

## CONSTITUENT POWER

From the French Revolution onward, constituent power has been a key concept for thinking about the principle of popular power and how it should be realised through the state and its institutions. Tracing the history of constituent power across five key moments – the French Revolution, nineteenth-century French politics, the Weimar Republic, post-World War II constitutionalism and political philosophy in the 1960s – Lucia Rubinelli reconstructs and examines the history of the idea. She argues that, at any given time, constituent power offered an alternative understanding of the power of the people to those offered by ideas of sovereignty. *Constituent Power: A History* also examines how these competing understandings of popular power resulted in different institutional structures and reflects on why contemporary political thought is prone to conflating constituent power with sovereignty.

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# CONSTITUENT POWER

*A History*

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## *Contents*

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i>
Introduction	I
Constituent Power	3
History	16
Political Projects	28
<b>1</b> Sieyès and the French Revolution	<b>33</b>
Languages of the Revolution	34
Emmanuel Sieyès	44
Constitution-Making	49
Diverging Institutional Projects	61
Conclusion	73
<b>2</b> Constitutional Politics in Nineteenth-Century France	<b>75</b>
Abuses of Sovereignty	76
Regime Changes	84
The Success of Constituent Power	95
Conclusion	100
<b>3</b> The Weimar Republic	<b>103</b>
France in Germany	104
Carl Schmitt	109
Popular and Parliamentary Sovereignty	118
Dictatorship	129
Conclusion	135
<b>4</b> Constitutional Politics in Post–World War II Europe	<b>141</b>
Sovereignty and Positivism	142
Political Goals	151
Social Forces	157
Institutions	162
Conclusion	174

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
5	Arendt and the French Revolution	176
	Solipsism, Sovereignty and the Nation	177
	France in America	185
	The Practice of Constituent Power	192
	Institutions of Popular Participation	196
	Conclusion	203
	Conclusion	206
	New Questions, Old Answers	208
	History	222
	Constituent Power as Institutional Politics	226
	<i>Bibliography</i>	230
	<i>Index</i>	246



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