

Contents

Studies in Literacy, Family, Culture and the State:

an introduction

page vii

Preface

xi

1 The word of God	1
The concept of 'a'/'the' religion	4
Boundaries	4
Change	6
Obsolescence	8
Incorporation or conversion	10
Universalism and particularism	10
Cognitive contradictions in the general and the specific	13
Specialization: priests and intellectuals	16
Endowment and alienation	18
The twin bureaucracies	19
Organizational and structural autonomy	20
The Great and Little Traditions: spirit cults and world religions	22
Writing and religion in Ancient Egypt	26
Writing and religion in other early civilizations	35
Ritual and writing	42
2 The word of mammon	45
The origin of writing and the ancient economy	48
Writing and the temple economy	55
Writing and the palace economy	62
Writing and the mercantile economy	71
Writing and individual transactions	77
Writing and the economy in Africa	82

3	The state, the bureau and the file	87
	Bureaucracies	89
	The administration of early states with writing	92
	Internal administration	93
	External administration	97
	The administration of states without writing	99
	External administration	100
	Internal administration	103
	Writing in the colonial and national administrations	113
	Writing and the political process	119
4	The letter of the law	127
	The definition of law	129
	Courts, constables and codes	132
	Sources of law and changes of rule	135
	Legal reasoning	140
	Court organization	142
	Legal forms	144
	The expansion of writing and law in medieval England	159
	The letter and the spirit of the law	165
5	Ruptures and continuities	171
	<i>Notes</i>	186
	<i>Bibliography</i>	194
	<i>Index</i>	206

Index

- accounts, 45, 50, 54, 58–62, 65, 72, 76, 83, 84, 93, 94, 102, 104, 115, 175, 180, 181
 - balancing of, 67–8, 76, 82, 93
 - bills, 83
 - language employed for, 94
 - as non-syntactical language, 94
 - palace, 67–8, 93
 - see also* book-keeping, records
- administration, 26, 36, 45, 49, 51, 54, 55, 57, 64–7, 70, 93–9, 105, 119, 160, 169
 - of food, in Egypt, 65, 66
 - introduction of, in Ghana, 113–15
 - administrative reforms of Gregorian papacy, 160
 - administrative role of priests in Ancient Near East, 34
 - administrative systems, 89
- Africa, 3, 4, 7, 9, 43, 46, 68, 69, 83, 85, 86, 87, 88, 90, 91, 93, 94, 95, 99, 103, 106, 110, 111, 112, 116, 117, 118, 125, 126, 130, 131, 136, 145, 147, 150, 153, 162
- Alur, 89, 111
- Azande, 111
- communication and government, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 114, 115
- East, 3, 82, 83, 91, 137, 167
- Ethiopia, 100, 146
- literacy, status of, 117–18
- Ngoni, 89, 111
- Nigeria, 20; Nupe of, 118
- North, 99
- Sokoto Caliphate, 112
- Southern, 137; Tonga of, 149, 150
- Tanzania, 167; Nyamwezi of, 111; Kamba chiefdom, 111
- Uganda, 117; judicial system, 167
- Vizier of Sokoto, 112
- West, 22, 29, 53, 56, 65, 68, 95, 99, 100; medicine shrines in, 173
- writing and economy, 82–6
- see also* Ghana, Lozi, LoDagaa, Vai, Tiv, Dahomey, Busoga, Asante, Gonga
- agendas, 122
- agreements, 101, 102, 123; *see also* contracts, transactions
- Akkad, 66, 96
 - Sargon I of, 96
 - Akkadian, 36, 80, 99
- America, 47, 126, 132
 - Central, 94, 95, 156; Indians of, 157
 - New Spain, 22
 - Panama, 155; Kuna Indians of, 123–4
 - Pre-Columbian, 94
 - South, 58, 118; Peru, 69; Brazil, 159, 180; fazienda clergy, 159; Incas, 66; quipu, 66, 94
- Americas, the, 26, 91, 94; Spanish conquest of, 94, 156
- Anatolia, 31, 71, 74
 - Kanish, 74, 76
- Anglo Saxon, 135, 169
 - book-right, 149
 - England, 155, 160
 - 'riht', 154, 155
 - see also* England
- archives, 162, 169
- Aristotle, 88, 119

