

The German Legal System And Legal Language

German Legal System and Laws provides a comprehensive introduction to the German legal system and the core areas of substantive law of Germany. Constitutional law is the foundation German law and this area has been given fuller consideration in this third edition. This area is now dealt with in three separate chapters given over to Constitutional Organs of State, Basic Rights and Administrative law. The text has been fully amended and updated with regard to a wealth of legislation and case law which has radically altered the course of German law in recent months. Special consideration is given to the area of the law of obligations, which has undergone radical change recently. Included are expanded and updated extracts from the Grundgesetz and fully revised glossaries of German legal terms.

German public law has been taught in universities since the early 17th century and continues to this day to be a dominant subject in German legal culture, especially in its modern incarnations of constitutional and administrative law, and European and international law. Michael Stolleis's Public Law in Germany: A Historical Introduction from the 16th to the 21st Century, expertly translated by Thomas Dunlap, provides an account of the fundamental developments in public

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law that situates current debates in the German Federal Constitutional Court as well as the role of the nation-state in Europe more broadly. It further examines the role of fundamental rights through the lens of Germany's special administrative courts and discusses their important role in the advancement of German law. Written with students in mind, the book distils Stolleis's masterful four-volume History of Public Law in Germany, the third volume of which (1914-1945) was published by Oxford University Press in 2004. It is an invaluable companion to the understanding of German public law more generally.

This book describes and explains how the so-called system of legal proofs, which consisted of a strict set of evidentiary rules, was replaced with the free evaluation of the evidence in France, Germany and the Netherlands between 1750 and 1870.

Master's Thesis from the year 2006 in the subject Law - European and International Law, Intellectual Properties, grade: 1, University of Hamburg (Europa Kolleg Hamburg), language: English, abstract: The purpose of this paper is to examine the various interactions among the various courts, the different levels of interaction and the implications to the individual. [...] The modern system or systems of protection of human rights in Europe have been developing together with, as well as within the processes of European integration. These

processes started on an intergovernmental level, by the founding of the Council of Europe in 1949, after the end of the Second World War, with the main intention to prevent future devastations and severe violations of human rights in Europe. In 1950 the Member States of the Council of Europe committed to respecting the rights and values expressed in the European Convention on Human Rights (in further text ECHR). The implementation and continuous respect of the ECHR is monitored by the European Court of Human Rights (in further text ECourtHR), according to the criteria set forth by international law. Parallel to that process, another one, mainly in the field of economic integration, was marked by the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community in 1952, the European Atomic Energy Community and the European Economic Community in 1957 (in further text the European Community/Communities or EC). By "limitation of sovereignty or a transfer of powers from the states to the community," a new "legal system" was created, which "by contrast with ordinary international treaties (...) on the entry into force of the treaty, became an integral part of the legal systems of the member states"¹. Thus, in the frameworks of its role as gatekeeper of Community law, the European Court of Justice (in further text ECJ) confirmed the creation of a new sui generis organization. [...] ¹ ECJ, Case C-6/64, Costa/E.N.E.L., [1964], I-00585, point 3.

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The Supreme Court's intervention in the 2000 election will shape American law and democracy long after George W. Bush has left the White House. This vitally important book brings together a broad range of preeminent legal scholars who address the larger questions raised by the Supreme Court's actions. Did the Court's decision violate the rule of law? Did it inaugurate an era of super-politicized jurisprudence? How should *Bush v. Gore* change the terms of debate over the next round of Supreme Court appointments? The contributors—Bruce Ackerman, Jack Balkin, Guido Calabresi, Steven Calabresi, Owen Fiss, Charles Fried, Robert Post, Margaret Jane Radin, Jeffrey Rosen, Jed Rubenfeld, Cass Sunstein, Laurence Tribe, and Mark Tushnet—represent a broad political spectrum. Their reactions to the case are varied and surprising, filled with sparkling argument and spirited debate. This is a must-read book for thoughtful Americans everywhere. /DIV/DIV

He argues that the concept of family resemblances, as that concept has been refined and extended in prototype theory in the contemporary cognitive sciences, is the most plausible analytical strategy for resolving the central problem of the book. In the solution proposed, religion is conceptualized as an affair of "more or less" rather than a matter of "yes or no," and no sharp line is drawn between religion and non-religion."--BOOK JACKET.

