

Justinian Code vs. Present Laws

Laws about	Justinian Code	<i>Modern American Laws</i>
Women's Rights	All women can own property, make contracts and wills, and bring a lawsuit.	<i>All women can own property, make contracts and wills, bring a lawsuit. Women are guaranteed the same right as men.</i>
Robbery	Robbery was NOT a crime. However, the victim could sue the robber for up to four times the value of the stolen property.	<i>Robbery is a crime and is punishable by a fine and/or prison sentence.</i>
Failure to Pay Debt	People owed something had to sue the person owing them to gain debt back.	<i>People owed something have to sue the person owing them to gain debt back.</i>
Murder	Murder was punished by banishment.	<i>Murder is punished by prison sentence or death.</i>
Inheritance	Women could not inherit property from their husbands unless it was provided in a will. Children received equal amounts of the father's estate.	<i>Law allows wives and children to divide an estate. Other directions can be provided for in a will.</i>

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the chart.

- 1) How are the rights of women similar under the Justinian Code and current American law?
- 2) What is the difference in the treatment of robbery between the two law systems?
- 3) Under which law system could women benefit most from an inheritance? Why?
- 4) Which current law has basically unchanged when compared to the Justinian Code?
- 5) Which legal system is "softer" on murders?
- 6) Why was the Justinian Code considered "new" or "radical" for the time it was introduced in 533 A.D.?