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the culture of the elegant arts, upon the relative condition of the sexes, p. 150 ""

""Chapter II. Of the Jurisdiction and Authority of A Father Over His Children """"Sect. 1. The power of a father in early ages, p. 157 """; ""Sect. 2. The influence of the improvement of arts upon the jurisdiction of the father, p. 169 """; ""Chapter III. The Authority of a Chief Over the Members of a Tribe or Village """; ""Sect. 1. The origin of a chief, and the degrees of influence which he is enabled to acquire, p. 177 """; ""Sect. 2. The powers with which the chief of a rude tribe is commonly invested, p. 190 ""

""Chapter IV. The Authority of a Sovereign, and of Subordinate Officers, over a Society Composed of Different Tribes or Villages """"Sect. 1. The constitution of government arising from the union of different tribes or villages, p. 2012 """; ""Sect. 2. The natural progress of government in a rude kingdom, p. 213 """; ""Chapter V. The Changes Produced in the Government of a People, by Their Progress in Arts, and in Polished Manners """; ""Sect. 1. Circumstances, in a polished nation, which tend to increase the power of the sovereign, p. 229 ""

""Sect. 2. Other circumstances, which contribute to advance the privileges of the people, p. 236 """"Sect. 3. Result of the opposition between these different principles, p. 240 """; ""Chapter VI. The Authority of a Master over his Servants """; ""Sect. 1. The condition of Servants in the primitive ages of the world, p. 244 """; ""Sect. 2. The usual effects of opulence and civilized manners, with regard to the treatment of Servants, p. 249 """; ""Sect. 3. Causes of the freedom acquired by the labouring people in the modern nations of Europe, p. 257 ""

""Sect. 4. Political consequences of Slavery, p. 271 ""

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### Sommario/riassunto

"The Origin of the Distinction of Ranks" is one of the major products of the Scottish Enlightenment and a masterpiece of jurisprudence and social theory. Building on David Hume, Adam Smith, and their respective natural histories of man, John Millar developed a progressive account of the nature of authority in society by analyzing changes in subsistence, agriculture, arts, and manufacture. "The Origin of the Distinction of Ranks" is perhaps the most precise and compact development of the abiding themes of the liberal wing of the Scottish Enlightenment. Drawing on Smith's four-stages theory of history and the natural law's traditional division of domestic duties into those toward servants, children, and women, Millar provides a rich historical analysis of the ways in which progressive economic change transforms the nature of authority. In particular, he argues that, with the progress of arts and manufacture, authority tends to become less violent and concentrated, and ranks tend to diversify. Millar's analysis of this historical progress is nuanced and sophisticated; for example, his discussion of servants is perhaps the best developed of the "economic" arguments against slavery. John Millar (1735-1801) explored, through his works, the nature of English governance through a prism of the natural law tradition and Scottish philosophical history. Millar was a student of Adam Smith's at Glasgow University and his most important immediate intellectual heir. His works provide an essential linkage to Smith. Aaron Garrett is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Boston University. Knud Haakonssen is Professor of Intellectual History and Director of the Centre for Intellectual History at the University of Sussex, England.

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