

tainous, and that part of the world is also very ancient. There is only Egypt, Barbary, and the western coasts of Africa, as far as Senegal, in this part of the globe, which can be looked upon as modern countries. Asia, is an old land, and perhaps the most ancient of all, particularly Arabia, Persia, and Tartary; but the inequalities of this vast part of the globe, as well as those of Europe, we shall consider in a separate article. It might be said in general, that Europe is a new country, and such a position would be supported both by universal tradition relative to the emigrations of different people, and the origin of arts and sciences. It is not long since it was filled with morasses, and covered with forests, whereas in the land anciently inhabited, there are but few woods, little water, no morasses, much land, and a number of mountains, whose summits are dry and barren; for men destroy the woods, drain the waters, confine rivers, dry up morasses, and in time give a different appearance to the face of the earth, from that of uninhabited or newly-peopled countries.

The ancients were acquainted with but a small part of the globe. All America, the arctic lands, the Magellanic countries, and a great part of the interior of Africa, were entirely unknown to them.

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