- Asante, 9, 12, 16, 101, 103, 104, 106, 108, 109, 110, 111, 145, 151
 - Asantehene, 7
 - gold, 104
 - messages, transmission of in, 106–7
 - Odwira festival, 108, 109
 - people, 4, 5, 101, 148
 - religion, 4, 5, 6, 12, 16, 173
 - samansie*, 148
 - writing, adaption of, 100–1
- asceticism, 18, 19, 43, 59, 60
- assemblies, 138
 - debating, 119–22
- Assyria, 51, 58, 74, 75, 76, 127, 147, 177, 179
 - Eshnunna of, 98
 - Shamshi-Adad of, 98
- astrology, 37
- astronomy, 37, 52, 78
- Babylon, 39, 80, 81, 178, 179
 - Babylonia(ns), 49, 57, 63, 67, 73, 79, 80, 98, 127
 - Kassite Kings, 80–1
 - Lagash, 80
 - Sippar, 67
- Bagre, the*, 9
- Bible, 5, 6, 39, 40, 41, 64, 178
 - authorized version, 6
 - Old Testament, 173, 178
 - Ten Commandments, 25, 39, 40
 - see also* Judaism, Christianity
- book-keeping, 46, 49, 50, 53, 55, 60, 61, 67, 70, 76, 77, 78, 83, 177, 183
 - double entry, in Medieval Italy, 181
 - language employed for, 94
- booty, 93–4, 102
- Brahmins, 7, 16, 17
- Buddhism, Buddhists, 11, 23, 24, 25, 43, 59, 60, 61, 173
 - neo-Buddhism, 173
 - in Bali, 7
 - endowments to monasteries, 59, 60
 - Nirvana, 26
 - Sangha, 19, 61, 62
- bureaucracy(ies), 19, 20, 49, 54, 65, 66, 89–92, 93, 99–106, 110, 112, 113, 115, 123, 126, 131, 144, 151, 160, 175
 - bureaucratic states, legal interests in, 131
 - Weber's concept of, 90, 105, 116
- Busoga, 92, 130, 132, 137, 140
 - courts, 140–1
 - law, 140, 141, 142, 155
- calendars, 47
 - calendrical calculations, 94, 95
 - see also* astronomy
- capitalism, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183
- Catholic Church, 6, 10
 - ideological struggles, 103
- census, 63, 65, 93, 115
 - Ethnographic Survey of India, 116
 - of India 1872, 116
- chancery
 - correspondence, 99, 101, 112
- China, 7, 18, 19, 35, 40, 47, 69, 91, 96, 112, 119, 126, 172, 173, 180, 182
 - Chinese characters, 52
 - Chinese (people), 96
 - Hangzhou, 84
 - Taoism, 172
- Christianity, 2, 3, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 21, 23, 25, 32, 61, 103, 173
 - Calvinistic, 6
 - Lutheran, 6
 - Christian Church, 22, 42, 59, 149
 - Christian Ethiopia, 146
 - Christian practices and beliefs, 10, 21
 - Christian teaching, 14, 17
 - Christian tradition, emergence of canonical religion from, 32
 - Christians, 'non-practising', 42
 - Copts, 3
 - Lord's Prayer, 38
 - see also* Catholic Church, protestant(ism)
- classification, botanical, 86
- code(s), 127, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 138, 144, 164, 169, 170, 174
 - of Hammurabi, 70, 76–7, 134, 168
 - of Kiev, 154
 - of Reccessiwinth, 154
- commenda, 72, 179, 180–1

