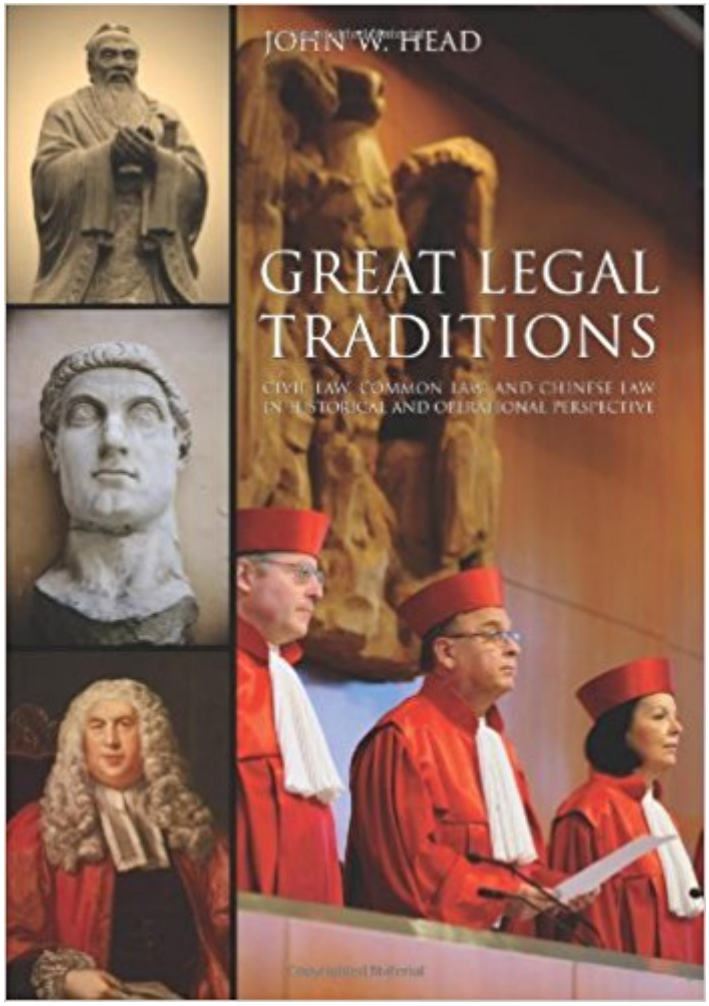
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Great Legal Traditions: Civil Law, Common Law, And Chinese Law In Historical And Operational Perspective



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Synopsis

Great Legal Traditions: Civil Law, Common Law, and Chinese Law in Historical and Operational Perspective draws on the nearly thirty years of experience that the author has accumulated from working in and writing about a variety of legal systems around the world. After an introduction to the underlying concepts and values of comparative legal studies, Head embarks on a brisk six-chapter survey of European civil law, English and American common law, and Chinese law (both dynastic and contemporary). Each legal tradition is divided into two perspectives first historical and then operational. Numerous illustrations and biographical sketches bring the historical surveys to life, thereby setting the stage for a close examination of several key attributes of representative legal systems in each of the three traditions. Head's ''operational'' topics include sources of law, the role and training of lawyers, the division of court jurisdiction, constitutional review, the role of codification, and more and he gives special attention to comparative criminal procedure. Great Legal Traditions is designed primarily for use in law schools and other graduate programs in comparative history, international relations, and both European and Chinese area studies, but the book is also written to be accessible to a more general readership. The main text is supplemented with numerous appendices that serve in place of a documents supplement. A teacher's manual is also available with guidance on each of the study questions that Head places at the beginning of each chapter (roughly 200 study questions in all). The teacher's manual also provides guidance (and confidence) to instructors not already familiar with Chinese law and history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Head is the Robert W. Wagstaff Distinguished Professor at the University of Kansas School of Law. He has been awarded two Fulbright fellowships, for teaching and research in both China and Italy, and has written widely in the areas of international and comparative law.

This is some book. Not quite coffee table size, but pretty big, like a good-sized college textbook, if that wasn't its original purpose. I mention the size of the book to convey a sense of the amount of info in it. If you're interested in history, comparative law, and/or politics, you probably need this.This book gets extra points for including an analysis of Chinese law. In my experience, it's hard to find information on that subject. Awesome.

I highly recommend Great Legal Traditions to historians, sociologist, political scientists, lawyers, law students--and anyone who is interested in the evolution of the law throughout the ages. John Head has written an incredibly detailed history of three important legal systems: Civil Law, Common Law, and Chinese Law. Each of these systems has a rich tradition that is deftly compressed and explained in simple terms in the book. In addition to the evolution of the law in each system, Prof. Head has explained the "nuts and bolts" of their present day systems. He includes charts, photos, timelines--even songs that he wrote himself to help readers remember various historic details. There is something for everyone in this book.

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