

Anna Katharina Suzuki-Klasen

A Comparative Study of the Formation of Contracts in Japanese, English, and German Law

[Ostasien]



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The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>

a.t.: Hamburg, Univ., Diss., 2020

ISBN 978-3-8487-7128-8 (Print)

978-3-7489-1177-7 (ePDF)

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-3-8487-7128-8 (Print)

978-3-7489-1177-7 (ePDF)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Suzuki-Klasen, Anna Katharina

A Comparative Study of the Formation of Contracts in Japanese, English, and German Law

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632 pp.

Includes bibliographic references and index.

ISBN 978-3-8487-7128-8 (Print)

978-3-7489-1177-7 (ePDF)

1st Edition 2022

© Anna Katharina Suzuki-Klasen

Published by

Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG

Waldseestraße 3–5 | 76530 Baden-Baden

www.nomos.de

Production of the printed version:

Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG

Waldseestraße 3–5 | 76530 Baden-Baden

ISBN 978-3-8487-7128-8 (Print)

ISBN 978-3-7489-1177-7 (ePDF)

DOI <https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748911777>



Onlineversion
Nomos eLibrary



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Foreword

This book was submitted as a PhD dissertation to the University of Hamburg in December 2019. It was defended by me in the Summer of the following year. The manuscript takes account of the law as of December 2019, so that the discussion is based on the law previous to the coming into force of the reform of the Japanese civil code (*Minpō*) on 1 April 2020. Nevertheless, the new Japanese rules pertinent to the formation of contracts are included in the analysis.

This comparative study was elaborated during my time as a Research Associate in the Japan Unit of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, Germany. I am deeply grateful to Professor Dr Harald Baum, who supervised my PhD dissertation patiently and offered his kind guidance and numerous helpful suggestions during this time. I also thank my former colleagues for their support and constructive criticism and the whole staff of the Max Planck Institute for their support in a multitude of matters. Furthermore, I am obliged to Professor Dr Peter Mankowski, who acted as second examiner of my PhD dissertation.

The pertinent part of my research on Japanese law was conducted in 2015/2016 during my one-year research stay at the University of Kyōto in Japan. This would not have been possible without the generous funding of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science through the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship (short term) for North American and European Researchers (FY 2015, PE 15768). In a similar manner, the publication of my PhD dissertation could not have been realised without the kind support of the Studienstiftung ius vivum. The author is immensely grateful for this funding.

My search for answers was greatly enriched through many discussions. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to my host, Professor Dr Keizō Yamamoto, for his kind support, as well as for allowing me to participate in his classes and to contribute to his project to translate the modified provisions of the *Minpō* into German (see Keizō Yamamoto, Hiroyuki Kansaku, Gabriele Koziol et al, *Übersetzung des novellierten Zivilgesetzes 2020* [Translation of the Reformed Civil Code 2020] 45 (2018) *Zeitschrift für Japanisches Recht / Journal of Japanese Law* 183–305; Keizo Yamamoto and Gabriele Koziol (eds), *Das Reformierte japanische Schuldrecht* [The

Reformed Japanese Law of Obligations] (Mohr Siebeck 2021) 177–363). These and other group discussions were simply enlightening.

All the individual interviews that I have conducted were similarly stimulating. I am indebted to all the people who kindly gave me some of their time, in particular: Professor Yamamoto; Professor Kunihiro Nakata (Ryūkoku University); Professor emeritus Dr Shōji Kawakami (University of Tōkyō); Professor Mika Yokoyama (University of Kyōto); and Mr Ryōsuke Naka (Attorney at law, Kitahama Hōritsu Jimu-sho). It is through these exchanges, in which much light was shed on the workings of Japanese law, that my dissertation has been greatly enriched. My gratitude goes to all the other people who cannot be named here but whose invaluable help is not forgotten.

My special thanks also go to my dear friends, who greatly encouraged me along the way. Last — but not least — I am deeply grateful to my husband and my parents for the vital support they have provided during this process. I dedicate this work to you.