communication, 72, 81, 85, 86, 87, 99,
101, 102, 106–13, 133, 140, 175,
176, 177, 183
changes in, effects of on government,
90, 91, 126
external and internal, 100–5, 110
of legal concepts, 140–1
oral, 91, 95, 99, 132
modes of, 133, 171, 184
writing, as means of, 50, 121
written, 84, 99, 106–13, 117, 121, 122,
184
constables, 132, 135
contracts, 80, 97, 124, 137, 144, 145,
146, 152, 155, 168, 169, 174
contract law, 144–7
formulae for, 80
oral, 145, 146, 152
property, 146
written, 145, 146, 147, 155; in
Medieval Italy, 161
see also agreements, treaties
contradictions, oral, 162–3, 169,
174
conversion to religion, 5, 6, 10, 172
correspondence, 96, 99, 101
chancery, 99, 101, 112
corvée, 63, 65, 178
covenants, 102
credit, 72–7, 81, 83, 104, 175
Crete, 36, 91
cults, 36, 55, 56, 100, 172
cargo, 5, 21
cult of the dead, 26–7
mobility of, 173–4
spirit, 22–6
cuneiform writing, 47, 49, 52, 99
cursive writing, 27, 32
customary law, 128–30, 131, 135, 136,
139, 141, 142, 143, 145, 147, 149,
154, 155, 164, 167, 174–5
Anglo Saxon bookright, 149
common-law unions, 158–9
contradictions in, 162–3
customary tenure, 155–6
flexibility of, 138, 174
oral transmission of, 136, 147, 155
as proto-national law, 131, 164
rules, 133, 134, 135, 138, 141, 142–53,
157

tribal law, 145
see also oral societies

Dahomey (of Africa), 16, 63, 68, 103
deities, male and female, 24
despotism, oriental, 90, 110
disputes, settlement of, 133, 134, 141,
153, 159, 162
divination, 36–7, 40, 53, 172
documents, 104
legal, 80
see also wills, contracts, testimonies,
agreements
Domesday Book, 160, 163
droit écrit, 125, 161
Durkheim, 4, 88, 146, 183
economy, 48–86
effect of writing on, 46
effect of, on state, 48
and the temple, 33, 36, 41, 48, 55–62,
66, 81, 85
development in complexity of,
through writing, 83, 84
expansion of, 46, 57
political, 94
Egypt, Ancient, 3, 13, 26–35, 38, 40, 54,
55, 56, 57, 66, 69, 70, 98, 99, 117,
152, 169
Abusir papyri, 28
administration in, 26, 64, 169
alphabetic literacy in Roman, 121
Amenhotep IV (Akhenaten), 29
Amen-Re, 29, 30
cult of the dead, 26–7
Hieroglyphics, 27
Middle Kingdom, 26, 28
New Kingdom, 28, 29, 64
Old Kingdom, 26, 28, 29, 35, 55, 152
Ostraca, 82
Palermo Stone, 56
priesthood in, 29, 30, 32–5, 38, 85, 95
Pyramid texts, 28
ritual in, 28, 39, 40
scribes, 65
Thebes, 28, 29, 30
White House, 64, 65, 109
wisdom texts, 28
writing in, 22, 26–35, 65
written marriage contracts in, 146

