

CRIME WITHOUT PUNISHMENT

In this compelling book, the author looks at a cluster of situations where, in the past, the official law condemned the taking of life; but the killing was rarely or never punished. The examples include the actions of vigilante and lynch mobs, along with crimes of passion justified by the so-called “unwritten law.” The book covers the killing of the newborn at the very beginning of life, and “mercy killing” at the very end. The book asks why, in each case, the legal system in action allowed what the legal system in theory condemned, and how and why crimes without punishment changed in form and content over the course of time.

Lawrence M. Friedman is the Marion Rice Kirkwood Professor at Stanford Law School, Stanford University. He has written or edited over 30 books on legal history and the relationship between law and society.

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ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF HOMICIDE

LAWRENCE M. FRIEDMAN

Stanford University



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For Leah, Jane, Amy, Sarah, David, Lucy, and Irene

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