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Increasingly, international governmental networks and organisations make it necessary to master the legal principles of other jurisdictions. Since the advent of international criminal tribunals this need has fully reached criminal law. A large part of their work is based on comparative research. The legal systems which contribute most to this systemic discussion are common law and civil law, sometimes called continental law. So far this dialogue appears to have been dominated by the former. While there are many reasons for this, one stands out very clearly: Language. English has become the lingua franca of international legal research. The present book addresses this issue. Thomas Vormbaum is one of the foremost German legal historians and the book's original has become a cornerstone of research into the history of German criminal law beyond doctrinal expositions; it allows a look at the system's genesis, its ideological, political and cultural roots. In the field of comparative research, it is of the utmost importance to have an understanding of the law's provenance, in other words its historical DNA.

This Oxford Handbook ambitiously seeks to lay the groundwork for the relatively new field of comparative foreign relations law. Comparative foreign relations law compares and contrasts how nations, and also supranational entities (for example, the European Union), structure their decisions about matters such as

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entering into and exiting from international agreements, engaging with international institutions, and using military force, as well as how they incorporate treaties and customary international law into their domestic legal systems. The legal materials that make up a nation's foreign relations law can include constitutional law, statutory law, administrative law, and judicial precedent, among other areas. This book consists of 46 chapters, written by leading authors from around the world. Some of the chapters are empirically focused, others are theoretical, and still others contain in-depth case studies. In addition to being an invaluable resource for scholars working in this area, the book should be of interest to a wide range of lawyers, judges, and law students. Foreign relations law issues are addressed regularly by lawyers working in foreign ministries, and globalization has meant that domestic judges, too, are increasingly confronted by them. In addition, private lawyers who work on matters that extend beyond their home countries often are required to navigate issues of foreign relations law. An increasing number of law school courses in comparative foreign relations law are also now being developed, making this volume an important resource for students as well. Comparative foreign relations law is a newly emerging field of study and teaching, and this volume is likely to become a key reference work as the field continues to develop.

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In the aftermath of recent multiple leaks such as the Panama Papers, the Swiss leaks, the Lux leaks, and the Bahama leaks, this book offers an interesting view on the underlying conflicting interests that impede the adoption of more effective legislation to stop money laundering by way of the financial system. The central position of the book is that the declared goals underlying the criminalization of money laundering have not been fulfilled. The effectiveness of the anti-money laundering regime in Germany is assessed by examining the indirect effects, collateral consequences, and positive interpretations of the law in action and of the law inaction; reducing the issue to a question of symbolic effectiveness does not reflect the complexity of the matter. What is demonstrated, is that the goals attributed to the regime were too ambitious, and that a lower degree of effectiveness has been accepted in order to balance the inherent political, economic and financial conflicting interests. Unlike other volumes focusing on this issue, this book deals with the implementation of the legislation and the consequences thereof, and is primarily aimed at legal sociologists, sociology of law researchers, criminal lawyers, criminologists with an interest in white collar crime and political scientists studying measures against illicit financial flows and the concrete implementation of anti-money laundering laws. The book will be of interest to both international policymakers and consultants as well as their counterparts in Germany for instance working on improving the instruments to fight organized crime and prevent the financing of terrorism through money laundering. The complexity of the anti-money laundering regime and all the variables are exhaustively and critically reviewed in the assessment, thereby providing complete instructions for future legislative steps. The case study regarding the situation in Germany maximizes readers' insights into concrete effects of the implementation of international anti-money

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laundering standards at a national level, and the opinions of professionals working in the field and of experts on the law-making process are also illuminating. Moreover, the book equips non-German speakers with the information needed to deal with the extensive German legal scholarly production on article 261 of the German criminal code and the current internal political debate on the matter. Verena Zoppei is a Fellow Researcher at the International Security Division of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin.

Civil justice in the United States is neither civil nor just. Instead it embodies a maxim that the American legal system is a paragon of legal process which assures its citizens a fair and equal treatment under the law. Long have critics recognized the system's failings while offering abundant criticism but few solutions. This book provides a comparative-critical introduction to civil justice systems in the United States, Germany and Korea. It shows the shortcomings of the American system and compares them with German and Korean successes in implementing the rule of law. The author argues that these shortcomings could easily be fixed if the American legal systems were open to seeing how other legal systems' civil justice processes handle cases more efficiently and fairly. Far from being a treatise for specialists, this book is an introductory text for civil justice in the three aforementioned legal systems.

