

because under English rule there have been wide departures from this original code. When the French left Canada in 1763, they left behind them a system of jurisprudence which probably owed more to Teutonic than to Roman sources. It is of course not unnatural that, being French in origin, the law system of the province should have continued French in development despite the passing of the colony into the hands of a new suzerain and notwithstanding the startling break in the continuity of French legal evolution which marked the Revolutionary and Napoleonic periods. But it was not essential that the civil jurisprudence of Quebec should have taken this course. In fact it was the intention of the English authorities at the outset to turn it into quite another channel. From this policy they eventually refrained, however, and by so doing gave recognition to the principle that, in the evolution of a legal system, ethnic factors are apt to prove more potent than the pressure of political control.

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