- endowments, 19, 60
 - to monasteries, 59, 60, 172
- England, 132, 146
 - medieval, 78, 84, 127, 159–65, 185
 - Norman, 105, 160
 - Roman, 159
 - see also* Anglo Saxon
- Europe, 26, 43, 61, 72, 94, 116, 118, 121, 127, 132, 135, 137, 140, 158, 168, 177, 180, 182, 183
 - alphabetic literacy in, 121
 - Europeans, 86, 99, 101, 123, 126
 - medieval, 37, 38, 43, 58, 59, 61, 64, 72, 73, 112, 127, 130, 163, 176, 185
 - see also under individual countries*
- evidence, written, 151–3, 154, 175
- exchange, 45, 46, 47, 48, 53, 55–65, 69, 72, 73, 86, 98, 99, 101, 176, 177, 180, 181, 183
 - bills of, 83
 - in Africa, 83, 101
 - marital, 81
- feudalism, 180
 - Western, 90
- filing systems, 91
- France, 132, 146
 - Medieval, 130, 160–1
- Fulani Jihād, 103, 112, 113, 119
- Ghana, 5, 10, 15, 83, 100, 108, 110, 117, 136, 147, 154, 155, 160
 - hearing of disputes in, 102
 - introduction of administration to, 113–15
 - treatment of disputes in, 110
 - see also* LoDagaa, Gonja
- glossa, 162
- Gonja, 89, 101, 103, 108, 109, 111, 114, 131
- graphic representation, 45, 47, 48, 52, 54, 78, 80, 95, 115, 123
 - abstract nature of, 52, 53
 - Chinese characters, 52
 - hallmarks, 48
 - identification marks, 47, 48, 54, 79
 - illustration, diagrammatic, 84
 - maps, 83
 - seals, 47, 51, 66, 161
 - see also* pictorial representation
- Greece, 18, 37, 87, 119, 121, 127, 146, 162
 - alphabetic literacy, level of, in, 121
 - Athens, advocacy in, 143
 - Greeks, 80, 82, 182, 183
 - see also* Crete
- Hausa, the, 112, 113
- Hebrews, 35, 39, 40, 41
 - see also* Judaism
- Hindu, Hinduism, 4, 7, 11, 14, 17, 21, 23, 24, 43, 60, 119, 172, 173
 - Brahmins, 7, 16, 17
 - cultural influences of, 172
 - Dīpāvālī, 61
 - jajmāni system, 61
 - mantras, 7, 172
 - parsallah, 17
 - spread of, 172, 173
- Hittites, 31, 36, 74, 98
- Holy Book, 5, 99, 118; 173
 - see also* Religion, of the Book; Torah; Qur'an; Bible
- Holy Word, 20, 21
- horoscopes, 37
- India, 18, 23, 47, 60, 69, 103, 126, 172, 173, 180, 182
 - Census of 1872, 116
 - Ethnographic survey of, 116
 - Indians, 82
 - Mantras, 2, 7
 - Mihintale tablets, 60
 - Mughal period, 115
 - Sanskrit, 23
 - settlement records, 116
- Indonesia, 7, 43, 172
- Iran, 19, 21, 74
- Islam, 2, 3, 8, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 40, 56, 61, 86, 99, 101, 103, 112, 113, 118, 139, 146
 - calligraphers, 6
 - Caliphate, 19
 - Fulani Jihād, 103, 112, 113, 119
 - fundamentalist sects, 21
 - Hadith, 139
 - Islamic world, 89
 - Madrasa, 17
 - Mahomet, 147
 - Maulud of, 108

Islam (*cont.*)

- Muslim states, 101, 112
- Muslims, 82, 100, 103, 173
- Qadariyya, 6
- Shiites, 19, 103
- sunni Islamic jurisprudence, 139
- the Prophet, 103, 108
- Tijaniyya, 6
- Waqf, 55
- see also Qur'an*
- Italy, 160
 - Bologna, 164
 - Genoa, 72
 - Italians, 161
- itineraries, 83, 100
- Judaism, 2, 3, 17, 23, 25, 32, 146, 173
 - expansion of, 173
 - orthodox, 6
 - reformed, 6
 - Jews, 78
 - Lord's Prayer, 38
 - Moses, 40
 - semitic deities, 31
 - synagogue, 6
 - Ten Commandments, 25, 39, 40
 - Torah, 6, 32, 41
 - see also Bible, Hebrews*
- justice, 127, 133, 149, 154