This book presents a clear and precise overview of the key aspects of German business law. It was written by attorneys involved in the daily practice of business law in Germany and is aimed at people who wish to orient themselves quickly with the German legal system and the manner in which it impacts business purchases, establishment, operations and liquidations. The first section of the book is devoted to an explanation of the major issues to be considered in acquiring or establishing a business in Germany. The second section focuses on areas of

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commercial law that are important for an operating business. In comparison to the last edition four new areas (transportation law, customs regulations, insurance law and state liability law) are treated. The following sections deal with labor law as an independent part of German business law and with computer law. Furthermore, procedural law and European law are addressed. Finally, the last two sections of the book are devoted to an overview over the German tax law, which has an enormous impact on business decisions, and IP law. In all sections special attention has been paid to highlighting and explaining the differences between the German legal system and that of the United States. Nevertheless, the intention is to provide information that will prove valuable to all foreigners, particularly business men and women and lawyers advising clients with an interest in doing business in Germany.

European law, including both civil law and common law, has gone through several major phases of expansion in the world. European legal history thus also is a history of legal transplants and cultural borrowings, which national legal histories as products of nineteenth-century historicism have until recently largely left unconsidered. The Handbook of European Legal History supplies its readers with an overview of the different phases of European legal history in the light of today's state-of-the-art research, by offering cutting-edge views on research questions currently emerging in international discussions. The Handbook takes a broad approach to its subject matter both nationally and systemically. Unlike traditional European legal histories, which tend to concentrate on "heartlands" of Europe (notably Italy and Germany), the Europe of the Handbook is more versatile and nuanced, taking into consideration the legal developments in Europe's geographical "fringes" such as Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. The Handbook covers all major time periods, from the ancient Greek law

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to the twenty-first century. Contributors include acknowledged leaders in the field as well as rising talents, representing a wide range of legal systems, methodologies, areas of expertise and research agendas.

While we often tend to think of the Third Reich as a zone of lawlessness, the Nazi dictatorship and its policies of persecution rested on a legal foundation set in place and maintained by judges, lawyers, and civil servants trained in the law. This volume offers a concise and compelling account of how these intelligent and well-educated legal professionals lent their skills and knowledge to a system of oppression and domination. The chapters address why German lawyers and jurists were attracted to Nazism; how their support of the regime resulted from a combination of ideological conviction, careerist opportunism, and legalistic self-delusion; and whether they were held accountable for their Nazi-era actions after 1945. This book also examines the experiences of Jewish lawyers who fell victim to anti-Semitic measures. The volume will appeal to scholars, students, and other readers with an interest in Nazi Germany, the Holocaust, and the history of jurisprudence.

German criminal law doctrine, as one of the more influential ones over time and on a global scale, takes rather different approaches to many of the problems of substantive law from those of the common law family of countries like the UK, the US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia etc. It also differs markedly from the system which is most often used in Anglophone writing as a civil law comparison, the French law. German criminal law is a code-based model and has been for centuries. The influence of academic writing on its development has been far greater than in the judge-oriented common law models. The book will serve as a useful aid to debates about codification efforts in countries that are mostly based on a case law system, but who

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wish to re-structure their law in one or several criminal codes. The comparison will show that similar problems occur in all legal systems regardless of their provenance, and the attempts of individual systems at solving them, their successes and their failures, can provide a rich experience on which other countries can draw and on which they can build. The book provides an outline of the principles of German criminal law, mainly the so-called 'General Part' (eg actus reus, mens rea, defences, participation) and the core offence categories (homicide, offences against property, sexual offences). It sets out the principles, their development under the influence of academic writing and judicial decisions. The book is not meant as a textbook of German criminal law, but is a selection of interrelated in-depth essays on the central problems. Wherever it is apposite and feasible, comparison is offered to the approaches of English criminal law and the legal systems of other common and civil law countries in order to allow common lawyers to draw the pertinent parallels to their own jurisdictions.