Bielefeld, January 2022

Dr. Anna Katharina Suzuki-Klasen

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	21
A Note on Style, Transcriptions, and Translations	29
A. Introduction	32
I. Motivation, Subject, and Objectives of the Analysis	34
II. Defining and Delimiting the Topic	37
III. A Note on the Method	39
B. Comparative Background	42
I. Classification of the Legal Traditions of English and German Law and the Sources of their Contract Laws	42
1. Classification of the Legal Traditions of English and German Law	42
2. Sources of English and German (Contract) Law	43
a. Sources of English (Contract) Law	45
i. The Inter-relationship of the Sources in English (Contract) Law	45
ii. English Legislation: Statutes and Statutory Instruments	48
iii. English Case Law	50
iv. EU Law: Legislation and Cases	51
v. International Law	54
b. Sources of German (Contract) Law	55
i. The Inter-relationship of the Sources in German (Contract) Law	56
ii. German Legislation: <i>Gesetze</i> and <i>Verordnungen</i> , German Statutes and Regulations	58
iii. German Case Law: <i>Rechtsprechung</i> , German Court Decisions	60
iv. EU Law: Legislation and Cases	63
v. International Law: The CISG	64

II. Contracts in English Law	65
1. 'Contract' Defined	66
2. The Historical Development of the English Law of Contract	69
a. Contracts in the Kingdom of England in Tudor and Stuart Times: The Transition from Medieval to Modern Law Through the Action of Assumpsit and the Emergence of the Doctrine of Consideration (16 th ~17 th Century)	71
i. Political and Social Background	71
ii. The General Structure of Law	73
iii. The Law of Contracts	75
aa) Definition and Types of Contract	75
bb) The Law of Contracts: Forms of Actions for Contractual Claims	78
cc) The Formation of Contract and the Further Requirement of Giving Consideration	82
dd) Contract Forms	86
b. Contracts in the Kingdom of Great Britain and the United Kingdom in Hanoverian and Georgian Times: The Requirement of the Intention to Create Legal Relations and the Doctrine of Offer and Acceptance (18 th ~19 th Century)	87
i. Political and Social Background	88
ii. The General Structure of Law	90
iii. The Law of Contracts	91
aa) Definition of Contract	92
bb) The Conclusion of Contracts: Emergence of the Doctrine of Offer and Acceptance and the Postal Rule	94
cc) The Further Requirement of an Intention to Create Legal Relations	97
c. The Subsequent Development of English Contract Law in Windsor Times (20 th Century-)	98
i. Overview of Political and Social Developments	98
ii. Overview of (Contractual) Legal Developments	100
3. Contracts in Current English Law and Legal Practice	101
a. The Current Legal Background	103
i. Basic Principles: Agreement Through Offer and Acceptance	103

ii. Offer	107
aa) 'Offer' Defined	107
bb) Offers and Invitations to Treat	108
cc) Certainty of Offer, Terms	115
dd) Communication of Offers	118
ee) Coming into Effect of Offers: The Mailbox Rule	118
ff) Loss of Effect of Offers	121
iii. Acceptance	124
aa) 'Acceptance' Defined	124
bb) Communication and Method of Acceptance	126
cc) Coming into Effect of Acceptance: The Mailbox and Postal Rules	128
dd) Loss of Effect of Acceptance	134
iv. The Further Requirement of an Intention to Create a Binding Legal Relationship	135
v. The Requirement of Consideration	139
aa) 'Consideration' Defined	142
bb) Rule 1: Sufficient Consideration, not Adequate	145
cc) Nominal Consideration	148
dd) Insufficient Consideration	150
ee) Rule 2: No Past Consideration	151
ff) Rule 3: Consideration of the Promisee	153
b. Form Requirements in English Law	153
i. Excursus: The Classification of Things in English Law	157
ii. Written Forms: Standard Written Form and Evidence in Writing	161
aa) The Requirements of Writing and of Evidence in Writing	161
bb) Instances of the Written and the Written Evidence Forms	163
iii. Special Instrument: Deed	164
aa) Requirements of Deeds	164
bb) Instances of Deeds	166
iv. Signing and Sealing	167
aa) 'Signing' and 'Sealing' Defined	168
bb) Instances of Signing and Sealing	170
v. Electronic Communication: Writing and Signatures	172
aa) Electronic Documents: Writing	173
bb) Electronic Signatures: English and EU Law	173

Table of Contents

c.	Other Requirements under English Law	176
i.	Registration of Title to Land	177
ii.	Stamp Tax on Land Transactions	178
d.	Current Legal Practice in England	180
4.	Summary of Results	181
III.	Contracts in German Law	182
1.	‘ <i>Vertrag</i> ’(Contract) Defined	182
2.	The Historical Development of the German Law of Contract	188
a.	Contracts in the <i>Alte Reich</i> (16 th ~ 19 th Century): Emergence of the First Great Private Law Codifications	188
i.	Political and Social Background	189
ii.	The General Structure of Law	191
iii.	The Law of Contracts: <i>Gemeines Recht</i> (Common Law) and the <i>Allgemeines Landrecht für die Preussischen Staaten</i> (General State Laws of the Prussian States)	194
aa)	Definition and Types of Contract	195
bb)	Contract Conclusion: Offer and Acceptance	196
cc)	The Coming into Effect of Declarations of Intentions	198
dd)	Contract Forms	200
ee)	The Further Requirement of Giving Arrha or Draufgabe (Earnest)	202
b.	Contracts in the Time from the <i>Deutsche Bund</i> to the <i>Deutsche Reich</i> : The Drafting of the BGB and of the HGB (19 th Century)	206
i.	Political and Social Background	206
ii.	Structural Changes in the Law: Creation of an Imperial Supreme Court and the Codification of the BGB and the HGB	207
iii.	Contract Law in the Draft Legislation	208
c.	The Subsequent Development of German (Contract) Law (20 th Century~)	211
i.	Overview of Political Developments	212
ii.	Overview of (Contractual) Legal Developments	212

