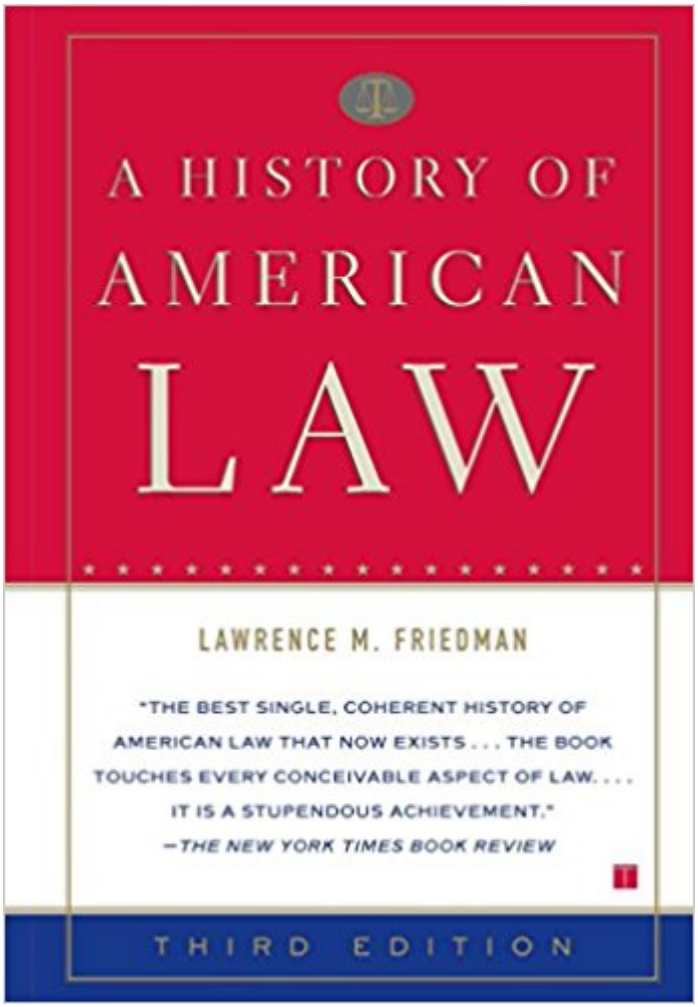
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A History Of American Law: Third Edition



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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.

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Customer Reviews

"A treasure for all Americans." -- Stanford Law Review"A matchless and unequaled primer for the novice, an invaluable reference source for the experienced scholar, and indeed, the first book that anyone possessing even a slight interest in American legal history should read." -- The American Journal of Legal History"The best single, coherent history of American law that now exists...The booktouches every conceivable aspect of law....It is a stupendous achievement." -- The New York Times Book Review

This is, in my opinion, the best single volume history of American law (I'm a graduate of Harvard Law School and have taught law at schools in the US and abroad). But the print is so small I need a

magnifying glass to read it. It should be in two or even three volumes, but of course it would then be much more expensive. So if you have keen eyesight, or a good magnifying glass, this is a great book.

This book is a masterpiece of scholarship. It covers the law of the United from origins to contemporary times, thourgh clearly defined chapters/sections and very lucid writing. To any person interested in American law and/or history, this is a must read.

I'll keep this brief: The title says it all. If you are looking for an excellent, in-depth introduction to the history of law in the U.S., then look no further. Tremendously readable, wonderfully informative, and above all, engaging; this book warrants not just one reading, but several. Read this book, study it, and you'll have taken an important first step towards not only a good layperson's understanding of the legal history of the U.S., but also an important step towards becoming an expert.Yes, it's that good. If a concise, yet richly detailed legal history is what you seek, this is it. Buy it and read it; you'll be glad you did.

Prior to reading this book, I had little understanding of the law. I saw it as a single, solid body of tradition, grounded in specific documents and interpreted through the operation of the legal system. My understanding was in some sense true, but this book opened my eyes to the vast complexity and richness of tradition woven into the system of law in the United States. I learned about the different legal systems, such as admiralty, chancery, equity, and common law, and how these systems operated historically in their respective regimes of power. I learned how common law largely came to subsume the other courts, how Napoleonic law relates to common law, and how Napoleonic systems developed in several states and changed to take on more common law characteristics. Above all Friedman impressed on me the basic premise of his book:"Despite a strong dash of history and idiosyncrasy, the strongest ingredient in American law, at any given time, is the present -- current emotions, real economic interests, and concrete political groups."Highly recommended. My understanding of law will never be the same.

An excellent resource for any citizen of a 'nation of laws'. A survivalist guide for nations that want to prosper without

I went to law school years ago and wish they had given me this information then. It puts everything

in context. Friedman is an excellent author and is thorough and insightful. I highly recommend this to anyone with any interest in the law.

It is really great book.DON'T BUY IT HOWEVER, FROM "ADAM TOH" BOOK SELLERS. THEIR DESCRIPTION OF THE CONDITION OF THE BOOKS IS WAY OFF.

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