More than a decade ago, with the input of multiple libraries, we developed the world's largest online collection of law periodicals. In the spirit of that tremendous achievement, we had a new vision. We again partnered with libraries to create the world's largest collection of constitutions and constitutional documents.

This database enables scholars to research constitutional and political developments of the nations of our world by providing access to all types of historic and current constitutional documents, monographs and periodicals. Libraries are encouraged to contribute to the ever-growing collection!

World Constitutions

World Constitutions Illustrated contains thousands of contemporary and historical documents, as well as many features to enable users to browse and search across the constitutional law of more than 190 countries.

Selecting a Country

Browse the database either by selecting a country from the drop-down box or selecting the World Constitutions to view a complete list of every country in the world.

Database Includes:

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

This collection contains the current constitution of every country in the world in its original language. Where multiple original-language versions exist, we will provide them all. Most countries also include at least one English translation. Since translations depend on and reveal the preferences of translator and time, where possible we provide you with multiple points of view.

We are working to identify and include source documents for every historical constitution of the world. As historical documents are identified, they will be added to the database in chronological order. Documents identified but not yet included are listed to create a bibliography and documentary history of the constitutional development. For every constitutional document, researchers can find the original text, amending laws, consolidated text, and important related texts. The database also includes links to scholarly articles* and commentary.

* You must be subscribed to the Law Journal Library to link to the articles.
How to Find a Constitution

Once a country has been selected from the listing, the constitutions, amendments and other related documents available for that country will be listed in a hierarchical format, with the most current material listed at the top of the page. To view the most current iteration of the constitution, select ‘Constitutions and Fundamental Laws,’ and then select the most current supplement. To date, 2014 is the most current edition of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Working Inside Constitutions

Once a constitution or other document has been selected, use the table of contents at the left of the screen to locate specific sections. For example, let’s find the text of the Second Amendment of the most current consolidated Constitution of the United States of America. In the table of contents, the text of the Amendments is found on page 23.

Navigate through the pages of Amendments to find the text of the Second Amendment, which is found on page 26.

Use the image toolbar, located above the PDF image of any HeinOnline document, to perform various functions, including downloading an instant PDF of a section, emailing a section to another user, creating permanent links, searching, and more. For example, search for the phrase “unreasonable searches” in the Amendments section of the Constitution of the United States.
Books, Periodicals, and Other Related Works

Included in World Constitutions Illustrated are thousands of classic books on constitutions, constitutional history and jurisprudence, and political and economic history. Also featured are more than a dozen legal periodicals focusing on constitutional law. To access these from the World Constitutions Illustrated Home Page, select Books, Periodicals, and Other Related Works. Once you are inside the subcollection, you may narrow your search down further to the specific category listed below the A to Z index.

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- Edward Corwin
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- Thomas Paine
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- 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
- Historia Constitucional
- Historia Constitucional de Colombia
- International Journal of Constitutional Law
- Niles’ National Register
- Review of Constitutional Studies
- Seton Hall Constitution Journal
- University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law
- Vienna Online Journal of International Constitutional Law

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**About the Editor**

Jefri Jay Ruchti was born in Montreal, Canada in 1949 and named for John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States 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, and was 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, Leigh Whiteman, in Guilford, Connecticut.

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