

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79370-4 - Constitutional Culture and Democratic Rule

Edited by John Ferejohn, Jack N. Rakove and Jonathan Riley

Frontmatter

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Constitutional Culture and Democratic Rule

This volume investigates the nature of constitutional democratic government in the United States and elsewhere. The editors introduce a basic conceptual framework, which the contributors clarify and develop in eleven essays organized into three separate sections. The first section deals with constitutional founding and the founders' use of cultural symbols and traditions to facilitate acceptance of a new regime. The second discusses alternative constitutional structures and their effects on political outcomes. The third focuses on processes of constitutional change and why founders might choose to make formal amendments relatively difficult or easy to achieve. The book is distinctive because it provides comprehensive tools for analyzing and comparing different forms of constitutional democracy. These tools are discussed in ways that will be of interest to students and readers in political science, law, history, and political philosophy.

John Ferejohn is Carolyn S. G. Munro Professor of Political Science at Stanford University and serves as a Visiting Professor of Law at New York University. He is the author, coauthor, or coeditor of five books, including *The New Federalism: Can the States Be Trusted?* (1997, with Barry Weingast), *Information and Democratic Processes* (1990, with James Kuklinski), and *The Personal Vote: Constituency Service and Electoral Independence* (1987, with Bruce Cain and Morris Fiorina), and author or coauthor of 100 articles in leading academic journals.

Jack N. Rakove is William Robertson Coe Professor of History and American Studies and Professor of Political Science at Stanford University. He received the Pulitzer Prize in History in 1997 for *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution* and has written or edited five other books, including most recently *James Madison: Writings* (1999) and *Declaring Rights: A Brief History with Documents* (1997). Professor Rakove is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Antiquarian Society, and he is currently preparing a new edition of the major essays of *The Federalist* and a brief history of the origins of judicial review.

Jonathan Riley is Professor in the Department of Political Science and the Murphy Institute of Political Economy at Tulane University and holds the Laurance S. Rockefeller Fellowship in the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University for 2000–1. He is the author or coeditor of six books, including *Mill's Radical Liberalism: An Essay in Retrieval* (2001), *J. S. Mill: Principles of Political Economy and Chapters on Socialism* (1994), and *Liberal Utilitarianism: Social Choice Theory and J. S. Mill's Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press, 1988), and author of more than thirty articles in academic journals and collections. Professor Riley is currently completing a study of pluralistic liberalism, with a focus on the theories of Isaiah Berlin, John Rawls, and Mill.

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Praise for *Constitutional Culture and Democratic Rule*

“This excellent set of essays will be of great value to all of those who are interested in the origins of constitutions and their role in the democratic process. It has something for every student of constitutions from analytic discussions of the origins and workings of actual constitutions to game-theoretic analyses of the properties of abstract constitutional forms and processes. A must read for all scholars interested in ‘constitutionalism’ broadly defined.”

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– Peter Ordeshook, *California Institute of Technology*

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To Sam Beer
a constitutionalist for the ages

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>page xi</i>
Editors' Introduction	1
PART ONE. CONSTITUTIONAL BEGINNINGS AND TRANSITIONS	
1 Constitutional Problematics, circa 1787	41
<i>Jack N. Rakove</i>	
2 Inventing Constitutional Traditions: The Poverty of Fatalism	71
<i>James Johnson</i>	
3 The Birth Logic of a Democratic Constitution	110
<i>Lawrence G. Sager</i>	
PART TWO. CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND DESIGN	
4 Constitutional Democracy as a Two-Stage Game	147
<i>Jonathan Riley</i>	
5 Imagining Another Madisonian Republic	170
<i>Jonathan Riley</i>	
6 One and Three: Separation of Powers and the Independence of the Judiciary in the Italian Constitution	205
<i>Pasquale Pasquino</i>	
7 A Political Theory of Federalism	223
<i>Jenna Bednar, William N. Eskridge Jr., and John Ferejohn</i>	
PART THREE. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AND STABILITY	
8 Designing an Amendment Process	271
<i>Sanford Levinson</i>	
9 Constitutional Theory Transformed	288
<i>Stephen M. Griffin</i>	

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

Contents

10 Constitutional Economic Transition	328
<i>Russell Hardin</i>	
11 Institutionalizing Constitutional Interpretation	361
<i>Jack Knight</i>	
<i>Name Index</i>	393
<i>Subject Index</i>	399

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