land

- owning, 60, 118
- rights in, 60, 77, 81, 133, 148–51, 154–8, 169
- tenure, 156–7, 180
- title to, registering, 77, 79, 132, 133, 152, 154–9, 174
- transfer of, 77, 78, 148, 157
- see also property*
- law, 5, 23, 42, 43, 46, 49, 80, 119, 127–70, 174
 - bringing about changes in, 136–9
 - Busoga, 140, 141–2, 155
 - case, 132, 143, 144, 153, 168
 - contract law, 144–7
 - definitions of, 128, 129–58
 - as discourse, 133
 - English, 130, 132, 133, 138, 164; of blasphemy, 136; Common, 130; Medieval, 163

- European, 132, 135, 141, 163
- letter of the, 81, 165–70
- national, and local custom, conflict between, 130
- Roman, 130, 132, 138, 164, 168;
 - Treatises of Theodosius and Justinian, 168
- sources of, 135, 139, 140; Domesday Book as, 160, 163
- specialists in, 143–4, 146, 148, 165, 169; *see also lawyers*
- spirit of the, 165–70
- bureaucratic states, legal interests in, 131
- codification, 130
- courts, 5, 120, 132–5, 137, 139, 142, 143, 159, 165, 175
- judges, 136, 140, 141, 143, 153, 154, 169
- jural and legal, 130
- jurisprudence, 135, 164, 168
- lawyers, 80, 130, 132, 133, 143, 145, 153, 164
- pleadings, 153, 165
- precedent, 132, 137–8, 140, 141, 152, 154, 169
- proceedings, 153; oral, 153
- reasoning, legal, 140–2, 168, 170
- rights – *see* customary law
- status to contract, change from, 144–6
- see also* customary law, codes, constables, contracts, wills, social control, treaties, justice, legal systems
- ledgers, 68
- legal
 - documents, 104
 - matters, training in, 80, 130, 135, 141, 168
 - texts, 162
 - transactions, 104, 145, 147, 161; written, 77, 78, 147
 - words and phrases, 80
- legal systems, 117–24, 132, 134, 136, 137, 139, 141, 144, 146, 152, 153, 164, 168; Anglo-American, 127, 140, 141; English, 153
- lists, 37, 40, 41, 50, 54, 55, 56, 82, 83, 123, 155, 160
- botanical, 85

LoDagaa, 8, 14, 42, 53, 82, 95, 106, 131,
147, 148, 150, 151, 154
and writing, 95
Bagre, the, 9
Birifu, 8, 42, 147
funeral contributions, influence of
writing on, 82
oaths, making of, amongst, 151
transmission of messages in, 106
yilmiong, 8
Lozi, 130, 132, 153
concept of *mulao*, 130

marriage, legitimation of, 158
merchants, 63, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76,
77, 83, 105, 178, 180–1
Buddhist, 182
Statute of Merchants, 161
see also trade
Mesopotamia, 3, 36, 37, 38, 39, 47, 48,
49, 50, 53, 55, 57, 58, 64, 69, 70,
71, 72, 73, 76, 79, 81, 93, 104, 124,
143, 160, 168, 178, 179, 180, 183
assemblies in, 120
astrology in, 37
building works in, 81
cuneiform writing, 47, 49, 52, 99
divination in, 36–7
Hammurabi, 79, 81; Code of, 70,
76–7, 134, 168
horoscopes in, 37
irrigation system in, 81
omens in, 36
priests in, 49, 58, 70
primitive democracy in, 120
Pythagorean theorem in, 80
ritual and myth in, 38, 39
terqa, 68
messages, 122
writing as means of transmitting,
100–1, 106–8
money, 46, 53, 176, 177, 178, 181
system of reckoning, 177
myth(s), 7, 9, 38, 39, 49, 123
of the *Bagre*, 9

newspapers, 117, 121
norms, explicit and implicit, 165–70
numbers, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55