This two-volume book, published open access, brings together leading scholars of constitutional law from twenty-nine European countries to revisit the role of national constitutions at a time when decision-making has increasingly shifted to the European and transnational level. It offers important insights into three areas. First, it explores how constitutions reflect the transfer of powers from domestic to European and global institutions. Secondly, it revisits substantive constitutional values, such as the protection of constitutional rights, the rule of law, democratic participation and constitutional review, along with constitutional court judgments that tackle the protection of these rights and values in the transnational context, e.g. with regard to the Data Retention Directive, the European Arrest Warrant, the ESM Treaty, and EU and IMF austerity measures. The responsiveness of the

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ECJ regarding the above rights and values, along with the standard of protection, is also assessed. Thirdly, challenges in the context of global governance in relation to judicial review, democratic control and accountability are examined. On a broader level, the contributors were also invited to reflect on what has increasingly been described as the erosion or 'twilight of constitutionalism, or a shift to a thin version of the rule of law, democracy and judicial review in the context of Europeanisation and globalisation processes. The national reports are complemented by a separately published comparative study, which identifies a number of broader trends and challenges that are shared across several Member States and warrant wider discussion. The research for this publication and the comparative study were carried out within the framework of the ERC-funded project 'The Role and Future of National Constitutions in European and Global Governance. The book is aimed at scholars, researchers, judges and legal advisors working on the interface between national constitutional law and EU and transnational law. The extradition cases are also of interest to scholars and practitioners in the field of criminal law. Anneli Albi is Professor of European Law at the University of Kent, United Kingdom. Samo Bardutzky is Assistant Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

This fourth edition has been thoroughly updated and revised to provide a comprehensive introduction to the German legal system and covers institutional, public, and private law. Included are extracts from the Grundgesetz and a glossary of German legal terms.--Preface. It is nearly ten years since the appearance of the successful first edition of this convenient English-language introduction to the law of Germany. This new

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edition covers all the significant changes and innovations that have occurred during that period, encompassing the pervasive impacts of European law and of globalisation, the major recent reform of the German Civil Code, and the greatly increased activity of the German legislature in every area. With fifteen lucid chapters written by academic experts in their respective fields of law, as well as detailed bibliographies, this is the ideal starting point for research whenever a question of German law must be answered. The authors clearly explain the legal concepts, customs, and rules arising from such basic elements as the following: characteristic problems of Germany legal unity; principles and practices of constitutional law; administrative law and procedure; the German Commercial Code; formation and conduct of corporations and partnerships; contracts; tort liability; property rights; family law; succession and inheritance; labor and employment; issues of private international law; courts and civil procedure; the penal code and criminal procedure. Introduction to German Law, Second Edition provides an authoritative description of all issues likely to emerge in the course of normal application of German law in any context.

Developments of the law in Japan and in Germany provide ample reason for an inquiry into "The Identity of Japanese and German Civil Law". Japanese civil law has a long tradition of absorbing and digesting foreign influences, - in particular

from Germany, France, England and the United States. The absorption of foreign influences occurred on various levels: at the legislative level, in particular during the drafting process of the Civil Code, at the judicial level and in the field of scholarship. The reception of legal theories was followed by a unique process that has been characterised as "theory reception" (Kitagawa). Irrespective of such foreign influences, we can discern a unique legal tradition in Japan - in other words, its own identity. At the same time, German private law is under the influence of legal harmonisation in the EU. While the predominant view in the 1980's was still that this development was confined to a restricted area - that of "consumer law" - recent developments demonstrate that European Union legislation now influences large parts of German civil law. What does this mean in terms of the identity of German civil law? And how does this development of a "Europeanization" of German civil law affect related legal systems, such as that of Japan? The present volume contains the proceedings of a conference held in Japan in 2006 to mark the occasion of the "Germany Year in Japan". In their contributions, Japanese scholars discuss the various influences on Japanese law; German scholars enquire into the Europeanization of German private law; and finally, the identity of Japanese civil law is discussed from the perspectives of German civil law and of common law.

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The history of criminal justice in modern Germany has become a vibrant field of research, as demonstrated in this volume. Following an introductory survey, the twelve chapters examine major topics in the history of crime and criminal justice from Imperial Germany, through the Weimar and Nazi eras, to the early postwar years. These topics include case studies of criminal trials, the development of juvenile justice, and the efforts to reform the penal code, criminal procedure, and the prison system. The collection also reveals that the history of criminal justice has much to contribute to other areas of historical inquiry: it explores the changing relationship of criminal justice to psychiatry and social welfare, analyzes representations of crime and criminal justice in the media and literature, and uses the lens of criminal justice to illuminate German social history, gender history, and the history of sexuality.

This book is a translation of Reinhold Zippelius' *Juristische Methodenlehre*, (Munich, C.H. Beck, tenth edition, 2006). The approach of the original German-language volume is to engage civil law students in the processes by which one learns the law and reasons in the law — thus, the title of Zippelius' work in English could easily be “Thinking Like a German Lawyer.” This volume was chosen because of its wide influence in Germany and the fact that it provides not only intellectual insight in comparative legal systems, but also equips the practitioner

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to understand how the civil lawyer sitting across the table understands law — the insider comparativism that is the basis for the entire series.

