FROM PARCHMENT TO PRACTICE

From Parchment to Practice explores the problems that arise when a new constitution has been adopted. All new constitutions must manage tension between two forces: aspirations for social and political transformation on the one hand and demands for preservation of old interests and institutions on the other. The period following the initial adoption of a new constitution is the conceptual, temporal, and institutional bridge between the past and future. It is the moment when the transformative and the preservative forces in constitutional design can come into the sharpest conflict. Through a series of case studies, this volume analyses the variable nature of these type of conflicts – and the diverse means through which they are mediated, whether successfully or not.

Tom Ginsburg is Leo Spitz Professor of International Law at the University of Chicago and a Research Professor at the American Bar Foundation. He also co-directs the Comparative Constitutions Project, an NSF-funded dataset cataloging the world’s constitutions since 1789. He is the author of several books, including How to Save a Constitutional Democracy (with Aziz Huq, 2018), Comparative Constitutional Law (with Rosalind Dixon, 2011), and The Endurance of National Constitutions (with Zachary Elkins and James Melton, 2009).

Aziz Z. Huq is Frank and Bernice Greenberg Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, where he teaches and researches in constitutional law. He is the author of How to Save a Constitutional Democracy (with Tom Ginsburg, 2018). His scholarship has won awards from the Association of American Law Schools, and has been published in leading legal and peer-reviewed journals. Previously, Huq was Director of the Liberty and National Security Project of the Brennan Center for Justice, and a Senior Consultant Analyst for the International Crisis Group.
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IMPLEMENTING NEW CONSTITUTIONS

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University of Chicago

AZIZ Z. HUQ
University of Chicago
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Contributors

Daniel Abebe is Vice Provost and the Harold J. and Marion F. Green Professor of Law at the University of Chicago.

Eric Alston is Scholar in Residence, Finance Division, Faculty Director, Hernando de Soto Capital Markets Program, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder.

Melissa Crouch is an Associate Professor in law at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

Rosalind Dixon is Professor of Law at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, and President of the International Society of Constitutional Law.

Claudia Flores is Clinical Professor and Director of the Human Rights Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School.

James Thuo Gathii is the Wing-Tat Lee Chair in International Law and Professor at Loyola University, Chicago.

Tom Ginsburg is the Leo Spitz Professor of International Law at the University of Chicago, and a Research Professor at the American Bar Foundation.

Diego González is Assistant Professor of Constitutional Law at University of Colombia in Bogota, Colombia, and a Deputy Justice at the Constitutional Court of Colombia.

Aziz Z. Huq is Frank and Bernice Greenberg Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, where he teaches and researches in constitutional law.

Madhav Khosla is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Ashoka University, the Ambedkar Visiting Associate Professor of Law at Columbia University, and a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows.
List of Contributors

Sanford Levinson is the W. St. John Garwood and W. St. John Garwood, Jr. Centennial Chair of Law at the University of Texas Law School.

Theunis Roux is Professor of Law at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. He is a former Secretary-General of the International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL).

Susan H. Williams is Walter W. Foskett Professor of Law and the Co-Director of the Center for Constitutional Democracy at Indiana University, Bloomington.