# Historical Roots of Law

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**What are some of the historical roots of Law?**

Laws as enforced rules have existed since people started interacting

Most were based on common sense and practicality and passed by word of mouth

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India Laws were written in the Great Code of Manu

China was the Code of Li k'Vei and included things like theft, robbery, prison and arrest

Despite varying contexts most laws covered similar areas of life

# Historical Roots of Law

**Code of Hammurabi**

Hammurabi was the king of Babylon 1793-1750BC

Wrote down 300 laws that governed the daily life of Babylonians

Eg: anyone committing a robbery and is caught will be killed

Open a ditch to water your crops and it causes damage to your neighbours land, you are on the hook for the damages

# Historical Roots of Law

**Code of Hammurabi**

Rich had more protection than the poor

Slavery was legal

Women and children were property of the men
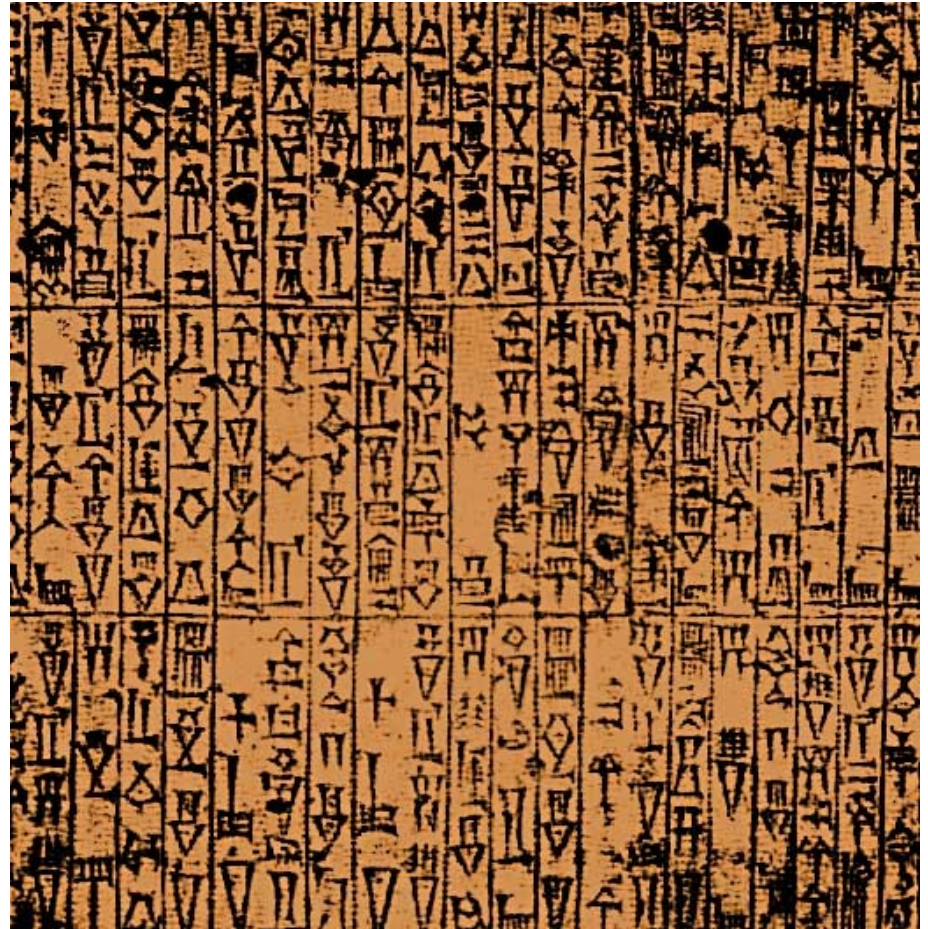
Based on RETRIBUTION, an eye for an eye

