

Middle Ages Law

Culture Talk

What is covered?



REVAMP OF ROMAN LAW AND EXPANSION OF NEW LEGAL SYSTEMS

FEUDALISM AND CANON LAW

ISLAMIC LAW







Byzantine Empire

• When the Roman empire split into Eastern and Western Roman empire. The Eastern Roman empire became part of the Byzantine empire.

• Emperor Justinian I developed the Justinian Codes (Corpus Juris Civilis), which helped reform the Roman law in 529.

- consist of four books: the Codex
 - Justinianus, the Digesta or Pandectae,
 - the Institutiones, and the Novellae.
- were created to help unify the empire
 - and outline the specifics about slavery, inheritance, and crime

Rise of Canon Law

 Roman law also influenced canon law, which outlined the guidelines for how
 Christians should act and the rules that they should follow.

 Canon law consists of decisions that were made by the Church or other religious leaders, such as the Popes.

> The laws covered how marriage should work as well as key sacraments, such as baptism and communion.

• THE MIDDLE AGES ALSO MARKED A PERIOD OF PEACE AND CENTRALIZED

- LAW.

Feudalism

• CHARLAMAGNE, THE KING DURING THE 8TH CENTURY, HELPED UNIFY WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE.

• THIS DID NOT LAST THAT LONG, AND THE UNIFICATION OF EUROPE SPLIT, WHICH GAVE THE RISE TO FEUDALISM.

• FEUDALISM LED TO A STRICT SOCIAL HIERARCHY AND DETERMINED HOW FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE FINANCIALLY.

• FEUDAL LAW WAS CREATED FOR THIS INSTANCE.

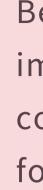
• THE LAWS COVERED HOW THE LAND SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED, RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LORDS AND VASSALS, IN WHICH VASSALS SHOULD RECEIVE A PORTION OF THE LAND.

Intro to Precedent

- IN THE 11TH CENTURY, THE NORMAN CONQUEST TOOK PLACE IN ENGLAND, WHICH LED TO CHANGE IN LAW.
- WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR TOOK CONTROL OF ENGLAND, AND INTRODUCED COMMON LAW, WHICH BROUGHT THE IDEA OF USING PRECEDENT TO RULE FUTURE CASES.
- ENGLAND IN FUTURE CENTURIES
 BECOMES A PIONEER IN NEW LEGAL REFORMS.
 - IN 1215, THE MAGNA CARTA WAS SIGNED BY
 KING JOHN TO PREVENT THE MONARCHY
 FROM GAINING TOO MUCH POWER.







• Specifically, the Lex mercatoria (Law Merchant), which outlined laws that merchants had to follow when they were trading or conducting commercial business.

Trade Laws

• Because trade marked a huge deal of importance during the Middle Ages, commercial and trade laws were developed for nations to follow and abide by.

• The Hanseatic League, which was a trading network between the Scandinavian nations, highlighted the importance of protecting the rights of merchants.

Islamic Law

THE RISE OF ISLAM BEGAN TO GROW OUTSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST IN 7TH AND 8TH CENTURY. WHEN IT REACHED INDIA, SHARIA LAW BEGAN TO TAKE A STRONGHOLD THERE. IT HAD A HEAVY INFLUENCE IN SEVERAL EMPIRES, SUCH AS THE MUGHAL EMPIRE.

