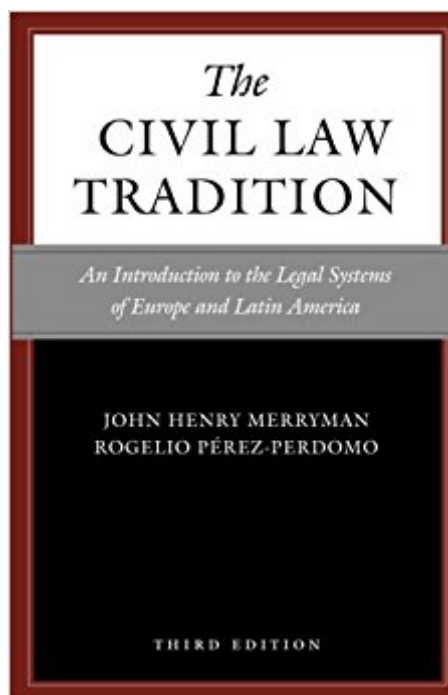




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# The Civil Law Tradition, 3rd Edition: An Introduction To The Legal Systems Of Europe And Latin America



## Synopsis

Designed for the general reader and students of law, this is a concise history and analysis of the civil law tradition, which is dominant in most of Europe, all of Latin America, and many parts of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. This new edition deals with recent significant events—such as the fall of the Soviet empire and the resulting precipitous decline of the socialist legal tradition—and their significance for the civil law tradition. The book also incorporates the findings of recent important literature on the legal cultures of civil law countries.

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## Customer Reviews

"The most readable and succinct account of the origins, the development, and the philosophy of the civil law. . . . Written for those unfamiliar with the study of comparative law and legal systems, the book distinguishes the civil law tradition from that of the common law tradition of the English speaking countries. . ." (Houston Law Review) \* \* \* PRAISE FOR THE PREVIOUS EDITION \* \* \*

"This little book is not only readable—a feat in itself—but also insightful and provocative in its treatment of the folklore and practice of the civil law. . . . A lively introduction to civil law thinking with its historical, political, and social dimensions." (The American Journal of Comparative Law)

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the fall of the Soviet empire and the resulting precipitous decline of the socialist legal tradition – and their significance for the civil law tradition. The book also incorporates the findings of recent important literature on the legal cultures of civil law countries.

A brilliant book. I was trained in common law but have studied and worked in a civil law country. After reading this book I realise so much of what I thought were idiosyncrasies with that legal system are in fact simply manifestations of the civil law tradition. This book has given me the necessary background and framework through which to view this and other legal systems. It would, however, be great for all common lawyers to understand this basic overview of the civil law tradition so as to better understand our own system and its strengths and weaknesses.

For someone like me, who lives inside the civil law tradition, and sometimes has the feeling that there is something wrong with the way cases are solved, this book is a truly eye opener, because Professor Merryman shows you there is another way of doing things. And pretty soon you start comparing the two solutions. Having read this book I was given an "helicopter view" of the Law. And leaving the civil law tradition, even if only in a mind journey to other traditions, gives you a much better insight into the whole stuff. Also, great historical background of the current law traditions. Don't miss this book.

This is an excellent, though fairly short, introduction to the "civil law tradition," most of which was started by the Code Napoleon post-Revolution in France. It compares that tradition (heavy on the legislative function, light on the judicial function) with the common law tradition (Britain, US, Canada, Australia, etc.), which is heavier on the judicial function (esp. in the US, given the pre-eminence of the Constitution). It seems to be aimed at lawyers but it does not exclude others. Certain points (e.g., stare decisis) could certainly "stand" a fuller explanation (very important to the common law tradition, esp. in the US and Canada), but overall this is an excellent book.

This work, now in its third edition, is a useful primer for those who would like to understand the basics of the civil law tradition. Civil law systems are unfamiliar to most people who live and study in common law countries like the UK and US, but they're the predominant type of legal system in much of the world, so it's worth learning about them. Merryman's classic work gives a concise history of the development of civil law, which helps to explain some of its foundational principles and forms. He also explains how systems in this tradition generally operate today. An excellent and highly

readable book.

As a civil law student it was interesting to get an outside view of our system. Albeit some descriptions seems old and not in-actual, this book was overall very interesting and thought provoking. It was also rather easy to read, something that is not very common for literature on law.

Great book

one of the best in comparative law regarding common law and civil law system

Great book, sometimes you think he's about to express a bias. Then he counteracts it with a counter-bias. End result, excellent assessment of two similar but different legal traditions.

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