3.	Contracts in Current German Law and Legal Practice	214
a.	The Current Legal Background	216
i.	Basic Principles: Contracts as <i>Rechtsgeschäfte</i> (Legal Transactions) and <i>Willenserklärungen</i> (Declarations of Intention)	220
aa)	' <i>Willenserklärungen</i> ' Defined	221
bb)	Types of <i>Willenserklärungen</i> and Methods of Declaration	223
cc)	Interpretation of <i>Willenserklärungen</i>	225
dd)	<i>Rechtsgeschäfte</i> (Legal Transactions)	227
ii.	<i>Antrag</i> or <i>Angebot</i> (Offer)	228
aa)	' <i>Antrag</i> ' or ' <i>Angebot</i> ' Defined	228
bb)	<i>Angebot</i> and <i>Invitatio ad Offerendum</i> (Invitation to Make an Offer)	230
cc)	Certainty of <i>Angebote</i>	233
dd)	Coming into Effect of <i>Angebote: Empfangstheorie</i> (Receipt Theory)	235
ee)	Bindingness and Loss of Effect of <i>Angebote</i>	241
iii.	<i>Annahme</i> (Acceptance)	245
aa)	' <i>Annahme</i> ' Defined	246
bb)	Method of <i>Annahme</i>	247
cc)	Certainty of <i>Annahme</i>	251
dd)	Coming Into Effect and Loss of Effect of <i>Annahme</i>	251
iv.	The Further Requirement of a <i>Rechtsbindungswille</i> (Intention of Legal Commitment)	253
b.	Form Requirements in German Law	257
i.	Excursus: The Classification of Things in German Law	261
ii.	Written Forms: <i>Schriftform</i> and <i>Textform</i>	265
aa)	The Requirements of the <i>Urkunde</i>	268
bb)	The Requirement of the <i>lesbare Erklärung auf einem dauerhaften Datenträger</i>	272
cc)	Instances of Written or Text Form	275
iii.	Special Forms Involving Public Authorities: <i>Öffentliche Beglaubigung</i> (Official Certification) and <i>Notarielle Beurkundung</i> (Notarial Authentication)	277
aa)	Excursus: Seals of Public Authorities	277
bb)	<i>Unterschriften- und Handzeichensbeglaubigung</i> (Certification of Signatures and Marks)	278

cc)	<i>Notarielle</i> and <i>Öffentliche Beurkundung</i> (Notarial and Official Authentication)	279
dd)	Instances of <i>Beglaubigungen</i> and of <i>Beurkundungen</i>	281
iv.	<i>Unterschreiben</i> (Signing) and <i>Siegeln</i> (Sealing)	282
aa)	' <i>Unterschrift</i> ' Defined	282
bb)	Characteristics of an <i>Unterschrift</i>	283
cc)	The Method of <i>Unterschreiben</i>	286
v.	Electronic Communication: Data, Documents and Signatures	288
aa)	'Electronic Contract' and 'Electronic Declarations of Intention' Defined	289
bb)	Electronic Form and Electronic Signatures	291
vi.	Legal Consequences of Non-Fulfilment and Healing Methods	295
aa)	General Consequence of Non-Fulfilment: Voidness	295
bb)	Exceptional Instances of Other Consequences	297
cc)	Extent of Operation of Form Requirements and their Consequences	297
dd)	Healing and Other Ways of Avoiding the Consequences of Non-fulfilment	301
c.	Other Requirements under German Law	303
i.	Delivery and Registration of Property	303
ii.	<i>Draufgabe</i> (Earnest)	304
d.	Current Legal Practice in Germany	306
4.	Summary of Results	308
C.	Contracts in Japanese Law	310
I.	Classification of the Legal Tradition of Japanese Law and the Sources of its Contract Law	310
1.	Classification of the Legal Tradition of Japanese Law	311
2.	Sources of Japanese (Contract) Law	313
a.	The Inter-relationship of the Sources of Japanese (Contract) Law	315
b.	Japanese Legislation: <i>Hōrei</i> (法令), Japanese Laws and Regulations	316
c.	Japanese Case Law: <i>Hanrei</i> (判例), Japanese Court Decisions	320
d.	International Law: The CISG	321

