

essentially differ ; it is exceedingly difficult to determine, in the abstract, the utmost possible publick good which may be attained in any country ; this political problem has been found too difficult for the best Lawgivers, the ablest Statesmen, and the most consummate Writers and Philosophers ; the REPUBLIC of PLATO, the UTOPIA of SIR THOMAS MORE, and the OCEANA of HARRINGTON have all been the reveries of great and excellent men, differing from each other in theory, and none of them reducible to practice : Local interests and prejudices, ancient laws and habits, various combinations of internal expediency, numerous relations of external interests and connections, and the great dangers of general innovation, must, when united, place an insurmountable barrier against speculative Politicians.—Men of warm imaginations frequently confound the *possible* with the *probable*, and, having created, by the plastic powers of Fancy, a new people, in a new country, and in the pure state of Nature, they model them at

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