Industrializing English Law

Legal stasis in the face of rapid economic change poses serious challenges to deterministic and functional interpretations in the theory of law, institutions, and economic performance. This book explores a particularly important example: the slow and contradictory development in the law of business organization in England during the critical phase of the Industrial Revolution. Based on extensive primary source research, Ron Harris shows how the institutional development of major forms of business organization – the business corporation, the partnership, the trust, the unincorporated company – evolved during this period. He also demonstrates how this slow and peculiar path of legal change interacted with and affected the practice of individual entrepreneurs and the transformation of the English economy.

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATION, 1720–1844

RON HARRIS
Tel Aviv University
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