II. ‘ <i>Keiyaku</i> ’(契約, Contract) Defined	322
III. The Historical Development of the Japanese Law of Contract	324
1. Contracts in Japan’s Early Modern Period, the Tokugawa Era (17 th ~ 19 th Century): Legal Fragmentation in Peaceful Times of Growing Commerce, the Sowing Ground for Contract Law	324
a. Political and Social Background	324
b. The General Structure of Law	327
c. The Law of Contracts	328
i. Definition and Types of Contracts	328
ii. Contract Law	329
iii. Contract Forms	330
iv. The Further Requirement of Giving <i>Tetsuke</i> (Earnest)	333
2. Political and Legal Change during the Meiji Era: The Creation of the First Great Japanese Private Law Codifications (Turn of the 19 th Century)	334
a. Political and Social Background	335
b. Initial Reform Projects in Japanese Private and Commercial Law	338
c. First Codification Attempts and the Codification Dispute	340
i. First Codification Attempt of a Civil Code	340
ii. First Codification Attempt of a Commercial Code	341
iii. The Codification Dispute	342
d. The Creation of the <i>Minpō</i> (Civil Code) and of the <i>Shōhō</i> (Commercial Code)	344
3. The Subsequent Development of Japanese Contract Law during the Taishō, Shōwa, and Heisei Eras (20 th Century~)	345
a. Overview of Political and Social Developments	346
b. Overview of (Contractual) Legal Developments	347
IV. Contracts in Current Japanese Law and Legal Practice	348
1. The Current Legal Background	348
a. Basic Principles: Contracts as Matching <i>Ishi Hyōji</i> (意思表示, Declarations of Intention)	349
i. Contracts as <i>Ishi Hyōji</i>	350
ii. <i>Mōshikomi</i> (申込み, Offer)	354
aa) ‘ <i>Mōshikomi</i> ’ Defined	354

bb)	<i>Mōshikomi and Mōshikomi no Yūin</i> (申込みの誘引, Invitation to Make an Offer)	355
cc)	Coming into Effect of <i>Mōshikomi: Tōtatsu Shugi</i> (到達主義, Arrival Rule)	357
dd)	Loss of Effect of <i>Mōshikomi</i> : The Distinction Between <i>Taiwa-sha-kan</i> (対話者間, Between Present Persons) and <i>Kakuchi-sha-kan</i> (隔地者間, Between Persons at Distance)	360
iii.	<i>Shōdaku</i> (承諾, Acceptance)	364
aa)	' <i>Shōdaku</i> ' Defined	365
bb)	Method of <i>Shōdaku</i>	366
cc)	Coming into Effect of <i>Shōdaku: Hasshin Shugi</i> (発信主義, Dispatch Rule) and <i>Tōtatsu Shugi</i> (到達主義, Arrival Rule)	367
dd)	Loss of Effect of <i>Shōdaku</i>	373
b.	Form Requirements in Japanese Law	373
i.	Excursus: The Classification of <i>Mono</i> (物, Things) in Japanese Law	377
ii.	Written Form: Writing and <i>Shomen</i> (書面, Document)	379
aa)	'Writing' and 'Document' Defined	380
bb)	Instances of the Written Form	383
iii.	<i>Shomei suru</i> (署名する, Signing) and <i>Ō'in suru</i> (押印する, Sealing)	386
aa)	'Signing' and 'Sealing' Defined	388
bb)	Instances of a Requirement to Sign and Seal	389
cc)	Excursus: The Different Types of Seals in Japan for Individuals	390
iv.	Contracts and <i>Kōshō-nin</i> (公証人, Japanese Notaries)	394
aa)	Drafting of Contract Documents by Japanese Notaries (Notarial Authentication)	394
bb)	Notarial Certification of Private Documents	397
c.	Other Requirements under Japanese law	398
i.	Registration of Property	398
ii.	<i>Inshī-zei</i> (印紙税, Stamp Tax)	399
iii.	<i>Tetsuke</i> (手付, Earnest Money)	402
aa)	' <i>Tetsuke</i> ' Defined	405
bb)	Method of Effecting <i>Tetsuke</i>	406
cc)	Types and Functions of <i>Tetsuke</i>	408

