

Law Topic 4: The Legal Heritage of Greece and Rome.

Read and translate the text. (Прочитайте і перекладіть текст).

The Legal Heritage of Greece and Rome

The ancient Greeks were among the first to develop a concept of law that separated everyday law from religious beliefs. Before the Greeks most civilizations attributed their laws to their gods or goddesses. Instead, the Greeks believed that laws were made by the people for the people.

In the seventh century B.C., Draco drew up Greece's first written code of laws. Under Draco's code death was the punishment for most offenses. Thus, the term draconian usually applies to extremely harsh measures.

Several decades passed before Solon – poet, military hero, and ultimately Athens' lawgiver – devised a new code of laws. Trial by jury, an ancient Greek tradition was retained, but enslaving debtors was prohibited as were most of the harsh punishments of Draco's code. Under Solon's law citizens of Athens were eligible to serve in the assembly and courts were established in which they could appeal government decisions.

What the Greeks may have contributed to the Romans was the concept of “natural law”. In essence, natural law was based on the belief that certain basic principles are above the laws of a nation. These principles arise from the nature of people. The concept of natural law and the development of the first true legal system had a profound effect on the modern world.

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Exercise 4.1. *Translate the text “Legal Heritage of Greece and Rome”. (Перекладіть текст “Юридична спадщина Греції і Риму”).*

Exercise 4.2. *Answer to the questions. (Дайте відповіді на запитання).*

1. What does the ancient Greek concept of law comprise?
2. Why were the first laws mainly attributed to divine powers?
3. What is the origin and the meaning of the word “draconian”?
4. How do you understand the concept of “natural law”?
5. What was Solon’s contribution to ancient law?

Exercise 4.3. *Compare laws in Draco and Solon time. Discuss them in the group. (Порівняйте закони часів Драконта та Солон. Обговоріть їх у групі).*

Exercise 4.4. *Fill in the table. (Заповніть таблицю).*

	Hammurabi	Draco	Solon
Capital punishment			
Human rights			
Main principles			
Other kinds of punishment			