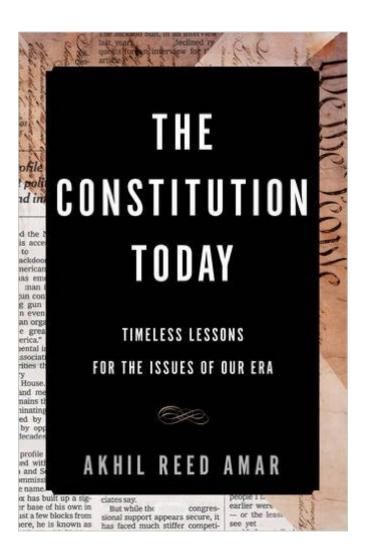
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The Constitution Today: Timeless Lessons For The Issues Of Our Era





Synopsis

A leading legal scholar addresses the most important constitutional controversies of the past two decades and illuminates the Constitutionâ ™s spirit and ongoing relevanceAmericaâ ™s Constitution, Chief Justice John Marshall famously observed in McCulloch v. Maryland, aspires "to endure for ages to come.â • The daily news has a shorter shelf life, and when the issues of the day involve momentous constitutional questions, present-minded journalists and busy citizens cannot always see the stakes clearly. In The Constitution Today, Akhil Reed Amar, Americaâ ™s preeminent constitutional scholar, considers the biggest and most bitterly contested debates of the last two decades and provides a passionate handbook for thinking constitutionally about todayâ ™s headlines. Amar shows how the Constitutionâ ™s text, history, and structure are a crucial repository of collective wisdom, providing specific rules and grand themes relevant to every organ of the American body politic. Prioritizing sound constitutional reasoning over partisan preferences, he makes the case for diversity-based affirmative action and a right to have a gun in oneâ ™s home for self-protection, and against spending caps on independent political advertising and bans on same-sex marriage. He explains whatâ ™s wrong with presidential dynasties, advocates a "nuclear optionâ • to restore majority rule in the Senate, and suggests ways to reform the Supreme Court. And he revisits three dramatic constitutional conflicts—the impeachment of Bill Clinton, the contested election of George W. Bush, and the fight over Barack Obamaâ ™s Affordable Care Act—to show what politicians, judges, and journalists got right as events unfolded and what they missed. Leading readers through the particular constitutional questions at stake in each episode while outlining his abiding views regarding the Constitutionâ ™s letter, its spirit, and the direction constitutional law must go, Amar offers an essential guide for anyone seeking to understand Americaâ ™s Constitution and its relevance today.

Book Information

Hardcover: 464 pages

Publisher: Basic Books (September 13, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0465096336

ISBN-13: 978-0465096336

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,194 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Law > Constitutional Law > General #17 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Political Science #19 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States

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