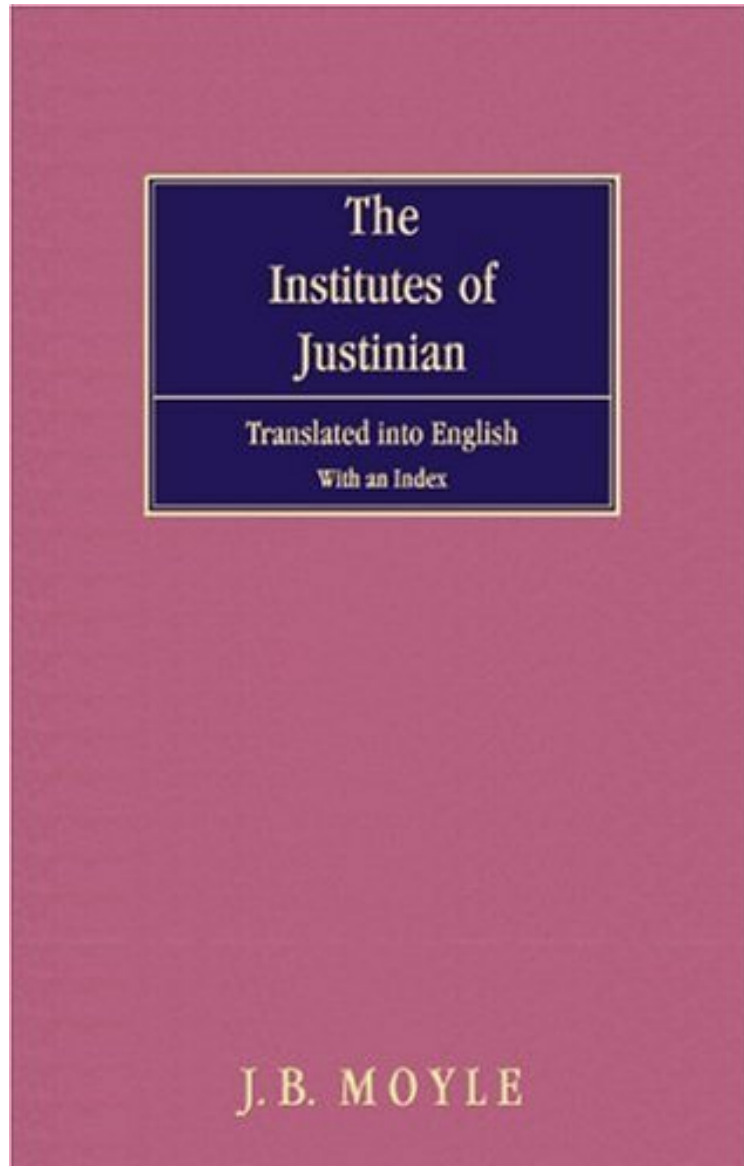


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## The Institutes of Justinian

*John B. Moyle*

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**John B. Moyle : The Institutes of Justinian** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Institutes of Justinian:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Referenced in other valid and subsisting legal sources, Justinian's ...By J.C.AdamsReferenced in other valid and subsisting legal sources, Justinian's Institutes begins with the words "In the name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ."Dated circa 529 AD, it sets out the rule of capture of wild animals that still

persists today and gives context and meaning and historical richness to the legal education that is so lacking in the US today. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Eric Cooper Fascinating and a wonderful translation. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An established and sound translation By Nick I've an older edition of this translation and I've enjoyed working my way through this work; one that shows the modern reader some of the ancient roots, the fairly consistent, and stable tradition of law in the Western World. Of course, as one reads this work and finds distasteful references to slaves (a major part of the laws of the time were devoted to the maintenance and governance of this horrible institution) and perceives too the much diminished rights of women in Romano-Byzantine society, one is also grateful that our legal system is one that has also changed and improved greatly over the centuries. Another observation one gains from this textbook for law students, which accompanied the new code issued by Justinian, is the continuity and direct development of precedent setting laws from earlier Roman times (the Twelve Tables, the laws and codes of past Roman emperors) to the reign of Justinian. The division between "Roman" and "Byzantine" is artificial, and the date for that artificial division differs in different disciplines. The Institutes show clearly that to the Romano-Byzantine peoples, the development of their laws was a development of their ancient, if changing society rather than an example of any radical change or break at some point. One of the things I've done is to write down words that are unfamiliar to me as I read through portions of this work, and then look them up using the eighth edition of Black's Law Dictionary. Because I am not a lawyer many of these words are new to my vocabulary. I have generally found that 85% or more of the terms used by Justinian (at least as translated by Mr. Moyle) are still in use, or at least to be found in the modern edition of this law dictionary.

Moyle, J.B. *The Institutes of Justinian. Translated into English with an Index. Fifth Edition.* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1913. viii, 220 pp. Reprinted 2002 by The Lawbook Exchange, Ltd. LCCN 2001041401. An English translation, with a thorough index, of Justinian's Institutes. After assuming the throne of the East Roman or Byzantine Empire in 527, Justinian (Favius Petrus Sabbatius Justinianus) [A.D. 483-565] sought to revise the most important legal writings of the original republic and empire, including the body of laws that had accumulated during the last 300 years. His revision of the Institutes of Gaius [c.A.D. 115-c.180] is perhaps the most significant volume to emerge from this program. Written around A.D. 161, it is an elementary treatise on Roman private law that served as a standard text for 300 years. Justinian's revision brought the original up to date while maintaining its qualities of clear exposition and perspicuous judgment. It was later combined with three other revisions, the Digest, Code, and Novels to form the Corpus Juris Civilis, a profound influence on European law from the tenth century onwards. Walker, *The Oxford Companion to Law* 511, 696.

About the Author J. B. Moyle, D.C.L. of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law, Fellow and Late Tutor of New College, Oxford