It is with the greatest pleasure that I add a few introductory remarks to the book of Dr. Mahendra Pal Singh on German administrative law. Between 1981 and 1982 Dr. Singh spent nearly two years in Heidelberg, doing research partly at the South Asia Institute of the Ruprecht Karl University and partly at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law. During his stay in the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Singh studied the general principles of German administrative law in a careful and admirable manner, and he has now completed the present book which is based on his studies in Heidelberg. For several reasons Dr. Singh is especially qualified to write this book: His familiarity with the administrative law of his home country has enabled him to look upon the German law with considerable objectivity; his knowledge of the German language gave him access to the vast amount of German literature and court decisions; and Dr. Singh was able to penetrate this material with a searching and scholarly spirit. The final product seems to be the first comprehensive treatise in English on German administrative law.

Since its first appearance in 1986, this magisterial work has won uniform praise from many of the world's leading comparatists. It has been acclaimed by senior

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judges and has been cited by the courts of many countries. This new, substantially rewritten and systematically updated fifth edition of the work, contains over 95 leading judgments, most translated in their entirety, along with references to over 2,000 other decisions from Germany and the common law world. While the book remains an ideal tool for teaching comparative torts and comparative methodology, the fact that it has been extensively rewritten makes it an indispensable source of inspiration for those with a professional interest in tort litigation and tort law reform. This edition has paid particular attention to liability for internet activity, medical liability and the protection of personality rights and private life.

Created by the Journal of International Law and Politics at New York University, the Guide to Foreign and International Legal Citations is the most comprehensive source for international citations rules. Including 45 country citation systems, as well as citation rules for international organizations, tribunals, and treaties, the updated Second Edition offers updated and expanded coverage. The only reference that focuses entirely on international citation, Guide to Foreign and International Legal Citation, Second Edition, features: manageable length, convenient Wire-O binding, and easy-to-use page format logical three-part organization: Country Citation Guides Citation Guides for International

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Organizations Citation Guides for International and Regional Tribunals a Country Profile for each listing followed by its Citation Guide examples that reflect acceptable variability of citation in practice

This revised and fully up-to-date English translation of the 7th edition of the Casebook Verfassungsrecht includes a new outline of the German constitution, the BVerfG Court, and its jurisprudence. It condenses more than six decades of constitutional jurisprudence in order to familiarize readers with the style, technique, and language of the Court. As well as an analysis of the general principles of German constitutional law, the book covers the salient articles of the German Constitution and offers relevant extracts of the Court's most important decisions on the provisions of the Basic Law. It provides notes and discussions of landmark cases to illustrate their legal and historical context and give the reader a clear understanding of the principles governing German constitutional law. The book covers the fundamental rights catalogue of the Basic Law and offers a comprehensive account of its intellectual moorings. It includes landmark jurisprudence on the equal treatment of same-sex couples, life imprisonment, the legal structure of property, the right to assembly, and the right to informational self-presentation. The book also covers the provisions and respective case law governing the state structure of Germany, for instance the

recent decisions on the prohibition of the far-right German nationalist party, and the Court's jurisprudence on European integration, including the most recent decisions on the OMT-program of the European Central Bank.

A clear and precise overview of the key aspects of German business law. Written by attorneys involved in the daily practice of business law in Germany, this book is aimed at people who wish to familiarise themselves quickly with the German legal system and the manner in which it influences business purchases, establishment, operations and liquidations. Throughout, special attention has been paid to highlighting and explaining the differences between the German legal system and that of the United States, although the intention is to provide information that will prove valuable to all foreigners, particularly business people and lawyers advising clients with an interest in doing business in Germany.

What does it mean when civil lawyers and common lawyers think differently? In *Charting the Divide between Common and Civil Law*, Thomas Lundmark provides a comprehensive introduction to the uses, purposes, and approaches to studying civil and common law in a comparative legal framework. Superbly organized and exhaustively written, this volume covers the jurisdictions of Germany, Sweden, England and Wales, and the United States, and includes a discussion of each country's legal issues, structure, and their general rules.

