

Translator's Note

One of the goals of the *Journal of Chinese Law* is to facilitate intellectual exchanges between Chinese and American scholars and lawyers. As part of meeting this goal, the *Journal of Chinese Law* strives to provide translations of important and provocative Chinese legal writings that would otherwise be inaccessible to interested lawyers and scholars.

For this issue, the editors of the *Journal of Chinese Law* have selected an article by Mr. Liang Zhiping, a lecturer in law at People's University in Beijing. The article originally appeared in a 1986 issue of the *Journal of Chinese Social Science*.^{*} Mr. Liang traces the development of law in China from an anthropological perspective, and illustrates how the concept, nature, and function of law in China have been influenced by China's unique culture and politics. Mr. Liang also provides insights into some of the differences between the legal cultures of China and the West by contrasting the formation of the state and the development of law in ancient China with that in Western civilizations.

As is often the problem in translating, the original article assumed that its audience had a certain degree of familiarity with Chinese classical literature and history. In an effort to clarify many of these references and to provide the reader with a broader context in which to consider Mr. Liang's analysis, the editors have added a substantial number of supplemental footnotes.

* Liang Zhiping, *Fa Bian*, ZHONGGUO SHEHUI KEXUE, Apr. 1986, at 71.

