

# Impeachment

The adjective is the key. A “crime” occurred when one citizen or subject harmed another. “High crimes” were conversely those committed against the crown in a monarchy, or the people in a democracy.

The term says nothing about the severity of the crime, or its consequent penalty, merely its type as one that surpassed mere criminal law, being a more fundamental assault against the body politic. “Such public wrongs,” William Blackstone ... argued in 1792, “are a breach and violation of the public rights and duties, due to the whole community.”

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