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Abstract

This textbook of legal history presents the course of the basic institutions of public and private law from antiquity to the twentieth century. The sources of law in each period, the forms of constitutional organization and the mechanisms of administering justice are presented, and information is given on the organization of the family and property relations. In antiquity, in parallel with the Greek legal orders of cities and kingdoms, Rome developed a law which would form the basis of legal science. The law of the Greek city-states spread after Alexander the Great's campaign in the Hellenistic East. With the Roman conquest, Greek and Roman law came together, especially after the granting of Roman citizenship to all free inhabitants of the Empire (212 AD). Factors such as the transfer of the capital to Constantinople, the prevalence of the Greek language in the East, and Christianity influenced

the transformation of the law into Byzantine law, which survived even in the centuries of the Latin and Turkish occupation. The modern Greek state institutionalised the application of Byzantine law, while at the same time introducing institutions in line with the new social requirements and following European standards. A comprehensible textbook on the history of law is therefore necessary for law students, who, by studying the historical development of law, can better understand the functioning of modern institutions. But it goes beyond the limits of training a group of professionals because it is also useful to students of other disciplines, such as political science, history, archaeology, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, etc. In all these fields it offers an interpretative tool for understanding the institutions and legal sources that are the subject of their own studies.

