

# Criminal Justice in the United States, 1789-1939

This book chronicles the development of criminal law in the United States, from the beginning of the constitutional era (1789) through the rise of the New Deal order (1939). Elizabeth Dale discusses the changes in criminal law during that period, tracing shifts in policing, law, the courts, and punishment. She also analyzes the role that popular justice – lynch mobs, vigilance committees, law-and-order societies, and community shunning – played in the development of America's criminal justice system. This book explores the relation between changes in that system and its constitutional order.

Elizabeth Dale currently teaches history and law at the University of Florida. Her research focuses on expressions of popular sovereignty, specifically popular efforts to determine and enforce notions of right and wrong, in constitutional orders. She has written several books, including the forthcoming *The Chicago Trunk Murder: Law and Justice at the Turn of the Century.* Her articles have been published in Law and History Review, American Historical Review, and Northern Illinois Law Review.



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**ELIZABETH DALE** 

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# **CONTENTS**

Introduction: A Government of Men, Not Laws		page 1
ı.	Criminal Justice and the Nation, 1789–1860	6
2.	Crime and Justice in the States, 1789–1839	21
3.	Law versus Justice in the States, 1840-1865	45
4.	States and Nation, 1860-1900	65
5.	Criminal Justice, 1900–1936	97
6.	Rights and the Turn to Law, 1937-1939	122
Conclusion		136
Bibliographic Essay		139
Index		179