This unique collection of largely unpublished papers brings together the founding fathers of law and economics to provide their own views on the origins and intellectual history of the field. Law and economics emerged as a separate field of scholarship during the early 1960s, fueled by two seminal papers, one by Ronald Coase and one by Guido Calabresi. The ideas generated by scholars researching in the field have deeply influenced the major disciplines of economics and the law.

‘This volume is very worthwhile to read for getting a much better understanding of the US origins of law and economics.’
– Wolfgang Kerber, Jahrbücher für Nationalökonomie und Statistik

‘I recommend this book in the strongest terms to all scholars interested in the history of law and economics. . . for bringing together these essays and for attempting to place the field in historical perspective, the editors deserve our thanks. . . For insider perspectives on the evolution of the field, to get a sense for the different conceptions of what it means to do economics, to do law, and to do law and economics, the book makes for a most interesting read.’
– Steven G. Medema, Review of Austrian Economics

‘Scholars at all stages of their careers will be interested in seeing how the field of law and economics has developed over almost a half century – the topics that were of interest, the methodology used, the ways in which problems were defined, tackled, solved. This is a major contribution to the intellectual history of economics and of law and economics.’
– Donald N. Dewees, History of Political Economy

‘This book of specially commissioned, original papers, by two major scholars, Francesco Parisi and Charles Rowley, is essentially an intellectual history of the L&E school. . . This book is one of the many valuable collections Edward Elgar has offered in many fields of economics, most of them being very handy, especially when they gather important contributions otherwise scattered across various reviews and journals, sometimes in obscure volumes. . . On the whole, this book is a valuable contribution to the intellectual history and the methodology of L&E. It gathers some of the most important essays on these questions, and it is a must-read for L&E scholars, legal theorists and economists with broader interests.’
– Aristides N. Hatzis, The Law and Politics Book Review