

Law Topic 8: The european law in the 19th century: Napoleon's Code.

Read the text. (Прочитайте текст).

Napoleon's Law

The laws of much of continental Europe (particularly France), of Quebec in Canada, and of much of Latin America – along with the civil laws of Louisiana – owe their modern form largely to the work of a man who never even studied law. Napoleon Bonaparte, the Corsican soldier who became emperor of France after the French Revolution, established in 1800 five commissions to refine and organise the diverse legal systems of France. The result, enacted in 1804, was the Napoleon's Code. Some of its original 2,281 articles were drafted by Napoleon himself, and all were affected by his thinking, even though he was completely self-taught in legal matters.

The code was a triumphant attempt to create a legal system that treated all citizens as equals without regard to their rank or previous privileges. It was also so clearly written that it could be read and understood by ordinary people at a time when only Latin scholars could make sense of the earlier laws handed down since Roman times. The code was adopted intact in most of the areas of Europe that Napoleon dominated and spread from there across the Atlantic, taking root particularly in French-speaking American communities. Many of its principles are still in force today.

Exercise 8.1. *Translate the text. (Перекладіть текст).*

Exercise 8.2. *Find in the text the English equivalents for the following words and expressions (знайдіть у тексті англійські еквіваленти наступним словам):*

- 1) питання права;
- 2) вивчати право;

- 3) різні несхожі правові системи;
- 4) створити правову систему;
- 5) імператор;
- 6) цивільне право;
- 7) первинний варіант статей;
- 8) вплив ідей;
- 9) передавати (із покоління в покоління);
- 10) панувати;
- 11) поводитись як з рівним;
- 12) розібратися в чомусь;
- 13) бути у силі;
- 14) укорінитись;
- 15) не беручи до уваги привілеї.

Exercise 8.3. *Consult the previous texts and your legal dictionary to translate the following words and expressions into English. Make up sentences of your own, using the expressions below (користуючись попередніми текстами та юридичним словником, перекладіть наступні слова. Складіть власні речення):*

- складати проект закону
- створювати закони
- вносити поправки до закону
- ухвалювати закон
- вводити закон в дію
- виконувати закони
- скасовувати закони
- порушувати закони

Exercise 8.4. *Answer the following questions. (Дайте відповіді на запитання).*

1. What efforts did Napoleon make to reorganise the diverse legal systems of France?
2. Did Napoleon draw up the whole code himself?
3. What was so remarkable about Napoleon's new code?
4. What were the benefits of Napoleon's code for the ordinary people?

5. Which countries throughout the world still use the elements of Napoleon's code?

It's Interesting to Know Napoleon's Words of Wisdom

- A man will fight harder for his interests than for his rights.
- History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.
- It is the success which makes great men.
- The heart of a statesman must be in his head.
- From sublime to ridiculousness there is only one step.
- Public morals are natural complement of all laws: they are by themselves an entire code.

