

COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL LAW: (2023) by Sukumar Ray (Published by Eastern Law House Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata) pp. 557 Price Rs. 1295/-.

THE DISCOURSES on comparative criminal law is slowly gaining momentum and much research on this area of criminal law is being undertaken by scholars across the globe. The knowledge about the functioning of a legal system and acknowledging the paradigm shift in the application of laws in such legal system is a basic requirement to be understood by students, academicians and legal professionals, if the law has to be applied to diverse circumstances in letter and spirit. As the law unfolds and delves its roots deeper, what becomes also important to learn, is the way the law unfurls in other legal systems across countries. In doing so, the criminal law shall flourish and grow and remain prepared to be applicable to newer situations and conditions. The present book is a splendid attempt to intrigue the readers about diverse aspects of criminal law and procedure in a comparative spirit and thereby to develop the inquisitorial minds towards having a vivid idea on the application of criminal law in diverse situations and cultures.

A quick reading of the contents of the book makes one realize that variedness in approach is the most defining trait of the author who, in a very lucid language has portrayed the attributes of crime and its treatment across different country contours. Another striking feature of the book is the ordering of the contents which has been done with much precision and through such narration, the author has attempted to consolidate the law through comparative discourses. The comparative discourses on various aspects related to the functioning of the authorities within a particular legal system has also been dealt with much experience and subtlety. The author has made a fervent attempt to showcase the commonalities within different legal systems as they stand followed across the spectrum of countries and thereby draw the readers to learn how different stages of procedure remain analysed and applied in different countries. The shift in approach from punishing the perpetrator of the crime to the rehabilitation of the victim has also been very aptly considered and explained through a comparative outlook. Punishments for different offences in various countries across the globe raises questions in the minds of the readers to initiate further research on the degree of punishment *vis-a-vis* the crime committed and whether deterrent theory manages or fails to conquer the commission of offences in diverse forms. Finally, by pointing out the impediments that the Indian Judiciary faces that disrupts the delivery of justice within time is a timely and appropriate concluding chapter that starkly points to the need for better enforcement of justice.

The principal purpose of the book is to identify and compare points of commonality and points of departure *vis-à-vis* different criminal law systems and that to my understanding has been done justly. A comparative analysis definitely will serve different stakeholders with different outcomes - to the legislator, it might provide clarity in approach while drafting legal statutes; to the judiciary, it can aid in the

interpretation of different situations to which the law applies while to the student, it provides better admissibility in learning the law and its diverse approaches as also provide a stepping stone to undertake further research to ensure that the criminal law fulfils its purpose of delivering justice that is fair and firm, rehabilitative and punitive as the need justifies. To my understanding, the scope and coverage of the book is commendable and with each reading of a chapter of the book, the reader will be captivated and absorbed to follow the next, because of the lucid approach and simple language in which it has been presented. The readers will remain at liberty to draw their own objective conclusions based on their understanding of the context of each chapter which will motivate them towards more quality research on the different dimensions of criminal law and criminal legal systems.

*Manik Chakraborty**

* Professor Emeritus, Sister Nivedita University and Former Professor and Head, Department of Law, University of Burdwan, West Bengal.