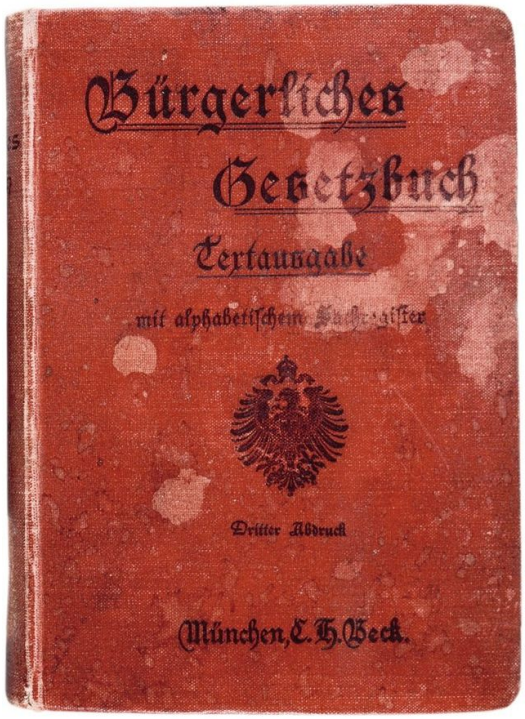
German Civil Code (1896)

Abstract

The unification of Germany in 1871 only gradually brought uniform legal standards to the country. Although the 1870s was a time of rapid standardization, the drafting of a common civil code was not completed until 1896. Ratified in 1899, it was a cornerstone of the “rule of law” over aristocratic privilege. It was championed by liberals as a milestone in establishing the rights of the common citizen. Pictured here is the cover of the third edition.

Source



Source: *Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch*, München: C.H. Beck, 1896. Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin

DHM

Recommended Citation: German Civil Code (1896), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/wilhelmine-germany-and-the-first-world-war-1890-1918/ghdi:image-1694> [September 12, 2026].