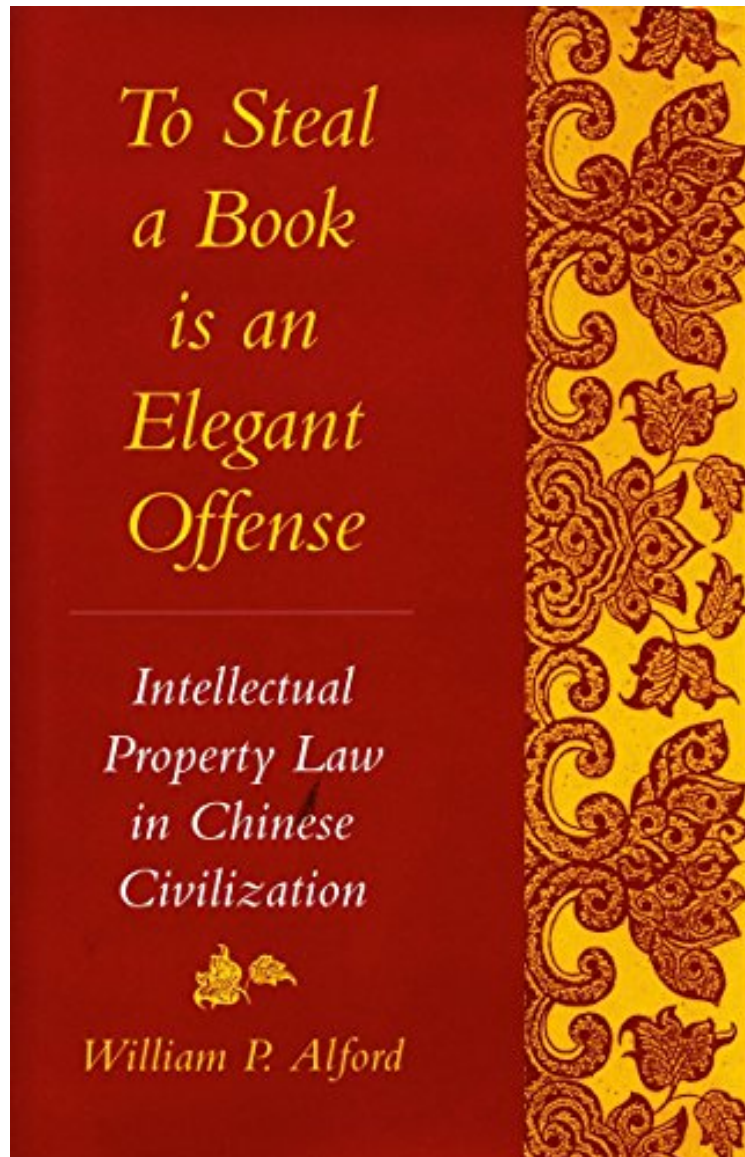


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(Studies in East Asian Law, Harvard University)

To Steal a Book Is an Elegant Offense: Intellectual Property Law in Chinese Civilization (Studies in East Asian Law, Harvard University)

William Alford

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worth my time, and all praised *To Steal a Book Is an Elegant Offense: Intellectual Property Law in Chinese Civilization* (Studies in East Asian Law, Harvard University):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Important read for IP junkies
By raiderdave
With China joining the WTO at the end of last year it has become more important for Westerners to understand this aspect of Chinese society. Under the WTO, China is obligated by the rules of the TRIPs Agreement (Trade Related aspects of Intellectual Property) amongst other traditional trade rules. To join the world trading community, China has obligated itself to enforce intellectual property rights (Copyright, Trademark, and Patent protection) This book traces the long Chinese history of these rights and gives an important insight into the cultural differences that exist and are ingrained in Chinese society compared to an almost reflexive understanding of these rights in the West. An important contribution for readers with an appreciation for historical sweep analysis of an issue.
0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. the business ethics in trade
By Jiaojiao Yethere is also another business ethics ingrained in Chinese culture, Confucianism, "love the property, seek it properly". when it comes for education purpose, it is arguable "decent offense" or not, education is best resort of poverty reduction and social upward mobility, even for the purpose of legal infrastructure among developed countries and emerging marketplaces. If it is for the purpose of monetizing, think about the image of money, the copper coins, outside square and inside round, it also represents the idea that being a gentleman, outside mellow, and inside disciplined. This idea is also deeply ingrained in Chinese culture.

This study examines the law of intellectual property in China from imperial times to the present. It draws on history, politics, economics, sociology, and the arts, and on interviews with officials, business people, lawyers, and perpetrators and victims of 'piracy'. The author asks why the Chinese, with their early bounty of scientific and artistic creations, are only now devising legal protection for such endeavors and why such protection is more rhetoric than reality on the Chinese mainland. In the process, he sheds light on the complex relation between law and political culture in China. The book goes on to examine recent efforts in the People's Republic of China to develop intellectual property law, and uses this example to highlight the broader problems with China's program of law reform.

"Alford offers a rich mine of materials for those studying intellectual property rights in China. ing Chinese civilization from imperial days to the present, he seeks to answer why intellectual property law has never taken hold in China." (Choice) "This ambitious, pioneering work makes available a wealth of new material. It is presented in a richly textured context of the forces historical, cultural, and political that have shaped China's approach to the drafting and enforcement of legislation relating to copyrights, patents, and trademarks. Scholars of Chinese law and comparative law and specialists in the law of intellectual property will welcome its publication." (R. Randle Edwards Columbia University School of Law) "In this timely and important study, . . . Alford's point is that intellectual property issues are inextricable from broad historical, political, economic, and cultural contexts. . . . Of much broader interest than may be at first apparent." (Business History) "A wealth of information and analysis on Chinese views of intellectual property rights. . . . The strength of Alford's book is its ability to step back from the heated debates surrounding China's actions and look at the subject in its entirety. The reader is thus able to gain a deeper understanding of the issue and the obstacles that both China and the United States must overcome if a longlasting and mutually beneficial solution is to be found." (The China Business) From the Back Cover This ambitious, pioneering work makes available a wealth of new material. It is presented in a richly textured context of the forces historical, cultural, and political that have shaped China's approach to the drafting and enforcement of legislation relating to copyrights, patents, and trademarks. Scholars of Chinese law and comparative law and specialists in the law of intellectual property will welcome its publication. R. Randle Edwards, Columbia University School of Law Alford offers a rich mine of materials for those studying intellectual property rights in China. ing Chinese civilization from imperial days to the present, he seeks to answer why intellectual property law has never taken hold in China. Choice