



# Post Sovereign Constitutional Making: Learning and Legitimacy (Oxford Constitutional Theory)

By Andrew Arato

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## Post Sovereign Constitutional Making: Learning and Legitimacy (Oxford Constitutional Theory) By Andrew Arato

Constitutional politics has become a major terrain of contemporary struggles. Contestation around designing, replacing, revising, and dramatically re-interpreting constitutions is proliferating worldwide. Starting with Southern Europe in post-Franco Spain, then in the ex-Communist countries in Central Europe, post-apartheid South Africa, and now in the Arab world, constitution making has become a project not only of radical political movements, but of liberals and conservatives as well. Wherever new states or new regimes will emerge in the future, whether through negotiations, revolutionary process, federation, secession, or partition, the making of new constitutions will be a key item on the political agenda.

Combining historical comparison, constitutional theory, and political analysis, this volume links together theory and comparative analysis in order to orient actors engaged in constitution making processes all over the world. The book examines two core phenomena: the development of a new, democratic paradigm of constitution making, and the resulting change in the normative discussions of constitutions, their creation, and the source of their legitimacy. After setting out a theoretical framework for understanding these developments, Andrew Arato examines recent constitutional politics in South Africa, Hungary, Turkey, and Latin America and discusses the political stakes in constitution-making. The book concludes by offering a systematic critique of the alternative to the new paradigm, populism and populist constituent politics.

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About the Author

Andrew Arato, *Dorothy Hart Hirshon Professor of Political and Social Theory, The New School*

Andrew Arato is the Dorothy Hart Hirshon Professor of Political and Social Theory in the department of sociology at The New School. He is best known for his influential book *Civil Society and Political Theory*, co-authored with Jean L. Cohen. From 1994 to 2014 he was the co-editor of the journal *Constellations*.

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