

1-1-1996

On the Inquisition

John Donnelly

Marquette University, john.p.donnelly@marquette.edu

Published version. "On the Inquisition," in *The World Book Encyclopedia*. Ed. World Book Inc. Chicago: World Book Inc., 1996: 277. [Publisher Link](#). © 1996 World Book Inc.
The publication can be found in Volume 10 of the *The World Book Encyclopedia* 1996 Edition.

impact of a new tax policy or of an increase in imports.

Donald W. Kroeber

Inquest is an inquiry held by a group of people who have the legal right to make an investigation. The word *inquest* comes from a Latin word meaning *to inquire* or *to search*. Inquests are held to get various types of information. In the United States and Canada, the most common inquest is the *coroner's inquest*. This type of inquest investigates the circumstances surrounding a death when the cause is unknown or foul play is suspected. The coroner of a county chooses a jury, generally from the voter registration rolls, and this jury reports its findings to the coroner. The report may be used by a grand jury as the basis of a murder indictment. See also **Coroner; Autopsy**.

John I. Thornton

Inquisition, *ihN kwuh ZIHSH uhN*, was an effort by the Christian church to seek out and punish *heretics* (persons who opposed church teachings). The Inquisition took place in many parts of Europe, but the Spanish Inquisition is best known.

In A.D. 392, Roman Emperor Theodosius I outlawed all non-Christian and non-Jewish worship. From then on, the teachings of the Christian church were regarded as the foundation of law and order. Heresy was thus an offense against the state as well as the church. For hundreds of years, civil rulers tried to stamp out heresy.

During the 1100's and 1200's, certain groups of Christians revolted against their church. After some civil rulers refused or became unable to punish these heretics, the church took over the role. In 1231, Pope Gregory IX created a special court to investigate suspects and force heretics to change their beliefs. In 1542, the Congregation of the Holy Office took control of the Inquisition. The judges of the Inquisition were usually Dominican and Franciscan friars.

The Inquisition operated chiefly in France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. Working in secret, the inquisitors often misused their power. Some suspects were tortured, and heretics who refused to change their beliefs were sentenced to die by burning. In the 1500's, Catholic leaders turned the Inquisition against the Protestants.

Catholics now condemn the Inquisition for violating modern standards of justice. But in the Middle Ages, few people criticized it.

John Patrick Donnelly

See also **Torquemada, Tomás de; Heresy**.

Insanity is a legal term for any severe mental disease or disorder that makes a person not responsible for his or her actions. Under most systems of criminal law, an insane person cannot be guilty of a crime. Thus insanity is used as a defense in some criminal cases. However, a defendant found not guilty by reason of insanity may be considered dangerous and be hospitalized until he or she is no longer mentally ill.

Forms of the insanity defense have been recognized by judges since ancient times. The landmark case in the modern development of this defense is *M'Naghten's Case*, decided in Britain in 1843. Daniel M'Naghten, who had been charged with murder, was judged not guilty by reason of insanity because of medical findings that a mental illness prevented him from being responsible for his actions. The case led to a new standard for the insanity defense called the M'Naghten Rule. This rule recognized insanity if a mental disorder prevented a defendant either from knowing what he or she was doing or from understanding that it was a crime. British law and many U.S. states still use the M'Naghten Rule.

Some U.S. states later adopted an "irresistible impulse" test. The "irresistible impulse" test recognizes insanity if a mental disorder prevented a defendant from resisting a sudden urge that led to criminal conduct. Another test came into wide use after it was proposed in 1962 by the American Law Institute, a group of legal scholars. This test requires that a mental disorder affected a defendant's ability either to understand the wrongfulness of his or her conduct or to control the illegal behavior.

In 1982, John W. Hinckley, Jr., who had tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, was found not guilty by reason of insanity. Soon afterward, Congress began debate that led to a 1984 insanity law for federal trials. This law requires the defense to prove the offender did not appreciate the nature and quality of his or her acts or the wrongfulness of these acts because of a mental disorder. Many states also require the defense to prove insanity, while others require the prosecutors to prove the defendant is sane. A few states do not recognize the insanity defense.

Donald H. J. Hermann

See also **Incompetence**.

Inscription. See **Engraving; Epitaph; Hieroglyphics; Seal**.

Input-output table*

| Outputs | Inputs | | | Final markets | | | Horizontal - row totals |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------|-------------------------|
| | Agriculture | Manufacturing | Services | Individuals | Government | Export | |
| Agriculture | 3 | 1 | | 25 | 4 | 7 | 40 |
| Manufacturing | 12 | 27 | 8 | 48 | 25 | 9 | 129 |
| Services | | 15 | 3 | 152 | 41 | | 211 |
| Value added | | | | | | | |
| Wages | 22 | 75 | 178 | | | | |
| Profits | 3 | 11 | 22 | | | | |
| Vertical - row totals | 40 | 129 | 211 | | | | 380 (GDP) |

*Figures are in billions of dollars.