

Entendre les constitucions dels estats dels Estats Units d'Amèrica

This volume examines how American state constitutions were formed and how they have influenced politics in the states. The American experience, in which state constitutions play a crucial role in structuring state governments and offering opportunities for political experimentation, raises several questions for citizens of other federal or quasi-federal countries: How do the distinct political traditions of constituent units in their countries find expression in their sub-national constitutions? What are the advantages and disadvantages of granting constituent units of the federal country broad constitutional space to develop their own institutions and policies? How does the national constitution influence the contents of sub-national constitutions, and how do the sub-national constitutions affect the national constitution?

For many Americans, the word "constitution" means just one thing: the national Constitution. According to a recent survey, almost half do not know that individual states also have constitutions. Scholars have also paid little attention to state constitutions, favoring the apparently more dynamic and significant federal scene. This essay seeks to change that perception, combining history, law, and political science to present a thorough and long-needed account of the distinct and important role of state constitutions in American life.

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