



Napoleonic Code

Marriage

Chapter 1, Title V


- Men must be at least 18 years old and women at least 15 years old to marry.

- Even after reaching adulthood, children are not fully independent.

Sons under the age of 25 and daughters under 21 must still receive permission from their parents to marry.

- If parents disagree, the father's consent outweighs the mother's, showing that men held greater authority within the family.

Marriage between close relatives is forbidden to protect family order and inheritance lines.





Napoleonic Code

Gender Roles

- The law clearly establishes the father as the head of the household. During marriage, the father has legal control over the family, including decisions about children.
- Children are not allowed to leave the family home without their father's permission, except in specific cases such as military service after age 18.
- Mothers have limited authority. Even if a mother survives her husband, she cannot make major decisions about her children without approval from male relatives.
- Married women are considered legally dependent and are restricted from making contracts or legal decisions on their own.





Napoleonic Code

Property

- 544 Property is the right of enjoying and disposing of things in the most absolute manner, provided they are not used in a way that violates the laws.
- 545 No one can be compelled to give up his property, except for the public good, and for a just and previous protection.
- 637 A servitude is a charge imposed upon an estate for the use and benefit of an estate belonging to another owner.
- 639 It is derived either from the natural situation of places, or from obligations imposed by law, or from agreements between owners.





Code of Criminal Procedure

Trials

- Criminal investigations under the Napoleonic Code are conducted in secret, not publicly. This means that suspects may not fully know the evidence against them during investigations. French citizens can be tried in French courts even for crimes committed abroad.
- Foreigners are treated differently under the law. If a foreigner brings a case to court, they must provide financial security to ensure they can pay court costs.
- Individuals convicted of serious crimes lose their civil rights, a punishment known as “civil death.” This means they are no longer considered full members of society.





Napoleonic Code

Debt

If a debtor fails to fulfill an obligation, they may be required to pay damages. However, if failure occurs due to uncontrollable circumstances such as natural disasters or accidents, the debtor may not be punished.

Damages owed must be reasonable and predictable, based on what could have been expected at the time of the agreement. This reflects an effort to create fairness and order in economic life rather than relying on harsh punishment alone.





Napoleonic Code

Inheritance

- 723 The law regulates the order of succession between legitimate¹ heirs; in defect of such, the property passes to natural children, afterwards to the father or mother surviving; and if there be neither of those, to the state.
- 720 If several potential successors perish in the same accident, succession would be determined by circumstances of the event or by age and sex.






Napoleonic Code

Inheritance

- 725 In order to succeed, the party must of necessity be in existence at the moment at which the succession is opened.
 - Those incapable of succeeding are,
 - 1st. He who is not yet conceived;
 - 2d. The child who is not born likely to live;
 - 3d. He who is civilly dead (loss of civil rights).

legitimate¹ - Born to parents who are lawfully wed to each other







Napoleonic Code

Civil Rights/Liberties

- 7. The exercise of civil rights is independent of the quality of citizen, which is only acquired and preserved conformable to the constitutional law
- 8. Every Frenchman shall enjoy civil rights.
- Foreigners may receive civil rights only if treaties allow it.
- A French citizen who has lost citizenship may regain it only with government approval.







The French Penal Code of 1810


Punishment

- The Penal Code emphasizes loyalty to the state and respect for authority. Any French citizen who takes up arms against France is punished by death, and their property is confiscated. Crimes against the emperor or imperial family are also punished severely.
- Public disrespect toward religion or government officials can result in fines or imprisonment. Counterfeiting government seals or symbols is considered a serious crime punishable by death.





The French Penal Code of 1810
Punishment Definitions

- “Borne Arms Against France”: attempts to use weapons against the government
 - Imperial: ruling family
 - “shall abuse the things used for the purpose of any religious worship”: speaking out/or gesturing to harm places of religious worship
 - Francs: French Money
 - Counterfeited: Make a fake version of
 - Seal of State: Money, gov docs, etc.
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