Rousseau's "Very-Monarchic" Republic: Sovereignty and Representation in the *Considerations on the Government of Poland*

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The Paper:
Rousseau's *Considerations on the Government of Poland* is usually regarded today as a local application of the *Social Contract*. Moreover, it is assumed, in order to devise constitutional reforms for a large monarchic republic like Poland, Rousseau was forced to retreat from the *Social Contract*’s theory of the ideal republican state. The present paper offers a different reading, which takes as its starting point the fact that the *Social Contract* was itself a fragment drawn from a larger, unfinished project, the *Political Institutions*. Instead of looking for confirmation of existing interpretations of Rousseau's thought - that he was a theorist of "ancient" liberty, an enemy of commerce, or a nationalist - this paper places the *Considerations on Poland* in its historical context, which suggests that book was concerned with the kind of scaling-up of the *Social Contract* that might have formed a central component of the *Political Institutions*. 