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978-1-107-04766-2 - Constitutions in Authoritarian Regimes

Edited by Tom Ginsburg and Alberto Simpser

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CONSTITUTIONS IN AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

Constitutions in authoritarian regimes are often denigrated as meaningless exercises in political theater. Yet the burgeoning literature on authoritarian regimes more broadly has produced a wealth of insights into particular institutions such as legislatures, courts, and elections; into regime practices such as co-optation and repression; and into non-democratic sources of accountability. In this vein, this volume explores the form and function of constitutions in countries without the fully articulated institutions of limited government. The chapters utilize a wide range of methods and focus on a broad set of cases representing many different types of authoritarian regimes. The book offers an exploration into the constitutions of authoritarian regimes, generating broader insights into the study of constitutions and their functions more generally.

Tom Ginsburg is the Leo Spitz Professor of International Law at the University of Chicago, where he also holds an appointment in the political science department. He is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a research professor at the American Bar Foundation. He holds B.A., J.D., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley. He currently codirects the Comparative Constitutions Project, an NSF-funded data set cataloging the world's constitutions since 1789. His recent coauthored book, *The Endurance of National Constitutions* (2009), won the best book award from the Comparative Democratization Section of the American Political Science Association. His other books include *Judicial Review in New Democracies* (2003), *Administrative Law and Governance in Asia* (2008), *Rule by Law: The Politics of Courts in Authoritarian Regimes* (with Tamir Moustafa, 2008), and *Comparative Constitutional Law* (with Rosalind Dixon, 2011). Before entering law teaching, he served as a legal advisor at the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, The Hague, The Netherlands, and he has consulted with numerous international development agencies and governments on legal and constitutional reform.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107663947

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First published 2014

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Constitutions in authoritarian regimes / Tom Ginsburg, University of Chicago; Alberto Simpser, University of Chicago.

pages cm. – (Comparative constitutional law and policy)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-04766-2 (hardback)

1. Constitutional law. 2. Authoritarianism. I. Ginsburg, Tom, editor of compilation. II. Simpser, Alberto, 1971– editor of compilation.

K3165.C63 2013

342–dc23 2013030082

ISBN 978-1-107-04766-2 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-66394-7 Paperback

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