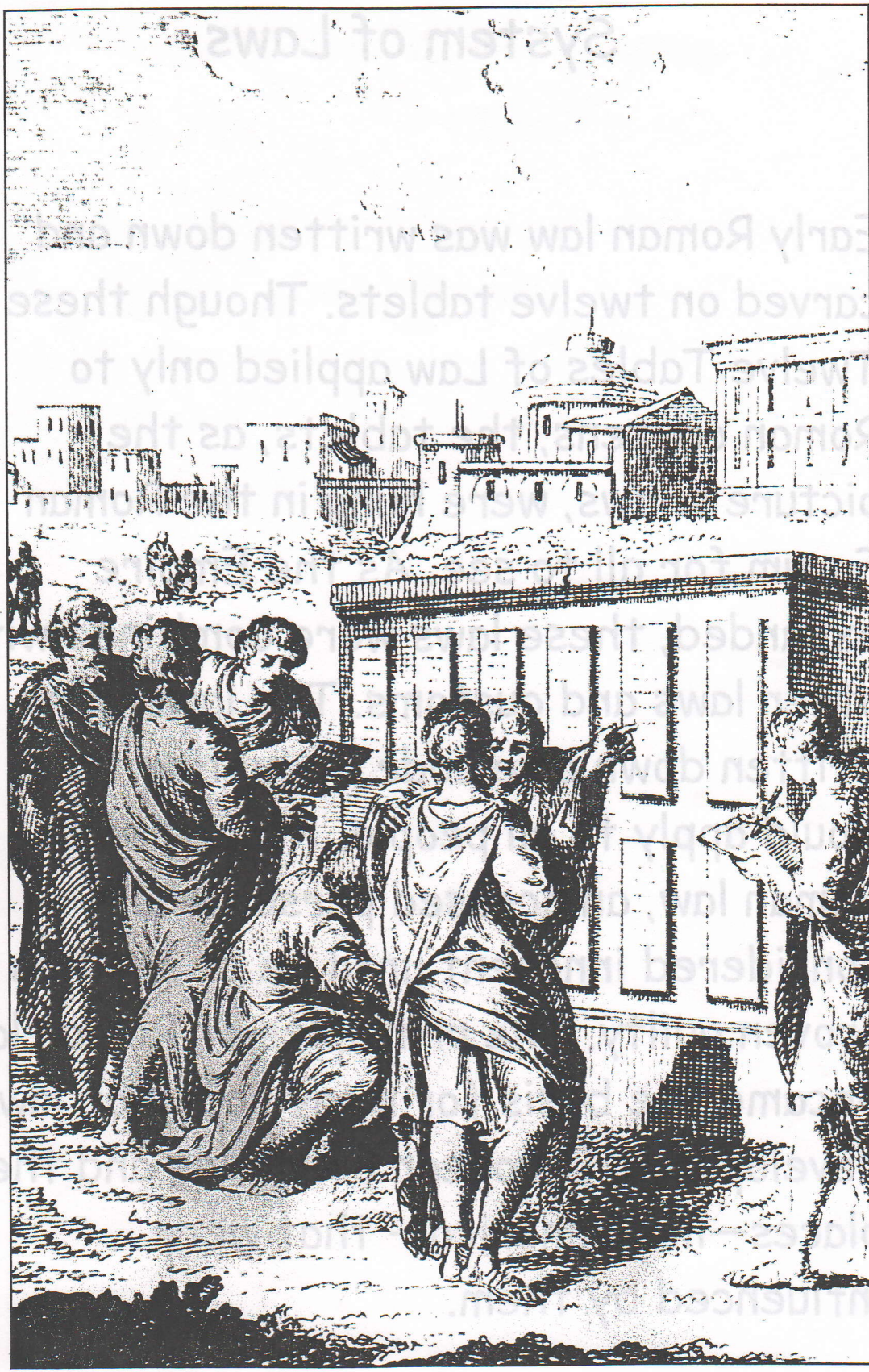


Systems of Laws



System of Laws

Early Roman law was written down and carved on twelve tablets. Though these Twelve Tables of Law applied only to Roman citizens, the tablets, as the picture shows, were hung in the Roman Forum for all to see. As the Empire expanded, these laws were combined with other laws and customs. The laws were written down as a code of justice that would apply to all people. According to Roman law, an accused person was considered innocent until he or she was proven guilty. The principles of Roman law became the basis for many codes of law developed in European countries and the places—like America—that were influenced by them.