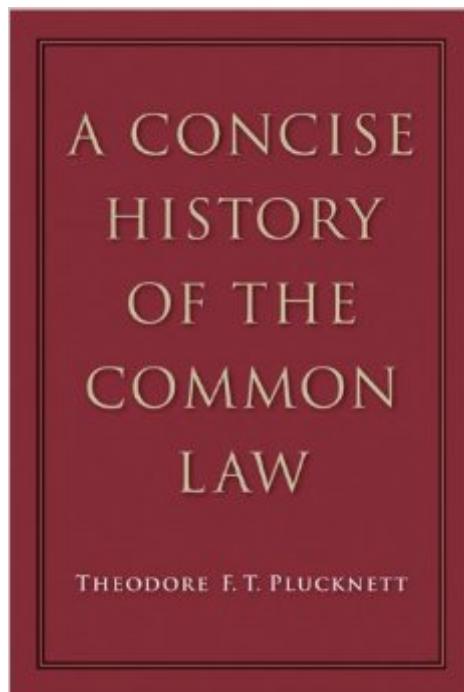


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# A Concise History Of The Common Law



## Synopsis

As always during its long history, English common law, upon which American law is based, has had to defend itself against the challenge of civil law's clarity and traditions. That challenge to our common law heritage remains today. To that end, Liberty Fund now makes available a clear and candid discussion of common law. A Concise History of the Common Law provides a source for common-law understanding of individual rights, not in theory only, but protected through the confusing and messy evolution of courts, and their administration as they struggled to resolve real problems. Plucknett's seminal work is intended to convey a sense of historical development—not to serve merely as a work of reference. The first half of the book is a historical introduction to the study of law. Plucknett discusses the conditions in political, economic, social, and religious thought that have contributed to the genesis of law. This section is a brief but astoundingly full introduction to the study of law. The second half of the book consists of chapters introducing the reader to the history of some of the main divisions of law, such as criminal, tort, property, contract, and succession. These topics are treated with careful exposition so that the book will be of interest to those just embarking on their quest in legal history while still providing enough substantial information, references, and footnotes to make it meaningful for the well-versed legal history reader. Theodore F. T. Plucknett (1897-1965) was an English legal historian. At twenty-six, he was appointed by Roscoe Pound as professor of legal history at Harvard Law School.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I recently ordered this book from . I had been looking for a more concise rather than lengthy explanation for many of the legal mechanisms and principles we enjoy (endure?) today. Without

question, the "History of the Common Law" goes far to do just that. It is well organized and deftly written. I am reluctant to admit this about a history of law, but I confess that I found it hard to put down. Forty years after publication, the book remains a pillar and outstanding guide to our legal heritage

The history of law in the western world is one that spans back centuries. "A Concise History of the Common Law" traces the history of common law back to the time of the Romans and how it has over the centuries developed into what it is today. The events of conquest, Christianity, the Enlightenment, and more has seriously impacted the events, and Theodore Plucknett breaks down these events into a fascinating study. "A Concise History of the Common Law" is a must for any community library collection touching on the history of law.

My father bought this in hard back for me when I was a law student. I bought it for my Kindle reader simply because I didn't want to lug it around as it is quite a tome. I have been reading it on and off since 1970 and it really is a must have for English, Irish and US law students, or students or practitioners in any state the laws of which are based in the English Common Law. At a formative stage of my education this book really helped me to understand why I wanted to be a lawyer [apart from the fact that we are such a well loved and respected profession!].

For understanding the origins and initial development of the common law, there is no better source than Plucknett's. Additionally, there are a myriad of footnotes directing readers to a variety of important historical sources.

While it has been many years since I read this book, I recommend it to any who have an interest in our common law legal heritage. Of particular interest was the part of the book that explained the political genius of the Normans who instituted a much superior system of courts throughout England that replaced the manorial courts. These courts made available a body of law "common" to all of England and supplanted what could only have been a patchwork of arbitrary rules and procedures. If the Normans achieved an astounding political legitimacy after invading England with this stroke of genius, consider what is happening in the United States as our legal system gradually transforms itself into a dominant central government and weak state governments serving only as administrative units of that central government, and otherwise becomes an instrument of extortion.

A very nice concise volume of the History of The Common Law of England. From it's origins and it's competitors , the governments which oversaw , the people whom demanded , the politics of the time and many great names plucked from the ages of history. I cannot say enough good things about this book which I decided to read before entering into my study of american law history. It is broken into 2 parts. The first a broad general overview of the progress of the ages with man big events and or changes noted. The second part goes into more detail about these things, charters, judges rulings, legal literature of the time , and even breaking into certain parts of the law such as civil, criminal , equity , admiralty. An amazing journey.

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