

# De Maistre's Synarchist Religion

Joseph de Maistre wrote, “Man can modify everything within the sphere of his activity, but he creates nothing: such is his law, in the physical world as in the moral world. Undoubtedly a man may plant a seed, raise the tree, perfect it by grafting, and trim it a hundred different ways, but he would never imagine that he had the power to make a tree. How can he have imagined that he had the power to make a constitution? . . . God warns us of our weakness and of the rights that he has reserved to Himself in the formation of governments. No constitution is the result of deliberation.”

De Maistre then cited David Hume in praise of the “English constitution,” on how it deals with matters which are “most difficult, or rather altogether impossible, to regulate by laws, and which must be governed by certain delicate ideas of propriety and decency, rather than to any exact rule or prescription.”

—*Joseph de Maistre, Considerations on France, translated by Richard Lebrun (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 49-50.*