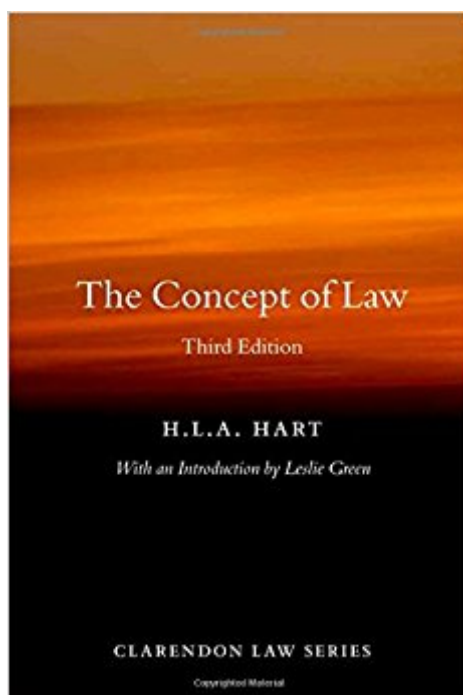


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# The Concept Of Law (Clarendon Law Series)



## Synopsis

Fifty years on from its original publication, HLA Hart's *The Concept of Law* is widely recognized as the most important work of legal philosophy published in the twentieth century. It is a classic book in the field of legal scholarship and remains the starting point for most students coming to the subject for the first time. Known as Hart's most famous work, *The Concept of Law* emerged from a set of lectures that Hart began to deliver in 1952 in which he developed a sophisticated view of legal positivism. Hart revolutionized the methods of jurisprudence and the philosophy of law in the English-speaking world by bringing the tools of analytic, and especially linguistic, philosophy to bear on the central problems of legal theory. In this third edition, Leslie Green provides a new introduction that sets the book in the context of subsequent developments in social and political philosophy, clarifying misunderstandings of Hart's project and highlighting central tensions and problems in the work. *The Concept of Law* remains a must-read for anyone interested in the great thinkers of the 20th century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

HLA Hart was Professor of Jurisprudence at Oxford University and the Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford. He authored *The Concept of Law* one of the seminal works of English-language jurisprudence. He passed away in 1992. Leslie Green is Professor of the Philosophy of Law and Pauline and Max Gordon Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford. He is the author *The Authority of the State* (Clarendon Press, 1990), and is the co-editor of *Oxford Studies in the Philosophy of Law* (with

Brian Leiter). Joseph Raz has been teaching at Oxford University since 1972. He has been Professor of the Philosophy of Law there since 1985, and Research Professor since 2006; he has also been Professor at Columbia University since 2002. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and has published a number of books including *Between Authority and Interpretation* (OUP, 2009) and *The Authority of Law* (OUP, 2009). Penelope A. Bulloch is an emeritus fellow of Balliol College, Oxford.

This is the preeminent book on legal positivism. Having said that, it is extremely dense, and while reading it, there were a few a-ha moments, it is very very tough to wade through without a guide. I also may just not be well aligned to the academic and philosophic writing style. The appendix, edited after Hart's death, is a bit more interesting - where he defends against criticisms from Dworak. All in all, it is probably a must read for the legal scholar - but a tough one.

This book was the center of my law school course on jurisprudence (legal philosophy). It was the best (and made the most sense) of any book I read in law school. I won't be surprised if 500 years from now law students are still reading this book alongside Aristotle and the other greats.

I write this review from the view point of a lay reader generally interested in law, justice and political philosophy. I found this book very lucid, well organized and comprehensive. Hart presents concept of a law in a descriptive manner as it is generally practiced. He develops the concept with comparing and differentiating it from commands and orders. He then traces its development from simple primitive societies to the complex realities of our times. He proposes that laws are union of, i) rules which govern individual behaviour and: ii) rules for making such rules. He also discusses relationship of law with morals and concerns of substantive versus formal justice in a legal system. The book acknowledges prevalence of various conceptions of law in different societies but does not make any value judgement about them. This edition contains a post script in which Hart has replied to his critics. I found this portion rather technical and think that it can be safely skipped by a general reader. I recommend this book to any one interested in understanding contemporary concept of law and legal system.

best book and best delivery option.

NOT BAD BUT NOT SO GOOD.

Bought for a Concept of Law class. Could have been organized better.

good

It is one of the best books to be read by every law student. Certainly, it is one of the illustrious law book in our time, but one should be cautious not to misunderstand its weaknesses, as well. As illustrious it is, so conceptually fragile too it is. It not only defends, but also successfully brings legal positivism at the center of legal analysis; however, without any uniform and determined framework of positivism defended and established. I am one of the admirers as well as critic of the theory of Hart, which this book is the most representative one. On the whole, I love this book and have read many times.

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