2.	Legal Thinking and Current Legal Practice in Japan	410
a.	Japanese Legal Thinking Generally	410
b.	Contracts in Japanese Legal Thinking	412
c.	Contractual Formality in Japanese Legal Thinking	414
d.	Current Legal Practice in Japan	415
V.	The Modernisation of the Saiken-hō (債權法, Japanese Law of Obligations)	416
1.	Reasons Underlying the Reform Project of the Law of Obligations	417
2.	The Reform Process: Initiation, Intermediate Results, Coming into Effect of the Amendments	418
3.	Content of the Reform Project	420
a.	Concerning the Coming into Effect of Declarations of Intention	422
i.	Article 97 <i>Minpō</i>	422
ii.	Article 526 <i>Minpō</i> ; Article 508 <i>Shōhō</i>	426
iii.	Article 4 <i>Denshi keiyaku-hō</i>	427
b.	Concerning the Time of the Formation of a Contract	427
c.	Concerning the Effectiveness of Declarations of Intention: Validity and Revocability	429
i.	Former Article 521, new Article 523 <i>Minpō</i>	429
ii.	Former Articles 522–523, new Article 524 <i>Minpō</i> ; Article 508 <i>Shōhō</i>	430
iii.	Former Article 524, new Article 525 <i>Minpō</i> ; Article 507 <i>Shōhō</i>	430
d.	Concerning Formalities of Contracts	431
i.	New Article 522 <i>Minpō</i>	432
ii.	New Article 587-2 <i>Minpō</i>	432
iii.	Article 557 <i>Minpō</i> ; Article 39 Paragraph 2 <i>Takuchi-gyō-hō</i>	434
VI.	Summary of Results	435
D.	Comparative Analysis of the Rules on the Formation of Contracts in Japanese, English, and German Law	436
I.	The Concept and Types of Contract	436

II. The Three Pillars of the Formation of Contracts and Indicia of Seriousness	439
1. Offer	440
a. Differentiation Between Offers and other Statements or Acts	441
i. Statements and Acts Deemed as Offers	441
ii. Statements and Acts Deemed as Invitations to Make an Offer	443
b. Requirements for Offers: Certainty and Communication	444
c. The Effectiveness of Offers	445
2. Acceptance	447
a. Acceptance and other Acts or Statements; Method of Acceptance	447
b. Requirements for Acceptance: Unconditionality, Congruence, and Communication	448
c. The Effectiveness of Acceptance	449
i. Coming into Effect of Acceptance	449
ii. Loss of Effect of Acceptance	451
3. Intention to be Legally Bound	454
4. <i>Indicia</i> of Seriousness	455
III. The Form Requirements	459
1. Written Forms and (Notarial) Deeds	460
a. Simple Written Forms: Evidence in Writing and the <i>Textform</i>	461
b. The Standard Written Form	462
c. Special Instruments: (Notarial) Deeds	464
i. Requirements of (Notarial) Deeds	465
ii. Instances of (Notarial) Deeds	467
2. Seals, Signatures, and Other Forms of Signing	468
a. Signatures	469
b. Seals	471
i. The Use of Seals in England, Germany, and Japan until Modern Times (19 th Century)	472
aa) Types and Functions of Seals	474
bb) Sealing in Contracting	476
cc) The Accessibility of Seals	478
dd) The Development of the Sealing Practice	480

ii. Today's Use of Seals in England, Germany, and Japan	481
aa) Seals in England and Germany	482
bb) Seals in Japan	484
c. Excursus: Other Forms of Authenticating Documents	486
IV. Contracts in the Digital Economy: Online Transactions and Beyond	487
1. Declarations of Intention and Formation of Contracts in Online Transactions	489
a. The Classification of Statements made Electronically as Legally (Ir)relevant	489
b. Coming into Effect of Electronic Declarations of Intention	491
2. Contractual Form and Methods of Authentication in Online Transactions	493
a. Electronic Contract Forms	494
b. Electronic Forms of Authentication: Electronic Signatures and Seals	497
3. Excursus: The Future of Contracting in Online Transactions through Legal Tech and Smart Contracts	499
V. The Formation of a Sales Contract Concerning Real Estate	503
1. The Classification of Real Estate in Terms of Property	503
2. The Course of a Real Estate Transaction in Practice	505
3. The Legal Requirements for a Contract Concerning Real Estate	509
4. The Professional Parties Involved in a Real Estate Transaction	510
a. The Role of Solicitors, <i>Rechtsanwälte</i> , and <i>Bengo-shi</i> (弁護士)	511
b. The Role of Notaries Public, <i>Notare</i> , and <i>Kōshō-nin</i> (公証人)	511
c. The Role of Real Estate Agents, <i>Immobilienmakler</i> , and <i>Fudō-san-ya</i> (不動産屋)	513
d. The Role of <i>Shihō shoshi</i> (司法書士, Judicial Scriveners)	514