oaths, 143, 151, 152, 154
Ojibwa, the
birchbark scrolls of, 123
omens, 36, 37
oral societies, 16, 37, 42, 53, 78, 81, 83,
99, 104, 105, 121, 123–4, 135, 136,
137, 138, 139, 143, 144, 145, 149,
155, 162, 166, 172, 175
adaptation to religion in, 21
changing of laws in, 136–9
instigation of political change in, 121
jural systems in, 110, 130, 133, 143
oral to written, shift from, 81, 99, 132,
151–2, 154; in Ghana, 113–14;
amongst Kuna Indians, 106, 123
status change within, 42, 112, 173

pantheon, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32
Parsons, Talcott, 11, 47, 88, 177
passports, 83, 100, 101
pictorial representation, 52, 85, 93, 95,
123; *see also* graphic representation
Plato, 119, 129
prayer, 35, 38–9
Lord's, 38
priests, priesthood, 16–18, 24, 29, 30,
34, 38, 40, 41, 45, 49, 51, 58, 59, 65,
70, 117, 161, 169, 172
administrative role of, in Ancient
Near East, 34
in Egypt, 29, 30, 32–5, 55, 56, 57, 64,
65, 89, 95
in Mesopotamia, 49, 58, 70
production, 45, 46, 58, 59, 61, 62, 64,
66, 68, 69, 86, 175, 179, 180
textile, 68–9, 74, 75, 187
productive systems, differences in, 90
promissory notes, 73–5, 168
property
owning, 59, 61, 146, 155–6; by church,
59
rights in, 47, 133, 146, 151, 161
transfer of, 134, 146, 149, 157
transmission of, 150–1, 152, 158–9
protestantism, 11, 103
protestant ethic, 182
protestant reformation, 21

quipu, 66, 94
Qur'ān, 5, 20, 139, 147

rationality, 11, 27, 32, 60, 61, 104, 130, 181, 183

receipts, 104

Recessiwinth, Code of, 154 ('the Law of the Book')

recitation, 39

records, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 59, 60, 61, 72, 75, 79, 83, 91, 102, 104, 106, 112, 113, 115, 123, 124, 143, 144, 158, 160, 161, 162, 163, 166, 169, 170, 174

agricultural, 84, 104

botanical, 85

Kuna Indians', 123

Latin as language of, 160

legal, 140-1, 145, 152, 158, 160-3, 166, 169, 170

marriage, 102, 158, 161

parish, 158

permanency of written, 12, 162-4, 169

settlement, 116

Public Record Office, 100

see also archives

registers, 43, 60, 151, 155, 158, 161, 162

religion

adaptation of, to society, 21

and autonomy, 20-3, 56, 62, 103, 122, 132, 173-4

of the Book, 3, 16-18, 20, 39, 43, 99, 100, 112, 173

boundaries of, 4, 10, 173; maintaining, 5, 7, 103

concept of 'a', 4

concept of 'the', 4

continuity in, 5, 6, 7, 20, 29, 30

conversion to, 5, 6, 10, 172, 173

diffusion of, 2, 3, 5, 21-2, 25, 172, 173

Eastern, 6

Great and Little Traditions of, 22-6, 121

idea of, 4

literate and non-literate, 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 20-2, 24, 25, 26-35, 36, 166, 173

