

NOMOSSTUDIUM

Robbers

# An Introduction to German Law

Seventh edition



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University of Trier

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## **Foreword to the seventh edition**

The law is a topic for ongoing discussion. Its development, formation and application are constantly debated in the interests of attaining agreement and acceptance. This debate is open to an international audience, and it is part of the general democratic process. Such debate can only be fruitful if it does not lose itself in the details, if it preserves the wider perspective. This general introduction aims to contribute to the attainment of that wider perspective and does not claim to provide an exhaustive and penetrating analysis of the intricacies of the law. This aim is perhaps also sufficient justification for my boldness in going beyond the limits of my own area of specialisation. The diverse help and intensive advice of colleagues and co-workers has made this project possible. The translation into English is originally the work of Michael Jewell, revisions and updates for the previous edition had been translated by Nina and Oliver Windgätter, those for this edition have been inserted by the author.

Trier, May 2019

*Gerhard Robbers*

## **Translator's Note**

Accurate translation of a legal text is a difficult task. On the one hand terminology must be chosen which makes it easy for the reader to relate the topic under discussion to similar ideas in his or her own legal system. On the other hand the danger of ignoring subtle differences in meaning must be avoided. In addition, a translator into English has to consider the fact that there are many countries in which legal business is conducted in English and that in the various countries different terms may be used to describe the same concept.

My approach has been to attempt to use the terminology of England wherever this is compatible with German thinking. I have done so for two reasons. The first is that England, as a country of the European Union, will presumably be the main market for this translation. The second is that the English system, being the original source of the common law, will hopefully be the most commonly accessible of the English language systems for other English speaking lawyers, whether in the Commonwealth, the United States or in countries where English is the main foreign language.

I have included key German terms in brackets for the benefit of those who already have some knowledge of German legal terminology or wish to acquire it.

*Michael Jewell*

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