

What is law for?

Someone alone on a desert island, cut off from the rest of the world, would need no law at all.

Introduce just one other person and the situation is transformed. If our two people are to co-exist, they will have to develop complex rules of behaviour. Most of the things we regard as crimes become possible. Many things covered by non criminal law, such as contract, or marriage, become possible. How are our people to decide what rules to follow? What happens if they disagree? What happens if a rule is broken? Our islanders are now grappling with issues of law.

It only takes two people to create the need for law. Consider modern society. The world has billions of people in it. They all have their own personalities, hopes, fears, beliefs, qualities and faults. Often they are crowded into quite small spaces. This certainly applies to England and Wales, the home of the law covered by this book. As we will see, this extends into almost all areas of life as it struggles to do the job of providing workable rules. ***Continued....***