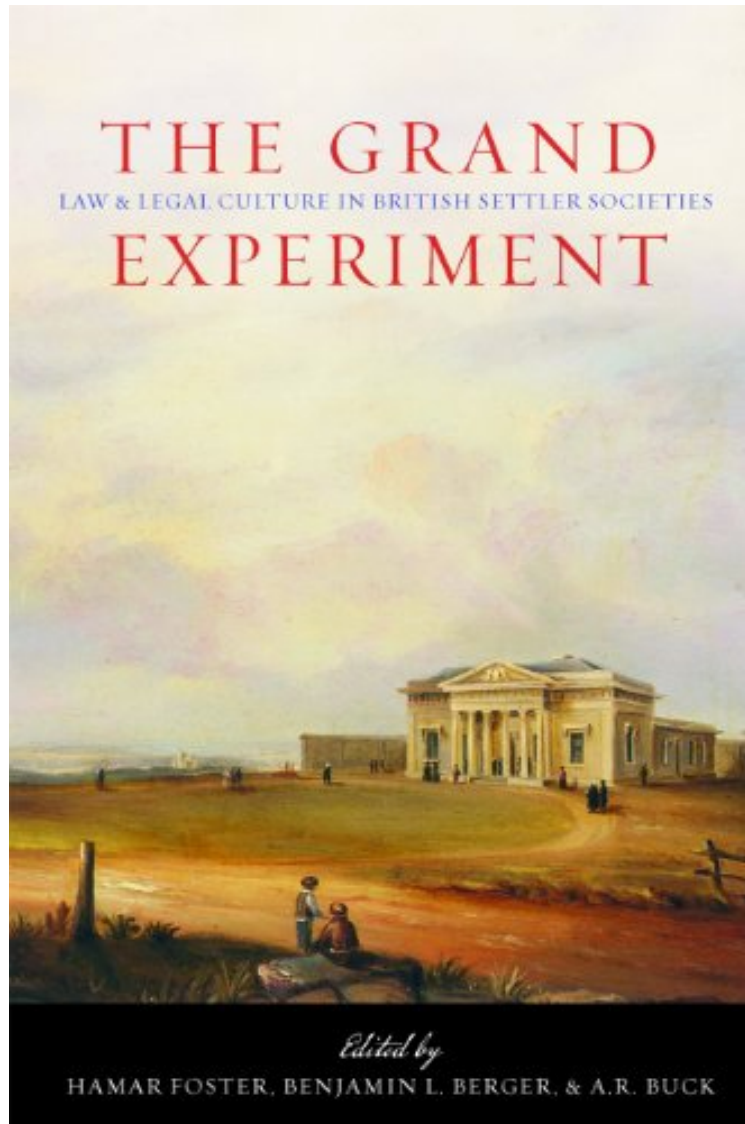


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## The Grand Experiment: Law and Legal Culture in British Settler Societies (Law Society)

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**From UBC Press : The Grand Experiment: Law and Legal Culture in British Settler Societies (Law Society)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Grand Experiment: Law and Legal Culture in British Settler Societies (Law Society):

Features essays that reflect the different directions in which legal history in the settler colonies of the British Empire has developed. This title shows how local life and culture in selected settlements influenced, and was influenced by, the ideology of the rule of law that accompanied the British colonial project.

In the late nineteenth century, the English legal historians Frederick Pollock and F.W. Maitland coined the phrase "the grand experiment" to describe the spread of English law throughout the British Empire. For Pollock and Maitland, this was an unequivocally positive process that would uplift settler societies. The work of recent legal historians, however, has alerted us to the more complex impact English law had on the peoples, both settler and indigenous, of those colonial societies. This "new colonial legal history" has revealed subtle and more ambiguous understandings of "the grand experiment." The essays in this volume reflect the exciting new directions in which legal history in the settler colonies of the British Empire has developed. The contributors, all noted scholars, show how local life and culture in selected settlements influenced, and was influenced by, the ideology of the rule of law that accompanied the British colonial project. Exploring themes of legal translation, local understandings, judicial biography, and "law at the boundaries," they examine the legal cultures of dominions in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand to provide a contextual and comparative account of the "incomplete implementation of the British constitution" in these colonies. A variety of topics are covered, ranging from libel law in New South Wales, Upper Canada, and Massachusetts to the much-neglected question of the extent to which British courts took note of the decisions made by courts in the settler dominions. Given the current lively debates about national characteristics and the rights of aboriginal peoples in British settler societies, this historical investigation has immediate relevance. The Grand Experiment will be of interest to all those whose lives have been shaped by the legacy of English law. This collection of essays by Canadas and Australasias most accomplished legal historians is a "must" for academic libraries and those who share these scholars interest in the legal culture of the British colonial world. (Peter Karsten, author of *Between Law and Custom: "High" and "Low" Legal Cultures in the Lands of the British Diaspora, 1600-1900*)

About the Author  
Hamar Foster is a professor of law at the University of Victoria. Benjamin L. Berger an assistant professor of law at the University of Victoria. A.R. Buck is a professor of law and Co-Director of the Centre for Comparative Law, History and Governance at Macquarie University, Australia. Contributors: Simon Bronitt, Lyndsay M. Campbell, Jeremy Finn, Philip Girard, Ian Holloway, Bruce Kercher, Greg Marquis, John P.S. McLaren, Stefan Petrow, Jim Phillips, Janna Promislow, Jonathan Swainger, David V. Williams, John Williams, Barry Wright, and Nancy E. Wright