

**AN ACCOUNT OF TUNIS: OF ITS
GOVERNMENT, MANNERS,
CUSTOMS, AND ANTIQUITIES;
ESPECIALLY OF ITS PRODUCTIONS,
MANUFACTURES, AND COMMERCE**

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An Account of Tunis: Of Its Government, Manners, Customs, and Antiquities; Especially of its Productions, Manufactures, and Commerce by Thomas MacGill

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ACCOUNT OF TUNIS.

Tunis-Description 1811
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P R E F A C E.

At a moment like the present, when the tyrant of France, and scourge of Europe, is studying by every art, to ruin the commerce of Great Britain; it appears to me, to be a duty incumbent on the subjects of His Majesty, to lay before their countrymen, whatever knowledge they may possess, either tending to the extension of our commerce, or our influence.

Under this impression, I have put together, in the best manner my abilities would permit, the following information respecting the commerce and politics of the principedom of Tunis.

My object was commerce, and not pleasure, when I left Malta for Tunis; but finding the business I went upon, detain me much longer than I expected, I endeavoured to make the best use of my time, in gathering such information, both commercial and political, as my situation offered and circumstances put in my power. From the consuls and chief men in the country, with whom I had much opportunity of conversing, I drew my political information; and from the mercantile people and leading brokers, I collected my commercial information.

These being my motives, I make no apology for submitting my observations to the public. My first wish is to be useful to my country, and if, in the present instance, I have succeeded, my recompence is complete.

ACCOUNT OF TUNIS.

CHAP. I.

The Révolutions which have happened in the Regency of Tunis, since the Beys took into their hands the Reins of Government.

No records being kept in a government so unsettled as that of Tunis, it is impossible to trace back its history, with any degree of certainty, to a period much exceeding a century and a half.

It is now about one hundred and seventy years, since the Beys usurped the government of Tunis; since which period, it has undergone