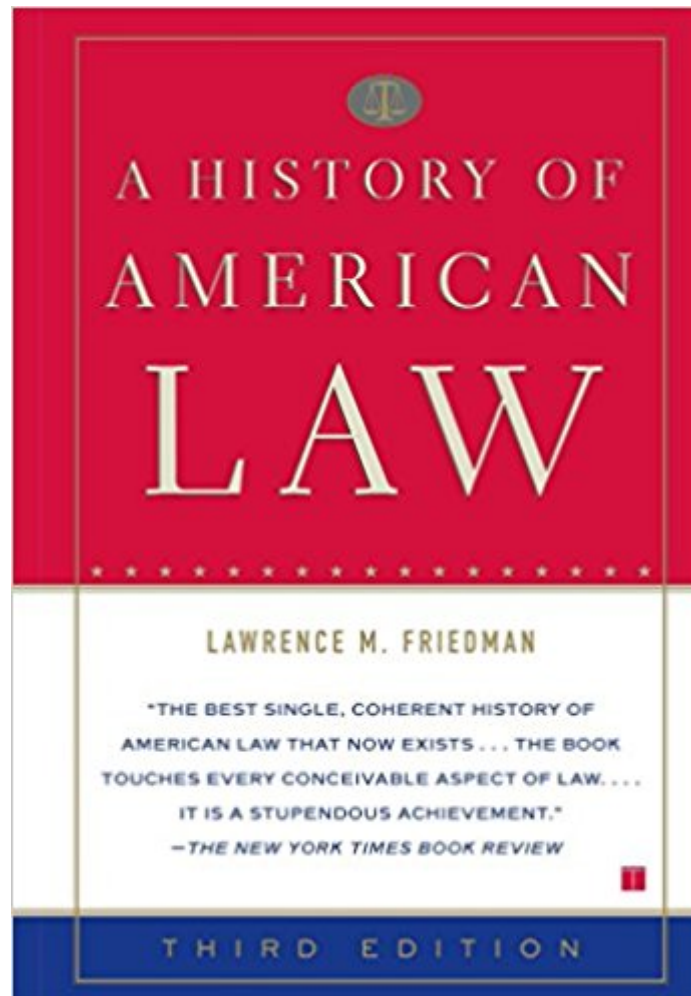




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A History Of American Law: Third Edition



Synopsis

In this brilliant and immensely readable book, Lawrence M. Friedman tells the whole fascinating story of American law from its beginnings in the colonies to the present day. By showing how close the life of the law is to the economic and political life of the country, he makes a complex subject understandable and engrossing. *A History of American Law* presents the achievements and failures of the American legal system in the context of America's commercial and working world, family practices, and attitudes toward property, government, crime, and justice. Now completely revised and updated, this groundbreaking work incorporates new material regarding slavery, criminal justice, and twentieth-century law. For laymen and students alike, this remains the only comprehensive authoritative history of American law.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My first reaction after finishing the book, was to ask myself how anyone could have enough time to put so much information together. As the cover states, this "book touches every conceivable aspect of law...it is a stupendous achievement." The author takes an insurmountable task and first breaks it up into four sections, Part 1: American Law in the colonial Period, Part 2: Revolution to the Middle of the 19th century, Part 3: Close of the 19th century, Part 4: The 20th century. Within each part he segments chapters into readable legal topics. (i.e. Corporations, Crime and Punishment, etc). In that way, the reader gets an understanding of the period and how it effects all sorts of law, before going onto another time period and seeing how other areas of the law grew and affected other areas. Although the republic split from England, the author reviews how attached the our legal

system continued to be and all the reasons why this was so. (All the legal treatises and cases were only printed about English law for quite some time). He also discusses why certain areas of the law, nonetheless, quickly grew away. (i.e. there are lots of navigable seaways in America, not so many in England). This is just a small sampling of a tremendous source of information. The study of law presents a tremendous number of apparent inconsistencies, non-sequiturs, and just beyond the reasonable conundrums. The author's tremendous dedication to this work really sorts out these issues by showing the development and goals through the history of the Union. (And why the Socratic method is everywhere, much to the consternations of L1s everywhere) Of course such a treatise requires a good effort to read, assimilate, and remember.

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