

Community from time to time, and executing those Laws by Officers of their own appointing; and then the *Form* of the Government is a perfect *Democracy*: Or else may put the Power of making Laws into the hands of a few select Men, and their Heirs or Successors; and then it is an *Oligarchy*: Or else into the hands of one Man, and then it is a *Monarchy*: If to him and his Heirs, it is an *hereditary Monarchy*: If to him only for Life, but upon his Death the Power only of nominating a Successor to return to them; an *elective Monarchy*. And so accordingly of these the Community may make compounded and mixed Forms of Government, as they think good. And if the legislative Power be at first given by the Majority to one or more Persons only for their Lives, or any limited time, and then the supreme Power to revert to them again; when it is so reverted, the Community may dispose of it again anew into what hands they please, and so constitute a new Form of Government. For the *Form of Government depending upon the placing the supreme Power*, which is the *Legislative*, it being impossible to conceive that an inferior Power should prescribe to a superior, or any but the supreme make Laws, according as the Power of making Laws is placed, such is the *Form of the Commonwealth*.

§ 133. By *Commonwealth*, I must be understood all along to mean, not a Democracy, or any Form of Government, but any *independent Community* which the *Latins* signified by the word *Civitas*, to which the word which best answers in our Language, is *Commonwealth*, and most properly expresses such a Society of Men, which Community or City in *English* does not; for there may be subordinate Communities in a Government, and City amongst us has a quite different Notion from Commonwealth: And therefore to avoid Ambiguity, I crave leave to use the word *Commonwealth* in that Sense, in which I find it used by King *James the first*, and I take it to be its genuine signi-