Table of Contents

E. Results of the Comparative Analysis Contrasted and Final Conclusions	517
I. Results of the Comparative Analysis Juxtaposed with the International Perspective: The CISG	517
1. The Sphere of Application of the CISG: International Sale of Goods	518
2. The Formation of Contract under the CISG: Offer and Acceptance, no Form	522
a. Offers	523
i. 'Offer' Defined and Distinction from Invitations to Make an Offer	524
ii. Requirements of Offers: Certainty of Terms and Intention	525
b. Acceptance	527
i. 'Acceptance' Defined; Distinction from Other Acts and Statements	527
ii. Method of Acceptance	528
iii. Congruence Between Offer and Acceptance	529
c. The Effectiveness of Declarations of Intention	531
i. Coming into Effect of Declarations of Intention	532
aa) Coming into Effect of Offers to the Public	533
bb) Coming into Effect of Acceptance: Must be Made Within a Set or Reasonable Period; Late Acceptance	534
cc) 'Reaching' Defined	537
ii. Loss of Effect of Declarations of Intention	539
d. No Form Requirements	543
3. Summary of Results	544
II. Results of the Comparative Analysis Juxtaposed with the European Legal-political Perspective: The DCFR, the CESL, and the PECL	545
1. The Sphere of Application of the CESL, the DCFR, and the PECL	546
2. The Formation of Contracts under the CESL, the DCFR, and the PECL	549
a. 'Contract' Defined	550
b. Offers	551
c. Acceptance	553

d. Effectiveness of Declarations of Intention	554
i. Coming into Effect of Declarations of Intention	555
ii. Loss of Effect of Declarations of Intention	558
e. The Sufficiency of the Agreement: Certainty or Determinability	559
f. The Requirement of an Intention to be Legally Bound	560
g. Form Requirements	561
i. The Standard Written Form and the Textual Form	562
ii. Instances of Form Requirements	565
3. Summary of Results	566
III. Synthesis of the Comparative Analysis and Final Conclusions	568
Bibliography	575
Literature in Print	575
Online Resources: Blog Entries and Websites	602
Personal Interviews, Lectures, and Seminars	610
Table of Legislation	612
International Conventions	612
European Union	612
England	613
Germany	614
Japan	616
Table of Cases	619
European Union (Court of Justice of the European Union; in chronological order)	619
England (alphabetical order)	619
Germany (by court in chronological order)	622
Federal Constitutional Court (<i>Bundesverfassungsgericht</i> , 1951–)	622
Federal Court of Justice (<i>Bundesgerichtshof</i> , 1950–)	622
Federal Labour Court (<i>Bundesarbeitsgericht</i> , 1954–)	624
Higher Regional Courts (<i>Oberlandesgerichte</i>)	624
Regional Courts (<i>Landgerichte</i>)	624
Local Courts (<i>Amtsgerichte</i>)	624
Imperial Court (<i>Reichsgericht</i> , 1879–1945)	624

Table of Contents

Other German Courts	625
Japan (by court in chronological order)	625
Great Court of Judicature (<i>Dai-shin'i</i> , 大審院, 1875–1947)	625
Japanese Supreme Court (<i>Saikō Saiban-sho</i> , 最高裁判所, 1947–)	625
Japanese District Court (<i>Chihō Saiban-sho</i> , 地方裁判所)	625
Other Courts	626
Index	627

Abbreviations

AC	Appeal Cases
AcP	<i>Archiv für die civilistische Praxis</i> [Archive of Civilian Practice]
ADHGB	<i>Allgemeines Deutsches Handelsgesetzbuch</i> [Common German Commercial Code]
AG	<i>Amtsgericht</i> [local court]
AGB	<i>Allgemeine Geschäftsbedingungen</i> [standard terms]
ALR	<i>Allgemeines Landrecht für die Preußischen Staaten</i> [General State Laws of the Prussian States] (1794)
art(s)	article(s)
B2B contracts	business to business contracts
B2C contracts	business to consumer contracts
BAG	<i>Bundesarbeitsgericht</i> [Federal Labour Court]
BAGE	<i>Entscheidungen des Bundesarbeitsgerichts</i> [Decisions of the <i>Bundesarbeitsgericht</i>]
BauVertrRefG	<i>Gesetz zur Reform des Bauvertragsrechts</i> [...], [Law to Reform the Law on Construction Contracts [...]] (2017)
BEA 1882	Bills of Exchange Act 1882
BeurkG	<i>Beurkundungsgesetz</i> [Notarial Authentication Law] (1969)
BGB	<i>Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch</i> [German Civil Code] (1896; 2002)
BGBI	<i>Bundesgesetzblatt</i> [German Federal Law Gazette]
BGH	<i>Bundesgerichtshof</i> [Federal Court of Justice]
BMJV	<i>Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz</i> [German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection]
BNotO	<i>Bundesnotarordnung</i> [Federal Ordinance on Notaries] (1937)