oral, 30

and social structure, 12-16

and the state, 12, 17, 19, 20, 33

in the West, 3

world, 3, 6, 10, 12, 22-6, 102, 103

universalistic and particularistic,

10-13, 15, 23, 139, 172

see also individual religions, cults, priests, ritual

religious

change, 6, 8, 9, 10, 30

dogma, 38

law, 147, 167

obsolescence, 8, 30, 44

prohibition, 25

texts (sacred and ritual), 16, 26, 27-8, 36, 38, 59, 172, 173

see also Holy Book, *Torah*, Bible, *Qur'an*

reports, written, 115-16, 122

rites, 2, 39, 42, 161

ritual(s), 7, 13, 24, 29, 35, 36, 38, 40, 41, 42-4, 98, 119, 123

and writing, 42-4, 49, 119

Rome, 87, 119, 127, 143, 146, 182, 183

sacrifice, 13-16, 36, 38, 44

scribes, 41, 64, 65, 80, 119, 133, 169, 171, 172

as record-keepers, 34

status of, 115

script, alphabetic, 96, 121, 171

logographic, 96, 112, 172-3

syllabic, 96

seals, 47, 51, 66, 161

signatures, 151

slaves, 99, 178

slave labour, 180

social control, 133, 134

acephalous societies, 88, 89, 94, 100, 106, 131, 132, 134

organizational separation within, 92, 172

tribal, 89

with courts, 132

see also oral societies

Sri Lanka, 25, 59, 61, 62, 68, 102, 182

Cola invasion of, 62

Vikramabahn I of, 62

statute(s), 140, 144, 152, 164

Statute of Merchants, 161

summa(e), 162, 163, 174

summa theologiae, 162

Susa, 50, 51

Syria(ns), 3, 66, 96, 98, 179

- Ebla, 66, 69, 70, 78, 90, 97, 162
- tables, 54
- tablets, 51, 66, 67, 68, 74, 79, 80, 98, 101, 159, 169
 - Mihintale, 60
- tax, taxation, 58, 63, 64, 70, 75, 80, 81, 85, 96, 103–5, 112, 113, 151, 162, 169
- Ten Commandments, 25, 39, 40
- testimonies, 152–3
- texts, economic, 90
- Tibet, 7, 19, 64, 182
- Tiv (of West Africa), 121, 132
- tokens, clay, 48, 50–1, 52, 53, 54, 66
 - Torah*, 6, 32, 41
- trade, 70, 85, 96, 147, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180
 - family participation in, 72, 74, 75, 76, 105, 175, 178
- transactions, 77, 78, 175
- treaties, 97, 98, 101, 102
- Ur, 74, 76
 - Ningal goddess, 76
- Ur III, 67, 69, 73, 79
- Vai (of West Africa), 65, 83
- Weber, Max, 11, 18, 60, 88, 90, 106, 130, 180–1, 182, 183
 - concept of bureaucracy, 90, 105, 106
- wills, 147–51, 152, 168, 169
- writing
 - achievement of status through, 117–18, 172
 - and administration, 36, 92–4
 - advent of phonetic system of, 121
 - effect of, on Kuna Indians, 123; on law, 127, 128, 130, 140–1, 151, 154, 176; on religious practice, 21, 22, 23, 36, 38, 40, 50, 94, 172, 176, 183; on social order, 28, 119; on systems of reciprocity, 82
 - effect of materials on, 27, 28
 - and ancient economy, 48–55
 - codification of ideals through, 119, 122
 - cuneiform, 47, 49, 52, 99
 - curse, 27, 32
 - development of complexity of commerce through, 53
 - and development of the state, 91
 - diffusion of information through, 85
 - and distribution of power, 122
 - effort required in, 172
 - embodiment of ideals through, 21, 22, 113
 - influence on political systems through, 119
 - influence of, on polity, 87–9, 106, 124
 - legal interests in, in bureaucratic states, 131
 - materials in Ancient Egypt, 27–8
 - as means of communication, 50, 121
 - as means of transmitting messages, 100–1, 106–8
 - non-syntactical, 54
 - and the palace economy, 62–71
 - as political organ, 121–2
 - and power, 17, 23, 117, 121
 - as record of thought, 83
 - as reflection of social structure, 131
 - reorganization of information through, 83
 - ritual and, 42–4
 - separation of public and private in states without, 105–6
 - social mobility through, 116–18
 - specialists in, 97, 116, 135, 148, 165; *see also* scribes
 - teaching of, through codes, 135
 - and the temple, 49, 50–1, 55
 - see also* graphic representation, script