Professor Lundmark also explores the discipline of comparative legal studies, rectifying many of the misconceptions and prejudices that cloud our understanding of the divide between the common law and civil law traditions. Students of international law, comparative law, social philosophy, and legal theory will find this volume a valuable introduction to common and civil

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law. Lawyers, judges, political scientists, historians, and philosophers will also find this book valuable as a source of reference. Charting the Divide between Common and Civil Law equips readers with the background and tools to think critically about different legal systems and evaluate their future direction.

German substantive criminal law has been influential in many civil law countries, most notably in the Hispanic world. In the common law countries, not surprisingly because of the systemic differences in approach, its impact has been much less, if not negligible. This may be largely explained as a result of the language barrier. An up-to-date and reliable English translation of the German Criminal Code has been conspicuously missing for some time. This book presents a new English translation of the Strafgesetzbuch, (the Criminal Code), in its most recent amended form of August 2007. The Code is the centrepiece of German substantive criminal law and informs the interpretation and application of any other criminal provisions which can be found in specific legislation. The translation thus affords an opportunity to profit from a legal tradition that has had a major influence over history and has a rich experience of doctrinal analysis. The translation adheres as closely as possible to the textual structure of the original, but has been made palatable to an English ear. It is intended as a companion to the author's Principles of German Criminal Law which was published in December 2008. Please click on the link below for further details. www.hartpub.co.uk/books/details.asp?isbn=9781841136301. This book explains the structure and terminology of some of the main areas of German public and private law. Amid the increasing complexity of international legal relations, the book provides a firm reference point for those native English speakers who deal with legal matters in Germany, for those who wish to grasp the nettle of the intricate German legal system and

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language for the first time and for those who aim to qualify as German lawyers.

Constitutional litigation in general attracts two distinct types of conflict: disputes of a highly politicized or culturally controversial nature and requests from citizens claiming a violation of a fundamental constitutional right. The side-by-side comparison between the U.S. Supreme Court and the German Federal Constitutional Court provides a novel socio-legal approach in studying constitutional litigation, focusing on conditions of mobilisation, decision-making and implementation. This updated and revised second edition includes a number of new contributions on the political status of the courts in their democratic political cultures.

A study of the justice system in the Third Reich explores the response of Germany's legal profession to Nazi power

The revised Criminal Code does not create a new administration of the criminal law, but it provides a framework within which the administration of justice can ensure the maintenance of law and the protection of society.

In their time these important court cases influenced the development of a democratic legal system in a country struggling to overcome Hitler's legacy. Today they cast a unique light on seventy years of West German social and political history.

The main principles and structures of a legal system are most easily to grasp if seen in a complete overview of all various parts. This book addresses the most important subjects for understanding and handling of the German law. Law students at the beginning of their studies, foreign students and practitioners as well as interested laymen will find this monograph to give an overview and first information about the German legal system. Special regard is given to the effects of the European legal development on the German law. The author is professor for

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public law at the University of Trier and director of the Institute for European Constitutional Law.

This text provides a comprehensive description in the English language of the German law of unjust enrichment, by explaining how this works in the context of German law, and by discussing the implications this would have if the German system were implemented in an English legal environment.

German Legal System and LawsOxford University Press, USA

Legal history offers a broad panorama of transfers, transplants and receptions of law. What are the conceptual tools and methods that legal historians are employing to understand these processes?

Despite the widespread use of English and the search for pan-European legal principles, national legal concepts and norms remain of vital, practical importance. This book endeavours to explain in as simple terms as possible, in the English language, the structure and terminology of some of the main areas of German public and private law.

As a child, Inga Markovits dreamt of stealing and reading every letter contained in a mailbox at a busy intersection of her town in order to learn what life is all about. When, decades later, working as a legal historian, she tracked down the almost complete archive of a former East German trial court, she knew that she had finally found her mailbox. Combining her work in this extraordinary archive with interviews of former plaintiffs and defendants, judges and prosecutors, government and party functionaries, and Stasi collaborators, all in the little town she calls "Lüritz," Markovits has written a remarkable grassroots history of a legal system that set out with the utopian hopes of a few and ended in the anger and disappointment of the

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many. This is a story of ordinary men and women who experienced Socialist law firsthand--people who applied and used the law, trusted and resented it, manipulated and broke it, and feared and opposed it, but who all dealt with it in ways that help us understand what it meant to be a citizen in a twentieth-century Socialist state, what "Socialist justice" aimed to do, and how, in the end, it failed. Brimming with human stories of obedience and resistance, endurance and cunning, and cruelty and grief, Justice in Lüritz is ultimately a book about much more than the law, or Socialism, or East Germany.

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