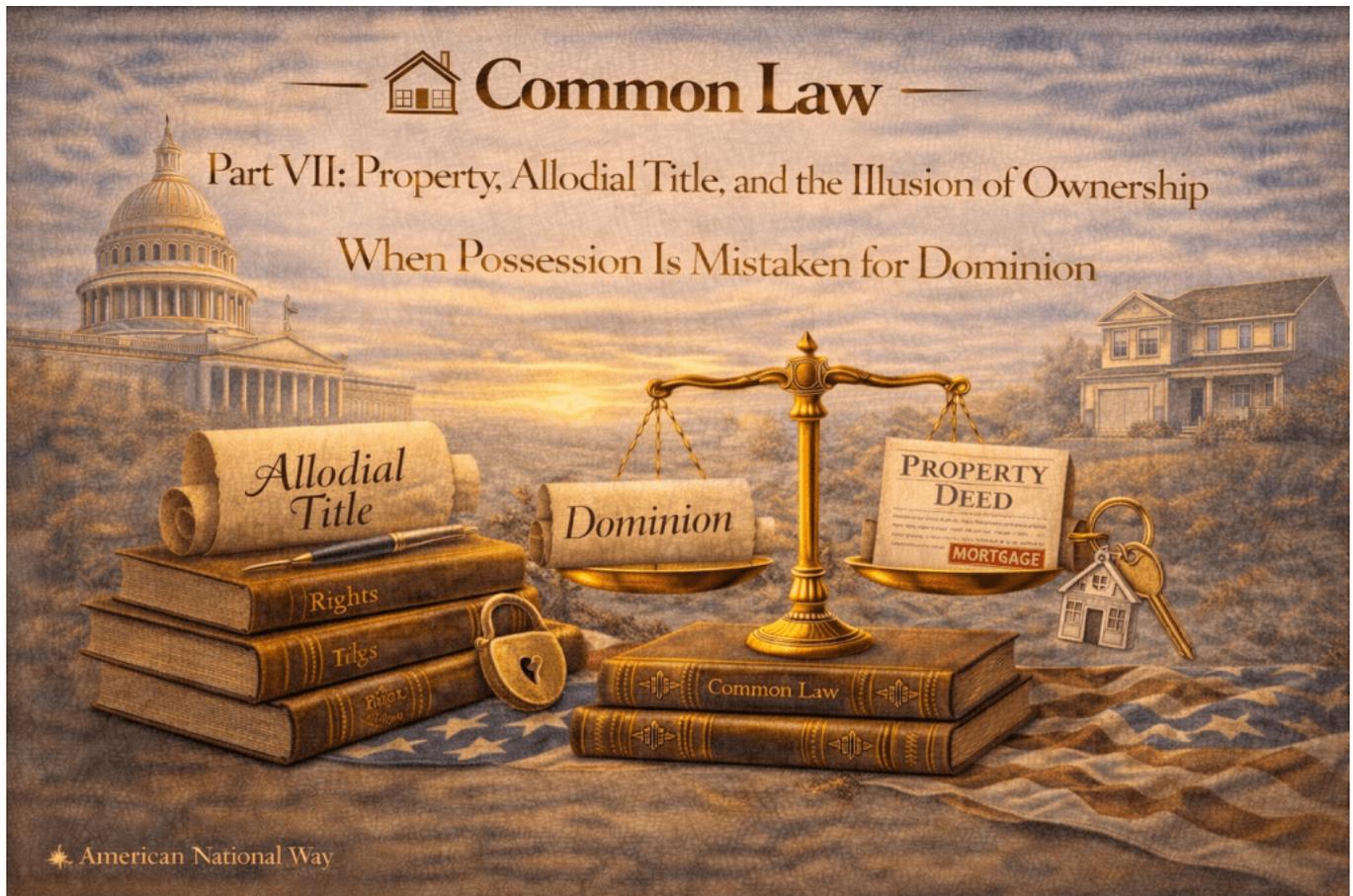


# □ Common Law – Part VII: Property, Allodial Title, and the Illusion of Ownership

January 29, 2026



*This article is part of a structured series based on the work of John Quade. Each installment builds on the previous one. If you're new here, I strongly recommend starting with the [Series Introduction](#), which explains the purpose, scope, and proper way to read this work.*

## □ The Question Everyone Assumes Is

# Settled

Most people believe they understand property.

They paid for it.

They maintain it.

They insure it.

They defend it.

So the question seems absurd:

*Do you actually own what you call “your property”?*

John Quade insists this question is not philosophical – it is legal.

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## □ Ownership vs. Tenure

Historically, ownership implied **dominion**:

- Control without superior
- Possession without condition
- Use without permission

This form of ownership was known as **allodial title**.

Allodial title meant property was held **absolutely**, owing no duty, fee, or service to any higher authority.

By contrast, **tenure** means property is held:

- Conditionally

- Subject to obligations
- At the pleasure of a superior

Quade argues that most modern “ownership” resembles tenure – not allodial dominion.

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## □ What Is Allodial Title?

Black’s Law Dictionary defines *allodial*.

In plain terms, it means:

*Property held in one’s own absolute right, without obligation to any lord or superior.*

In early America, this concept mattered deeply.

It is why:

- A man’s home was his castle
  - Property could not be arbitrarily seized
  - Government power stopped at the threshold
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## □□ How America Changed the Old World Model

In Europe:

- Only kings held allodial title
- Everyone else paid feudal duties

After independence, Congress passed multiple acts guaranteeing **allodial title** to ordinary men and women.

This was revolutionary.

It placed citizens on equal legal footing with monarchs.

Quade argues this was not symbolic – it was structural.

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## □ The Taxation Test

Quade offers a blunt diagnostic:

*If you pay recurring taxes on property, you do not hold it allodially.*

Why?

Because taxation implies:

- Ongoing obligation
- Superior authority
- Conditional possession

True ownership cannot be revoked for non-payment of rent.

Yet modern property can be seized for unpaid taxes – even if fully “paid off.”

This reveals the underlying relationship.

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## □□ Title vs. Certificate of Title

Here, Quade exposes a subtle but powerful distinction.

A **title** is ownership.

A **certificate of title** is evidence issued by an authority acknowledging registration.

They are not the same.

When property is registered:

- Ownership is converted into record
- Record is held by the state
- Compliance becomes the condition

The certificate looks like ownership – but functions as **surety**.

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## □ Why This Feels Normal

Most people never question property status because:

- The system is inherited
- Alternatives are not discussed
- Complexity discourages inquiry

Quade notes that normalization is the most effective form of control.

*What is never questioned never has to justify itself.*

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## ⚠️ When Ownership Is Tested

The illusion only breaks when:

- Taxes go unpaid
- Codes are violated
- Permits are denied
- Liens are imposed

At that moment, “ownership” reveals its conditions.

Quade’s argument is not sentimental:

*Property that can be seized without crime is not truly owned.*

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## □ Property as Leverage

Under administrative systems, property serves another function:

It becomes **leverage**.

Taxes, fees, and compliance obligations ensure behavior – not justice.

Property, once a shield, becomes a handle.

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## □ Why This Matters

Property is the material foundation of liberty.

Without secure ownership:

- Independence erodes
- Families destabilize
- Communities weaken

Quade warns that a people who do not control their property cannot meaningfully govern themselves.

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## □ What Comes Next

If property once stood protected by higher authority, then the next question follows:

**What role did the church once play in shielding people from state power – and what happened to that protection?**

*– Next: Part VIII – The Church, Jurisdiction, and the Price of Tax Exemption*