empire has transmitted unimpaired to posterity, and by which she being dead yet speaketh. It would seem that any period's wisdom is the aggregate of all that has been previously evinced combined with the genius and tact of that particular period. At least so it appears in reference to Rome. She had a faculty for sifting the preceding systems of government—for retaining that which was commendable or advantageous to herself and of rejecting the remainder. Thus we find Rome the first to introduce that system of colonial rule so widely adopted at the present time.

The empire is indeed expressed by "Rome and the provinces." Should a newly acquired territory not at once assume the dependent attitude, it was immediately colonized by a Roman army and the usual accompanying families. Henceforth it was ruled by a prætor or governor.

Rome thus became the acknowledged head from whence