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Framed: America s 51 Constitutions and the Crisis of Governance

By St John Garwood Chair in Law Sanford Levinson

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 234 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In his widely acclaimed volume Our Undemocratic Constitution, Sanford Levinson boldly argued that our Constitution should not be treated with sanctimonious reverence, but as a badly flawed document deserving revision. Now Levinson takes us deeper, asking what were the original assumptions underlying our institutions, and whether we accept those assumptions 225 years later. In Framed, Levinson challenges our belief that the most important features of our constitutions concern what rights they protect. Instead, he focuses on the fundamental procedures of governance such as congressional bicameralism; the selection of the President by the electoral college, or the dimensions of the President s veto power-not to mention the near impossibility of amending the United States Constitution. These seemingly settled and hardwired structures contribute to the now almost universally recognized dysfunctionality of American politics. Levinson argues that we should stop treating the United States Constitution as uniquely exemplifying the American constitutional tradition. We should be aware of the 50 state constitutions, often interestingly different-and perhaps better-than the national model. Many states have updated their constitutions by frequent amendment or by complete...



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