

gained, if the War should be continued on the same lavish Footing many Years longer? To know what a Nation can or cannot bear, in order to square his Measures, either of Offence or Defence, by the Extent of the People's Abilities, during a State of War, is undoubtedly a Minister's first Duty: For if he has not well considered this Point, he must infallibly be very unequal to the sole Direction, and, in steering the Commonwealth-Ship, will be often in Danger of running her on Quickfands. If a private Person was about erecting a magnificent Edifice, would it not be prudent in him to take it previously into his Thoughts, how well he could afford the Expence? And if he found that he could not well spare the Money, would it not be necessary for him to contract his Plan?

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