

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910311929003321
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Titolo	The conceptual change of conscience : Franz Wieacker and German legal historiography 1933-1968 / / Ville Erkkila
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Tubingen, Germany : , : Mohr Siebeck, , 2019
ISBN	3-16-156692-0
Edizione	[1. Aufl.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource
Collana	Beiträge zur Rechtsgeschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts ; ; 106
Disciplina	349.4309
Soggetti	Law - Germany - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	How did the drastic experiences of the turbulent twentieth century affect the works of a legal historian? What kind of an impact did they have on the ideas of justice and rule of law prominent in legal historiography? Ville Erkkila analyses the way in which the concepts of 'Rechtsgewissen' and 'Rechtsbewusstsein' evolved over time in the works of the prestigious legal historian Franz Wieacker. With the help of previously unavailable sources such as private correspondence, the author reveals how Franz Wieacker's personal experiences intertwined in his legal historiography with the tradition of legal science as well as the social and political destinies of twentieth century Germany.