**Law** [**法律**](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=Law)

**INTRODUCTION**

What is law?

They are rules [规则](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=rules) for a peaceful[和平](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=peaceful) civilized文明的; 有教养的 society [和平共处](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=peaceful).

I think it’s a bond [结](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=bond) between people to help increase[添加](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=increase) our freedom [自由](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=freedom).

For example, the law against stealing [盗](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=steal) increases[添加](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=increase) our freedom[自由](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=freedom) to own 拥有 things [东西](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=thing).

The law against murder [杀害](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=murder) increases our freedom to live [生活](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=live).

**ALTERNATIVES** 另外的 **TO LAW**

Anarchy 混乱 is the alternative to law.

Anarchy might sound like fun to teenagers, but when no-one works, and no-one gets an education, millions of people starve to death **饿死** èsǐ. Rape 强奸 and murder 谋杀 become commonplace **平凡**.

**BRIEF HISTORY OF LAW**

**Code of Hammurabi**

The Code of Hammurabi is a [Babylonian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonia)[古巴比伦](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=babylon) [law code](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_code), dating to about 1700 BC.

It is one of the oldest writings in the world.

The sixth Babylonian king, [Hammurabi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammurabi), made the code. The Code has of 282 laws, with different punishments[刑](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=punishment). How much someone was punished depended[据](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=depend) on their status[等级](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=status), [身份](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=status), for example a slave[奴婢](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=slave) was punished more than a free[自由](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=free) person.

Some of Hammurabi’s laws:

**22.** If any one is robbing[抢走](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=robbery) another person, then he shall be put to death.

**53.** If any one be too lazy[懒惰](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=lazy) to keep his dam[大坝](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=dam) in working, and the dam break[决堤](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=dam) and all the fields[农作物](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=farm) be flooded[大水](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=flood), then shall he will be sold[卖](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=sell) for money.

129: If a man's wife be surprised[惊讶](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=surprise) [having intercourse [性关系](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=intercourse)] with another man, both shall be tied[系](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=tie), [结](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=tie), [绑](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=tie) and thrown into the water, (drowned[灭顶](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=drowned)) but the husband[丈夫](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=husband) may forgive[原谅](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=forgive) his wife[老婆](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=wife) and the king his slaves.

Adultery 通奸 tōngjiān

195. [If a son strike[打](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=strike) his father, his hands shall be [cut] off.](http://public.wsu.edu/~wldciv/world_civ_reader/world_civ_reader_1/hammurabi.html#4) [断线](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=cut+off), [阻隔](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=cut+off), [斩断](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=cut+off)

196: [If a nobleman[贵族](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=nobleman), [君子](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=nobleman), [显贵](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=nobleman) put out the eye of another nobleman, his eye shall be put out.](http://public.wsu.edu/~wldciv/world_civ_reader/world_civ_reader_1/hammurabi.html#5)

**DISCUSSION**

**What do you think should be the penalty for:**

**Crimes** 罪行zuìxíng

Robbery [抢走](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=robbery) [盗](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=steal) dào?

Murder [杀害](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=murder) shāhài?

Rape 强奸 qiángjiān?

A son striking [打](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=strike) his father?

Tax evasion 偷税 tōushuì?

**Possible punishments** 惩罚 **chéngfá**

**Hebrew** 希伯来的 **Law, The Torah** [**律法**](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E5%BE%8B%E6%B3%95)

According to Jewish[犹太](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=Jewish) tradition[传说](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=tradition) the Torah was given by God [神](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=god) to Moses[摩西](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=moses), in 1312 BCE at [Mount Sinai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_Mount_Sinai)

The most important laws are these:



**British Law**

**MAGNA CARTA**

The most important set of laws in England in the Magna Carta.

大宪章（1912年[英国](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E8%8B%B1%E5%9B%BD)大[封建](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E5%B0%81%E5%BB%BA)[领主](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E9%A2%86%E4%B8%BB)[迫使](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E8%BF%AB%E4%BD%BF)英王[约翰](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E7%BA%A6%E7%BF%B0)[签署](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E7%AD%BE%E7%BD%B2)的[保障](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E4%BF%9D%E9%9A%9C)[部分](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E9%83%A8%E5%88%86)[公民权](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E5%85%AC%E6%B0%91%E6%9D%83)和政治权的[文件](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E6%96%87%E4%BB%B6)）

This set of laws gives people a lot of freedom.

England also has something called: Common Law

普通法（与衡平法对称），判例法，习惯法

**AMERICAN LAW**

The most important American laws are in the Constitution. 宪法 xiànfǎ

American law is complicated 复杂的 fùzá de because there are many kinds of law, including statutory laws 成文法, state laws 州法律, municipal laws 市政法 and laws based on precedence 优先权 from judges 法官 fǎguān. American courts 法庭 will also consider British Common law 普通法.

SOME MAJOR BRANCHES 分科 OF LAW

* Trade Law 贸易法 and International Trade Law
* Tax Law 税法 shuì fǎ
* Family Law 家庭法 jiātíngfǎ
* Real Estate Law [房地产法](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E6%88%BF%E5%9C%B0%E4%BA%A7%E6%B3%95) fáng dì chǎn fǎ
* Patent Law 专利法 zhuānlìfǎ
* Wills **遗嘱** yízhǔ
* Criminal Law **刑法** xíngfǎ

**VOCABULARY**

Law [法律](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=Law) fǎlǜ

Rules [规则](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=rules) guīzé

Anarchy: 混乱 hùnluàn

Starve (to death) 饿死 èsǐ

Civilized 文明的 wénmíng de

Peaceful[和平](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=peaceful) hépíng

Bond [结](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=bond) jié

Increase[添加](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=increase) tiānjiā

Freedom[自由](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=freedom) zìyóu

Steal = rob [盗](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=steal) dào

Own 拥有 yōngyǒu

Things [东西](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=thing) dōngxi

Murder [杀害](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=murder) shāhài

Rape 强奸 qiángjiān

Live [生活](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=live) shēnghuó

Code of Hammurabi – ancient 古老的 gǔlǎo de laws from 1700 BC

[Babylonian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonia) 巴比伦尼亚 bā bǐ lún ní yà

Punishments [刑](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=punishment) xíng

Depending on = according to 依 yī

Status 等级 děngjí

Slave 奴隶 núlì

Lazy [懒惰](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=lazy) lǎnduò

Surprise [惊讶](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=surprise) jīngyà (very surprised is: astonished)

Intercourse: 性关系 xìngguānxì

Adultery 通奸) tōngjiān

Forgive [原谅](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=forgive) yuánliàng

Strike [打](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=strike) dǎ

Crimes 罪行 zuìxíng

Punishments 惩罚 chéngfá

Jewish [犹太](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=Jewish) Yóutài de

God [神](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=god) shén

Respect 尊敬 zūnjìng

Magna Carta 大宪章 dà xiànzhāng

Court 法庭 fǎtíng

Judge 法官 fǎguān

Complicated 复杂的 fùzá de

Branches 分科 fēnkē

Trade Law 贸易法 mào yì fǎ

Tax Law 税法 shuì fǎ

Family Law 家庭法 jiā tíng fǎ

Real Estate Law [房地产法](http://www.nciku.com/search/zh/%E6%88%BF%E5%9C%B0%E4%BA%A7%E6%B3%95) fáng dì chǎn fǎ

Patent Law 专利法 zhuānlìfǎ

Wills 遗嘱 yízhǔ

Criminal Law 刑法 xíngfǎ