Abbreviations

BVerfG	<i>Bundesverfassungsgericht</i> [Federal Constitutional Court]
BVerfGE	<i>Entscheidungen des Bundesverfassungsgerichts</i> [Decisions of the Federal Constitutional Court]
BVerfGG	<i>Gesetz über das Bundesverfassungsgericht</i> [Act on the Federal Constitutional Court] (1993)
C2C contracts	consumer to consumer contracts
CA	Court of Appeal
cf	confer (compare)
CESL	Common European Sales Law
Ch	Chancery
Chūkan shi'an	<i>Minpō (saiken kankei) no kaisei ni kansuru chūkan shi'an</i> [Interim Tentative Plan for the Reform of the Civil Code (Law of Obligations)] (2013)
CISG	United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (1980)
CJ	Chief Justice
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union (previously: ECJ)
CLC	Commercial Law Cases
CLJ	Cambridge Law Journal
CoA 2006	Companies Act 2006
Consumer Distance Selling Regulation 2000	Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000
CPR 1998	Civil Procedure Rules 1998
CRA 2015	Consumer Rights Act 2015
CUP	Cambridge University Press
DCFR	Draft Common Frame of Reference for European Contract Law
Denshi keiyaku-hō	<i>Denshi shōhi-sha keiyaku oyobi denshi shōdaku tsūchi ni kansuru minpō no tokurei ni kansuru hōritsu</i> [Act on Special Provisions to the Civil Code Concerning Electronic Consumer Contracts and Electronic Acceptance Notice] (2001)

Denshi shomei-hō	<i>Denshi shomei oyobi ninshō gyōmu ni kansuru hōritsu</i> [Act on Electronic Signatures and Certification Business] (2000)
DNotZ	<i>Deutsche Notar-Zeitschrift</i> [German Notary Journal]
Draft Proposal Outline	<i>Minpō (saiken kankei) no kaisei ni kansuru yōkō-an no tatakidai</i> [Draft Proposal for the Motion Outline in Relation to the Reform of the Civil Code (Law of Obligations)]
EC Act 1972	European Communities Act 1972
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights (1953)
ECJ	European Court of Justice (now: CJEU)
E-Commerce Regulations 2002	Electronic Commerce (EC Directive) Regulations 2002
ECR	European Court Reports
ed(s)	editor(s)
EDI	electronic data interchange
edn	edition
EGBGB	<i>Einführungsgesetz zum Bürgerlichen Gesetzbuche</i> [Introductory Act to the Civil Code] (1994; 1997)
eIDAS Regulation 2014	Regulation (EU) 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC
ER	English Reports
EU	European Union
EU Distance Selling Directive 1997	Council Directive 97/7/EC on the protection of consumers in respect of distance contracts
EU Withdrawal Act 2018	European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018
ex p	ex parte (on behalf of)
FA 2003	Finance Act 2003
fn(s)	footnote(s)

Abbreviations

FormAnpG	<i>Gesetz zur Anpassung der Formvorschriften des Privatrechts und anderer Vorschriften an den modernen Rechtsgeschäftsverkehr</i> [Act on the Amendment of Provisions of Form in Private Law and Other Provisions in Accordance with Modern Legal Transaction Methods] (2001)
FormAnpG Draft Law	<i>Gesetzentwurf der Bundesregierung: Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Anpassung der Formvorschriften des Privatrechts und anderer Vorschriften an den modernen Rechtsgeschäftsverkehr</i> [Draft Law of the Government: Draft of a Law to Adapt the Form Requirements in Private Law and other Provisions to Modern Legal Transactions] (2000)
GBO	<i>Grundbuchordnung</i> [Land Registration Law] (1994)
GbR	<i>Gesellschaft bürgerlichen Rechts</i> [civil law partnership]
GG	<i>Grundgesetz</i> [Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany] (1949)
GVG	<i>Gerichtsverfassungsgesetz</i> [Court Constitution Act] (1975)
HC	High Court
HGB	<i>Handelsgesetzbuch</i> [German Commercial Code] (1897)
HoL	House of Lords
ibid	ibidem
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICJ Statute	Statute of the International Court of Justice
J	Judge
JuS	<i>Juristische Schulung</i> [Legal Education]
JZ	<i>Juristenzeitschrift</i> [Legal Journal]
KB	King's Bench
Kaisei-kai	<i>Hōsei Shingi-kai Minpō (Saiken Kankei) Bukai</i> [Japanese Civil Code (Law of Obligations) Reform Commission]
Kaisei kankei-hō	<i>Minpō ichibu wo kaisei suru hōritsu no shikō ni tomonau kankei hōritsu no seibi-tō ni kansuru hōritsu</i> [Law to Maintain Laws Affected by the Enforcement of the Law to Amend one Part of the Civil Code] (2015)

