Focusing on the study of historic and current constitutions of governments, World Constitutions Illustrated enables scholars to research constitutional and political developments of the nations of our world. Historical and current constitutions are available for every country in the world. This database provides access to all types of documents about constitutions and allows libraries to contribute!
World Constitutions Illustrated contains thousands of contemporary and historical documents, as well as many features to enable browsing and searching across constitutional law of more than 190 countries. This is a picture of what is included:

- Current constitution of every country.
- Constitutional histories of all countries.
- Thousands of books on constitutional law, with specific titles and chapters tied to specific countries.
- Thousands of articles about constitutional development.
- Links to online resources related to political development.
- Bibliographies of constitutional monographs.

The database is updated monthly with new constitutions and amendments and new constitutional documents.

World Constitutions

World Constitutions Illustrated contains the current constitution of every country in the world in its original language. Where multiple original-language versions exist, we provide them. Most countries also include at least one English translation. Since translations depend on and reveal the preferences of makers and time, we provide multiple versions when available.

We have source documents for every historical constitution of the world. These documents are listed in chronological order. For every constitutional document, researchers can find the original text, amending laws, consolidated text, and important related texts. Links to scholarly articles and commentary are also provided.

Classic Constitutional Books

Included are thousands of classic books on constitutions, constitutional history and jurisprudence, and political and economic history. This collection includes works by some of the greatest legal minds in history, including:

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- William Stubbs
- Hannis Taylor
- Francis Newton Thorpe
- Daniel Webster
- Woodrow Wilson
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Constitutional Periodicals

This library includes more than a dozen legal periodicals focusing on constitutional law. Using Hein's ScholarCheck, you can see which other law review articles from the Law Journal Library cite the articles from these publications and quickly link to those articles!* The following periodicals are included:

- Bill of Rights Review
- Chinese Social and Political Science Review
- Constitutional Commentary
- Constitutional Forum
- Constitutional Review
- Duke Journal of Constitutional Law & Public Policy
- East European Constitutional Review
- First Amendment Law Review
- Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly

Other Works

Annual Human Rights Reports Submitted to Congress by the U.S. Department of State (1976-current)
(Human Rights and the Helsinki Accords and the United States – Series 1)

The Annual Human Rights Reports Submitted to Congress by the U.S. Department of State are submitted in compliance with Sections 116(d) and 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), as amended, and section 504 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. The law provides that the Secretary of State shall transmit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, "a full and complete report regarding the status of internationally recognized human rights ... (A) in countries that receive assistance under this part, and (B) in all other foreign countries which are members of the United Nations and which are not otherwise the subject of a human rights report under this Act." Reports are also included on several countries that are not covered by the congressional requirement. The reports cover internationally recognized individual, civil, political, and worker rights as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

* You must be subscribed to the Law Journal Library to link to the articles.
Country Studies

The Country Studies are a series of books published by the Federal Research Division of the United States Library of Congress. Each book pertains to a specific country and contains a description and an analysis of the historical setting and the social, economic, political, and national security systems and institutions, and examines the interrelationships of those systems and the ways they are shaped by both historical and cultural factors. Each study was written by a multidisciplinary team of social scientists and thus represents the analysis of those authors and should not be construed as an expression of an official United States Government position, policy or decision.

Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia

The Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia comprises introductions to the major legal systems in the world, with coverage ranging from legal education and the way of professional practice, to the form of government and substantive law. This compilation is a result of the efforts of Kenneth Robert Redden, who was a Professor of Law at the University of Virginia for four decades. Professor Redden, later assisted by Linda L. Schleuter, gathered information from hundreds of distinguished contributors from all over the globe in order to present this multi-volume encyclopedia. This work serves as a standard reference work for members of the legal profession in every country, and is also used as a reference work in law schools and other university disciplines.

World Factbook (1981-current)

The World Factbook is prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency for the use of U.S. Government officials. Presented in almanac form, it includes information about the history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for 266 independent states, dependencies, areas of special sovereignty, and governments from around the world. HeinOnline's coverage begins in 1981 and continues through the most recently published edition.
Every country is linked directly to its primary and secondary resources!

Current & Historical Constitutions

- Original text and original language
- English translation
- Amending Laws
- Consolidated Texts
- List of all related documents identified
- Indication of the most current documents

Links to Secondary Resources

- World Factbook
- Country Studies
- Modern Legal Systems Cyclopedia
- Annual Human Rights Reports Submitted to Congress by the U.S. Department of State
- Links to chapters and sections from within the classic books that specifically discuss the country

Links to Scholarly Articles*

- Thousands of links to articles carefully reviewed and chosen by our editors
- Links to more articles* discussing the political and constitutional development of a country’s constitution

Bibliography of Select Constitutional Books

Our editors created a bibliography of select books related to the study of constitutional development of each country

Links to Other Online Sources

- Portals of the World
- World Factbook (for the most recent information)
- GlobaLex
- Wikipedia
- Government web site of each country
- And more!

* You must be subscribed to the Law Journal Library to link to the articles.
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- Document Source
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Flexible Search Options

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Use facets to refine search results by country, document type, date, title, and section type. For example, search across the entire database for "constitutional law" and refine results to include only periodicals. With faceted searching, refine results accurately and easily.
Additional Sources of Constitutional Law

Law Review Articles*:
In addition to scholarly articles related to each country, our editors have hand-selected key scholarly articles from HeinOnline’s Law Journal Library that relate to constitutional law. Using Hein’s ScholarCheck, link to other scholarly articles that cite the editors’ picks.

External Web Sites:
Our editors have also identified and provided links to a number of external web sites relevant to the study of Constitutional Law. These include the Comparative Constitutions Project at www.comparativeconstitutionsproject.org, Constitutionmaking.org, Guide to Law Online: Nations of the World from the Library of Congress, Government Gazettes Online, and many more!

Bibliography of Select Constitutional Books:
We identify even more resources that are available elsewhere with a bibliography covering specific countries and regions as well as general and global constitutional topics.

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About the Editor

Jefri Jay Ruchti was born in Montreal, Canada (1949), named for John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He attended the University of Wisconsin (as had his grandfather, father and brother) and the University of Chicago. He began actively collecting the texts of historical and current Constitutions in 1984, mentored through the following years as an editor and translator by Gisbert H. Flanz (1916-2015). He has pursued an independent career as an artist, working primarily in dry media on Japanese paper, exhibiting widely in the United States. He lives with his wife of 39 years, Leigh Whiteman, in Guilford, Connecticut.

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