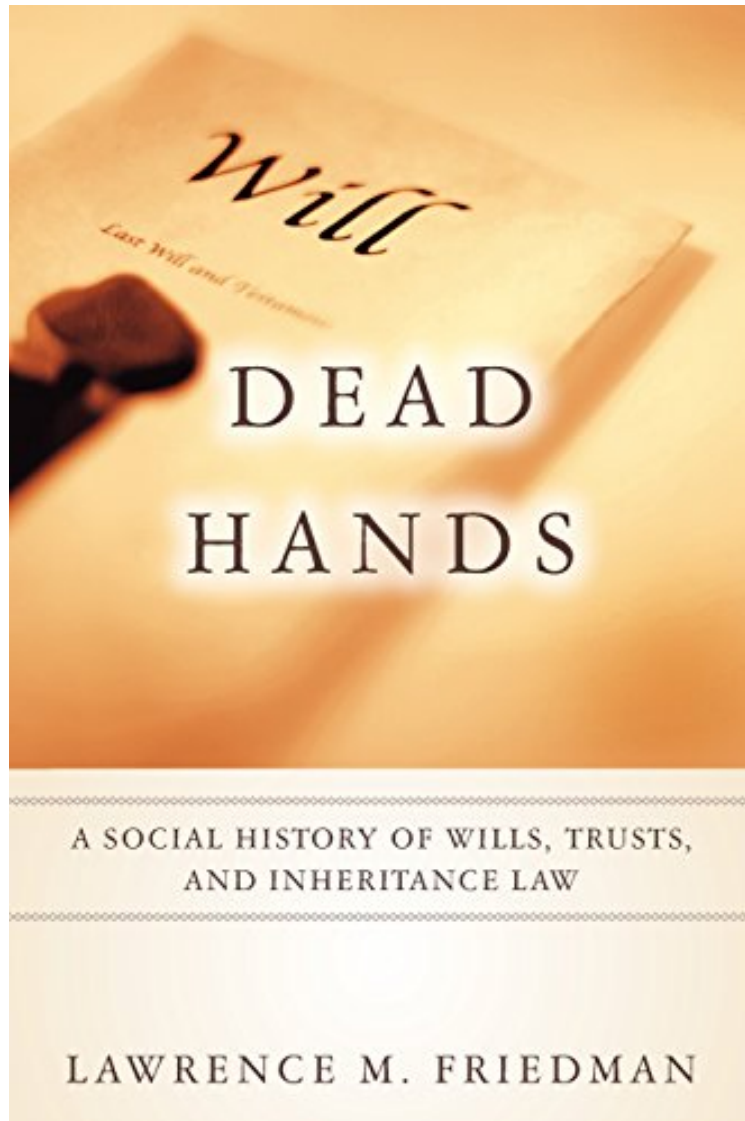


[Download] Dead Hands: A Social History of Wills, Trusts, and Inheritance Law (Stanford Law Books)

Dead Hands: A Social History of Wills, Trusts, and Inheritance Law (Stanford Law Books)

Lawrence M. Friedman

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Lawrence M. Friedman : Dead Hands: A Social History of Wills, Trusts, and Inheritance Law (Stanford Law Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dead Hands: A Social History of Wills, Trusts, and Inheritance Law (Stanford Law Books):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Friedman at his most lucidBy Anson Cassel MillsSeveral times while I was reading this book, friends intrigued by the title asked me what it was about. "Yes," I said, "it sounds like a

novel, and it actually reads that well too." Lawrence M. Friedman, the prolific popularizer of American legal history, has in *Dead Hands* written a fine, short book that should be accessible to anyone curious about succession law. From a policy standpoint, the most important chapters are probably those dealing with the fall of the rule against perpetuities and the rise of charitable foundations. But Friedman is a great storyteller, and there are some great stories to tell about the wackiness that sometimes ensues when people try to make or break wills, or worse, when they try to ignore planning for their deaths altogether. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent supplement
By Jack Kough
This book is a great supplement to a trusts estates class. It presents the material that you will cover in class in a very engaging and anecdotal format.

The law of succession rests on a single brute fact: you can't take it with you. The stock of wealth that turns over as people die is staggeringly large. In the United States alone, some \$41 trillion will pass from the dead to the living in the first half of the 21st century. But the social impact of inheritance is more than a matter of money; it is also a matter of what money buys and brings about. Law and custom allow people many ways to pass on their property. As Friedman's enlightening social history reveals, a decline in formal rules, the ascendancy of will substitutes over classic wills, social changes like the rise of the family of affection, changing ideas of acceptable heirs, and the potential disappearance of the estate tax all play a large role in the balance of wealth. *Dead Hands* uncovers the tremendous social and legal importance of this rite of passage, and how it reflects changing values and priorities in American families and society.