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**Code of Hammurabi**

Any one bringing an accusation forward and loses receives the punishment

Stealing livestock results in having to repay tenfold

If someone steals then they are put to death, if they can't find out who did it the community will repay the victim
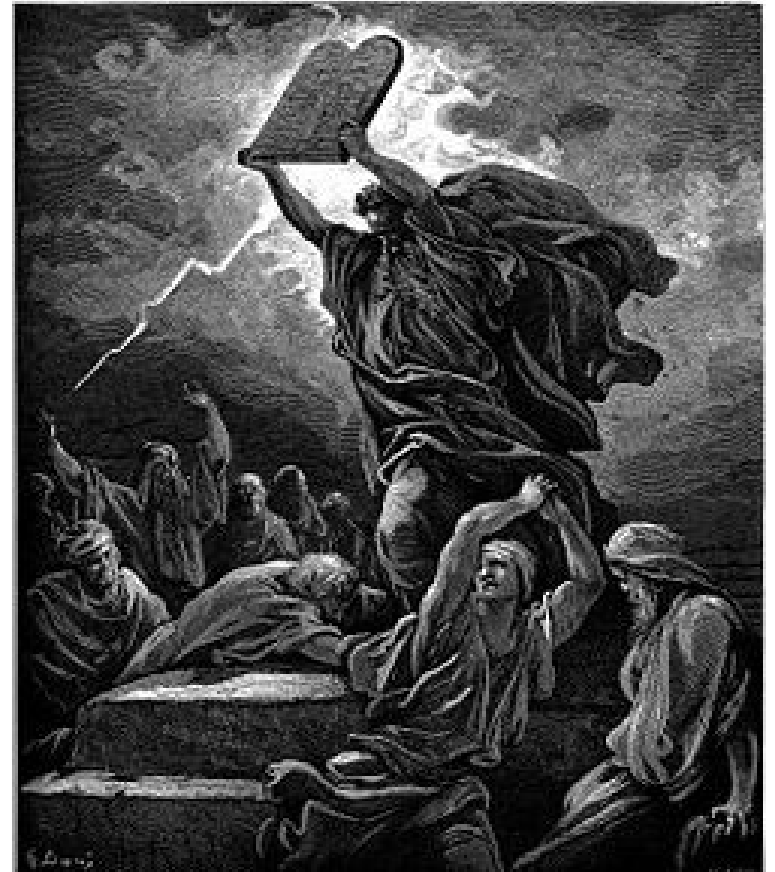
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**Mosaic Law**

Mosaic law is also known as Hebrew law or Biblical Law

Based on the Ten Commandments given to Moses by God

Thou shalt not kill

Thous shalt not steal

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**Greek Law**

Democratic as citizens had a say in public affairs

Citizens could vote and had to perform jury duty

If someone was found guilty accuser and the accused would suggest a sentence

A jury then voted on the most appropriate sentence

Socrates was tried for corrupting the minds of youth and put to death by a jury vote of 281 to 220

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**Roman Law**

Had two basic principles:

1) The law must be recorded

2) The law cannot be left up to judges alone

Became the law of England During the Roman occupation and has become thje foundation of the Modern Law

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**Roman Law**

Was based on codified Law known as the Twelve Tables

The Tables promoted public persecution of crimes, victim compensation and protected the lower class from the abuse of the upper class

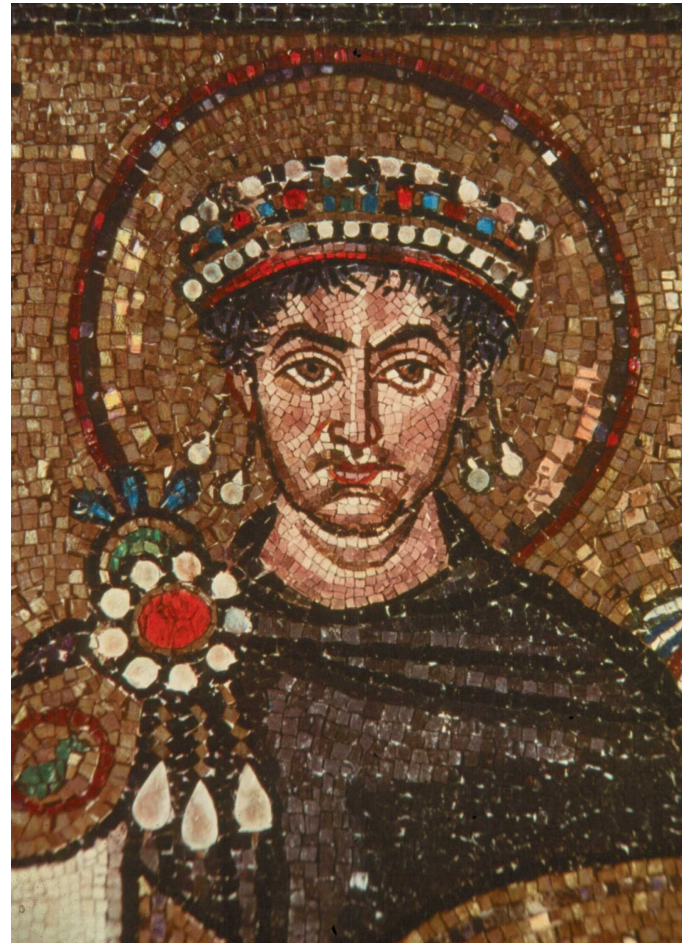Lawyers were first seen in Roman times

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**Justinian's Code**

Justice comes from Justinian

Justinian's code formed the basis
    of modern Civil Law

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**Napolenic Code**

In order to unify French law after the French Revolution Napoleon commissioned a new set of laws that were known as the Napoleonic Code that is also known as French Civil Law

The code was popular as it was non technical

It is still used in Quebec