



# American Law in the 20th Century

*Professor Lawrence M. Friedman*

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## **American Law in the 20th Century** Professor Lawrence M. Friedman

A history of American law in the 20th century. It describes the explosion of law over the past century into almost every aspect of American life. Since 1900 the centre of legal gravity in the United States has shifted from the state to the federal government, with the creation of agencies and programmes ranging from Social Security to the Securities Exchange Commission to the Food and Drug Administration. Major demographic changes have spurred legal developments in such areas as family law and immigration law. Dramatic advances in technology have placed new demands on the legal system in fields ranging from automobile regulation to intellectual property. Throughout this history, Lawrence M. Friedman focuses on the social context of American law. He explores the extent to which transformations in the legal order have resulted from the social upheavals of the 20th century - including two world wars, the Great Depression, the civil rights movement, and the sexual revolution. Friedman also discusses the international context of American law: what has the American legal system drawn from other countries?

And in an age of global dominance, what impact has the American legal system had abroad?

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