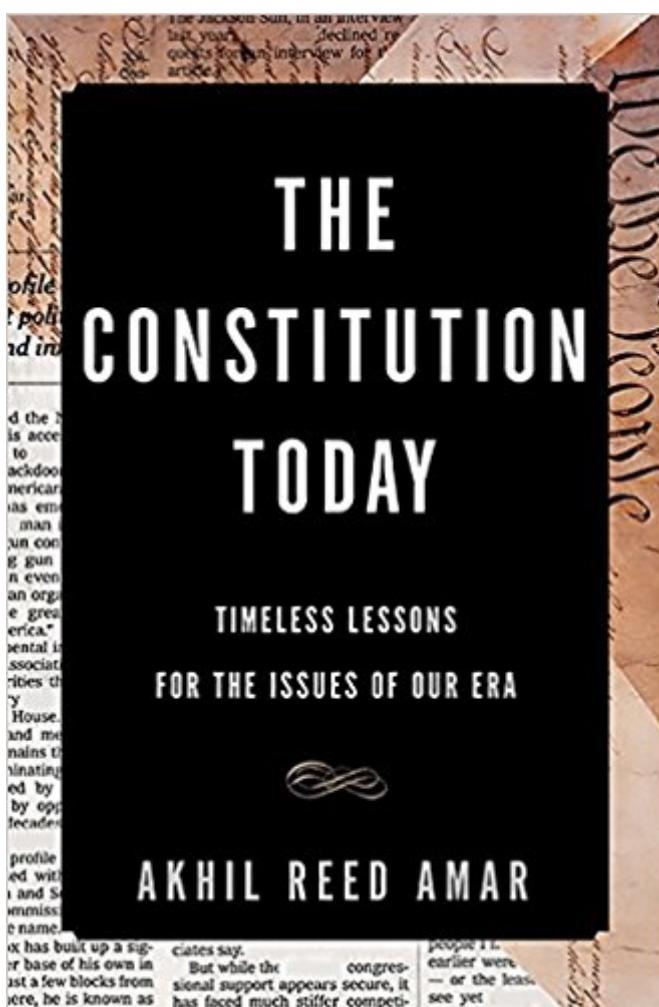


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The Constitution Today: Timeless Lessons For The Issues Of Our Era



Synopsis

A leading legal scholar addresses the most important constitutional controversies of the past two decades and illuminates the Constitution's spirit and ongoing relevance. America's Constitution, Chief Justice John Marshall famously observed in *McCulloch v. Maryland*, aspires "to endure for ages to come." The daily news has a shorter shelf life, and when the issues of the day involve momentous constitutional questions, present-minded journalists and busy citizens cannot always see the stakes clearly. In *The Constitution Today*, Akhil Reed Amar, America's preeminent constitutional scholar, considers the biggest and most bitterly contested debates of the last two decades and provides a passionate handbook for thinking constitutionally about today's headlines. Amar shows how the Constitution's text, history, and structure are a crucial repository of collective wisdom, providing specific rules and grand themes relevant to every organ of the American body politic. Prioritizing sound constitutional reasoning over partisan preferences, he makes the case for diversity-based affirmative action and a right to have a gun in one's home for self-protection, and against spending caps on independent political advertising and bans on same-sex marriage. He explains what's wrong with presidential dynasties, advocates a "nuclear option" to restore majority rule in the Senate, and suggests ways to reform the Supreme Court. And he revisits three dramatic constitutional conflicts—the impeachment of Bill Clinton, the contested election of George W. Bush, and the fight over Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act—to show what politicians, judges, and journalists got right as events unfolded and what they missed. Leading readers through the particular constitutional questions at stake in each episode while outlining his abiding views regarding the Constitution's letter, its spirit, and the direction constitutional law must go, Amar offers an essential guide for anyone seeking to understand America's Constitution and its relevance today.

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Customer Reviews

Roanoke Times: If I were stranded in a remote area and could have only one book to read, that book would be written by Akhil Reed Amar; any Amar book. Each one is filled with thoughtful examinations of the United States Constitution. *Time.com*, Top 10 nonfiction books of 2016 "A book on the Constitution may not have felt so urgent or timely in any other year, but in the wake of the Khan family's appearance at the Democratic National Convention; and the president-elect's subsequent affront; Amar's expert framework of our nation's most fundamental document feels desperately needed." *Library Journal*, Starred Review; Impressively, Amar presents a panoramic view of recent history through the lens of Constitutional interpretation. Moreover, he accomplishes this in layman's language, so that his insights are accessible to general readers. Indeed, Amar's professed intent is to educate journalists on Constitutional issues, and he succeeds unequivocally, explaining what's at stake in landmark cases such as *Bush v. Gore* and *Citizens United*, while commenting on the constitutionality of the Second Amendment and the exclusionary rule. *Kirkus Reviews*, Starred Review

Akhil Reed Amar is the Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University. The author of several books, including America's Unwritten Constitution, and winner of the Silver Gavel Award from the American Bar Association, Amar lives in Woodbridge, Connecticut.

I am not a lawyer therefore it is exciting to read a book that can bring across concepts from the constitution in easily 'digestible' wording. Personally I think it is a 'must read' when debating the relevance of and the way how to interpret the constitution in the 21st century.

Second of his books I have read. I feel I am a better informed citizen. Articles regarding presidential powers to fire, separation of powers, and impeachment process are certainly timely. I'm sure there are others authors and books covering similar topics, but although generally liberal on social issues, I proscribe to the concept of originalist or textualist, which is the authors perspective. If one is

uncomfortable with this perspective they may not find the book as enjoyable.

Amar is a quintessentially readable author. One would think this would be the driest subject and book on the shelf - au contraire! The author takes you on a rollercoaster ride of education, insights, historical contexts and contemporary challenges of our constitution.

Clearly and most importantly honestly written .

Amar is a brilliant Constitution scholar and historian who writes superbly in a style that appeals to both legal scholars and those with a curiosity into Constitutional law matters. Highly recommend this interesting and engaging discussion of important events and decisions of relevance and importance to The Living Constitution.

Great read, easy to understand and hard to put down!

Professor Amar knows his Constitution backwards and forwards. The book contains many insights that are helpful to me as a non-constitutionalist lawyer. But there are perhaps just a few too many personal asides.

Brilliant writing from my favorite Constitutional scholar.

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