

How The Laws Of The Twelve Tables Of the Ancient Roman Republic Influenced Modern Jurisprudence

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Abstract

The legal history of Rome begins properly with the Twelve Tables. It is the first and most ancient Roman code collecting the earliest known laws of the Roman people and forming the foundation of the whole fabric of Roman Law. The Twelve Tables was a set of laws inscribed on bronze tablets created in ancient Rome in 451 BCE. The Twelve Tables was a list of laws covering most areas of private law & concentrating on relations between individual citizens.

The list of laws seems to have covered most areas of private law and concentrated on relations between individuals (as opposed to individuals vs. the state) They were the beginning of a new approach to laws where they would be passed by government and written down so that all citizens might be treated equally before them. The Twelve Tables were regarded as a great legal charter and it was a first step which would allow the protection of the rights of all citizens and permit wrongs to be redressed through precisely-worded written laws known to everybody. Consequently, the Roman approach to law would later become the model followed by many subsequent civilizations right up to the present day.

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