Kaisei hō'an	<i>Minpō ichibu wo kaisei suru hōritsu</i> [Law to Amend one Part of the Civil Code] (2017)
Kenpō	<i>Nihon-koku Kenpō</i> [Japanese Constitution] (1946)
Kyū-shōhō	[Former Japanese Commercial Code] (1890)
LG	<i>Landgericht</i> [Regional Court]
LJ(SC)	Lord Justice (Supreme Court)
(L)MR	(Lord) Master of the Rolls
LOI	Letter(s) of Intent
LPA 1925	Law of Property Act 1925
LPMPA 1989	Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989
LQR	Law Quarterly Review
LR	Law Reports
LRA 2002	Land Registration Act 2002
METI	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, <i>Keizai Sangyō-shō</i>
Minpō	<i>Minpō</i> [Japanese Civil Code] (1896)
Minso	<i>Minji soshō-hō</i> [Japanese Code of Civil Procedures] (1996)
MMR	<i>MultiMedia und Recht</i> [Multi-media and Law]
NJW	<i>Neue juristische Wochenschrift</i> [New Legal Weekly Journal]
no(s)	number(s)
OJ	Official Journal of the European Communities
OJLS	Oxford Journal of Legal Studies
OLG	<i>Oberlandesgericht</i> [Higher Regional Court]
OLGR	OLG-Report
OUP	Oxford University Press
P&CR	Property(, Planning) & Compensation Reports
para(s)	paragraph(s)
PC	Privy Council
PECL	Principles of European Contract Law
PICC	UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts

Abbreviations

pt(s)	part(s)
QB	Queen's Bench
QC	Queen's Counsel
r(s)	rule(s)
RabelsZ	<i>Rabels Zeitschrift für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht</i> / The Rabel Journal of Comparative and International Private Law
Reg	(EC/EU) Regulation
reg(s)	regulation(s)
Repeal Bill White Paper	Legislating for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (White Paper)
repr	reprint
RG	<i>Reichsgericht</i> [Imperial Court]
RGZ	<i>Entscheidungen des Reichsgerichts in Zivilsachen</i> [Decisions of the Imperial Court in Civil Matters]
s(s)	section(s)
SA 1891	Stamp Act 1891
sch(s)	schedule(s)
SGA 1979	Sale of Goods Act 1979
SGSA 1982	Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982
Shita'uke-hō	<i>Shita'uke daikin shibarai chi'en tō bōshi-hō</i> [Act against Delay in Payment of Subcontract Proceeds, etc to Subcontractors] (1956)
Shōhō	<i>Shōhō</i> [Japanese Commercial Code] (1899)
SI	Statutory Instrument
SOF 1677	Statute of Frauds 1677
subs(s)	subsection(s)
subpara(s)	subparagraph(s)
Takuchi-gyō-hō	<i>Takuchi tatemono torihiki-gyō-hō</i> [Building Lots and Buildings Transaction Business Act] (1952)
TFEU 2012	Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
TMG	<i>Telemediengesetz</i> [Tele-media Law] (2007)

Tokutei shō-torihiki-hō	<i>Tokutei shō-torihiki ni kansuru hōritsu</i> [Act on Specified Commercial Transactions] (1976)
tr(s)	translator(s)
UK	United Kingdom
UKSC	United Kingdom Supreme Court
ULFC	UNIDROIT Convention relating to a Uniform Law on the Formation of Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (1964)
UN	United Nations
UNTS	United Nations Treaty Series
UTP	(The) University of Tōkyō Press
vol(s)	volume(s)
WLR	Weekly Law Report
WM	<i>Wertpapier-Mitteilungen</i> [Investment News]
ZEuP	<i>Zeitschrift für europäisches Privatrecht</i> [Journal of European Private Law]
ZJapanR / JJapanL	<i>Zeitschrift für Japanisches Recht</i> / Journal of Japanese Law
ZPO	<i>Zivilprozessordnung</i> [German Code of Civil Procedure] (2005; 2006)

