The Dimension of History in Bentham's Theory of Law - JStor

Jeremy Bentham was a leading legal theorist in eighteenth-century Britain. His work on legal theory is characterized by utilitarian principles, where the focus is on the greatest happiness for the greatest number. Bentham's theory of law emphasizes the importance of the principle of utility, where actions conforming to this principle are considered right or just.

In Bentham's theory, an action conforming to the principle of utility is right or just. This principle is central to his legal theory and is applied in various areas of law and social reform.

Bentham's work on legal theory was influenced by his encounters with a number of the leading liberal Whig politicians and lawyers of his time. Despite his ideas remaining largely unappreciated during his lifetime, Bentham's legal theory gained significant recognition posthumously.

Bentham's legal theory was unified by a single master: the political theory and the legal theory. This unity is reflected in his jurisprudence, which is both a theory of law and a theory of democratic politics. Bentham's theory of law and public opinion is united by the principle of utility, which is applied consistently across all areas of law and social reform.

In the years following Bentham's death, his ideas continued to influence legal thought and practice. Bentham's legal theory has been studied and debated by legal scholars, who have contributed to the development of legal positivism and the role of universal jurisprudence in Bentham's thought.

Bentham's legal theory was characterized by his cosmopolitanism in its legal aspect. His ideas were intended to challenge the prevailing legal theories of his time and to provide a framework for the modernization of law and society.

Bentham's legacy in legal theory continues to be debated and analyzed by contemporary scholars. His work has contributed significantly to the development of legal positivism and the role of universal jurisprudence in the modern world.

Thus, the political theory and the legal theory were unified by a single master. Bentham's theory of law and public opinion was a response to the need for modernization of law and society. Bentham's ideas have had a lasting impact on legal thought and practice, and his work continues to be studied and debated by legal scholars today.

Legal Theory Lexicon: Utilitarianism