

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910810393503321
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Titolo	Society and legal change // Alan Watson ; foreword by Paul Finkelman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : Temple University Press, 2001
ISBN	1-4399-0591-6
Edizione	[2nd ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (169 p.)
Disciplina	340/.115
Soggetti	Sociological jurisprudence Law - Great Britain Roman law
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Originally published: Edinburgh : Scottish Academic Press, 1977. With new preface by the author.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Foreword by Paul Finkelman; Preface to the Second Edition; Preface; Abbreviations; Chapter 1: Introduction; Chapter 2: Roman Law: the System of Contracts; Chapter 3: Roman Law: Patria Potestas; Chapter 4: Roman Law: Further Points; Chapter 5: English Law: Real Property; Tenure and Registration; Chapter 6: English Law: Libel and Slander; Chapter 7: Wider Perspectives; Chapter 8: Legal Scaffolding; Chapter 9: Legal Transplants; Chapter 10: Causes of Divergence; Chapter 11: Some Conclusions; Chapter 12: Study of Legal Development; Index
Sommario/riassunto	In this first U.S. edition of a classic work of comparative legal scholarship, Alan Watson argues that law fails to keep step with social change, even when that change is massive. To illustrate the ways in which law is dysfunctional, he draws on the two most innovative western systems, of Rome and England, to show that harmful rules continue for centuries. To make his case, he uses examples where, in the main, "the law benefits no recognizable group or class within the society (except possibly lawyers who benefit from confusion) and is generally inconvenient or positively harmful to s