

# Reconsideration of the Function of Bill of Lading as Document of Title

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This paper lists the major theories in this subject now prevailing in China with comments on each of them at a later stage, expounds the meaning of the right of goods and the document thereof on the basis of the civil law, explores the real meaning of the term of "document of title" under common law with the conclusion that it corresponds to the document of ownership of goods under Chinese civil law. It then concludes that a negotiable bill of lading is a conditional document of ownership of the goods mentioned therein with detailed analysis of the reasons of this function. The paper also illustrates the aspects that this function affects mainly in the matters of international trade law and recognizes that this function of bill of lading is no more important than it was.



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