

Constitutional Reform: The Labour Government's Constitutional Reform Agenda

The Labour Government's proposals for reform of the UK's internal constitutional arrangements promise the most wide-ranging and substantial overhaul of the constitution this century. Their plans, which include devolution for Scotland and Wales, incorporation of the ECHR, a Freedom of Information Bill and reform of both houses of Parliament are already far progressed, but critical choices have still to be made. Against this background, and in view of these historical events, the Directors of the Centre for Public Law at the University of Cambridge recently organised a major conference to discuss the legal and practical implications of the proposed reforms. Speakers at the conference include leading academics, barristers, solicitors, judges and politicians. The results, which are reproduced in this volume of conference proceedings, will be essential reading for all those interested in constitutional reform and in British political history.

The follow-up volume to the same editors' 'New Labour in Government' provides a systematic assessment of Blair's first term and the continuities and changes into his second. Bringing together specially-commissioned chapters by leading authorities in a tightly-edited format, it places particular emphasis on the evolution of New Labour's political performance, policy and statecraft set in its historical, ideological and organizational context.

A key feature of the New Labour government's constitutional reform agenda has been the introduction of a number of alternative methods of voting for both existing elections and for those to new political institutions. This book examines the workings of these various systems of elections, looking specifically at how they operate within the United Kingdom and their direct impact on representation and governance. It also considers voting behaviour in the UK, with reference to the context of the electoral system being used. In conclusion there is an attempt to discover the extent to which the introduction and operation of different electoral systems has affected voter behaviour.

First of a four-section volume, The Labour Government 1945-1951, the 444 documents in the volume provide a guide to imperial policy-making in all aspects during the early stages of the end of Empire between 1945 and 1951. Labour government ministers and their civil servants had to deal with a wide range of post-war problems, including those posed by Britain's own economic weakness, the development of international criticism articulated at the United Nations, the growth of an international threat in the shape of communist expansion and, in some areas, the emergence of colonial nationalism.

House of Lords Reform Since 1911

The Art of Keeping the Balance

What is New Labour's Constitutional legacy?

The Labour Government's Constitutional Reform Agenda

Constitutional Change Under New Labour

Ten Years of New Labour

Summer papers from the year 2010 in the subject Politics - International Politics - Region: Western Europe, grade: 77%, University of London (Birkbeck College), course: Contemporary British Politics, language: English, abstract: This paper considers the question 'what is New Labour's constitutional legacy?' To frame the boundaries of this essay, and given the uncodified nature of the UK constitution, I borrow the definition of 'constitution' offered by Bogdanor: 'A constitution is nothing more than a collection of the most important rules prescribing the distribution of power between the institutions of government – legislature, executive and judiciary – and between the individual and the state' (Bogdanor, 2009), while adding that rules can be both explicit and implicit (i.e. conventions). This paper considers the success of Labour's constitutional reforms, within the context of what Labour proposed it would achieve. Straw argues that Labour had five principles guiding reform: decentralisation, stronger citizen rights, greater openness, judicial reform, and democratic reform (Straw, 2010). The first three were discussed in a 1998 Labour Constitution Unit pamphlet while the latter two were added by McDonald and Hazell (McDonald and Hazell, 2007).

In this important new book, Stephen Driver and Luke Martell examine how the Blair government is re-shaping Britain, Britain's place in Europe and British social democracy. This timely study of Labour's first term in power for two decades challenges the view that New Labour has thrown in the towel to Thatcherite neo-liberalism. Driver and Martell argue that Tony Blair's government has in fact taken politics and policy-making beyond Thatcherism. But they also cast doubt on some of the social democratic claims of Labour modernizers. While Labour's stunning election victories in 1997 and 2001 have given the Blair government an unprecedented opportunity to shape the political and policy landscape in Labour's image, Blair's Britain continues to bear the imprint of eighteen years of radical Conservative government. Blair's Britain explores the central policy dilemmas faced by the Labour Party in government in its second term and beyond: the balance between social justice and economic efficiency; strong government and pluralist politics; and work and home life. The authors explore how social democrats and progressive politicians across Europe in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Scandinavia and the Mediterranean, as well as the United States, have responded to the challenges of globalization and social change - and examine the comparative politics of social democracy across Europe and the rest of the world today. This book is the most comprehensive survey of New Labour yet to appear, and will be read by students of politics and sociology as well as being accessible to the general reader. .

The Labour government elected in 1997 pledged to reform the Westminster parliament by modernising the House of Commons and removing the hereditary peers from the House of Lords. Events have consequently demonstrated the deep controversy that accompanies such attempts at institutional reconfiguration, and have highlighted the shifting fault lines in executive-legislative relations in the UK, as well as the deep complexities surrounding British constitutional politics. The story of parliamentary reform is about the nature of the British political system, about how the government seeks to expand its control over parliament, and about how parliament discharges its duty to scrutinise the executive and hold it to account. This book, available in paperback for the first time, charts the course of Westminster reform since 1997, but does so by placing it in the context of parliamentary reform pursued in the past, and thus adopts a historical perspective which lends it considerable analytical value. Significantly, the book examines parliamentary reform through the lens of institutional theory, in order not only to describe reform but also to interpret and explain it. It also draws on extensive interviews conducted with MPs and peers involved in the reform of parliament since 1997, thus offering a unique insight into how these political actors perceived the reform process as which they played a part. Parliamentary reform at Westminster, now available in paperback, provides a comprehensive and authoritative analysis of the trajectory and outcome of the reform of parliament, along with an incisive interpretation of the implications for our understanding of British politics.

This book covers the main topics of Constitutional and Administrative Law courses and is intended to give students a clear idea of what the examiners are looking for. This edition has been comprehensively revised to take account of the radical programme of constitutional reform introduced by the Labour government since 1997. It gives clear examples of how to answer questions on the following topics: devolution; the Human Rights Act, including the interpretation by the courts of its chief provisions and the Act's on the key areas of police powers, public order law and freedom of expression; the Freedom of Information Act 2000; the recent Shayler litigation under the Official Secrets Act; plans for reform of the House of Lords and the Wakeham Report, the government's White Paper; and proposed reforms to the Ombudsmen system. Material on recent reforms to the European Convention system and to domestic judicial review is also included. It will be especially useful for students who may be feeling bemused by the rapid rate of change in this subject.

Must the Lords Go?

The Struggle for Labour's Soul

The New Labour Constitution

British Party Politics and Ideology after New Labour

The Labour Governments 1964-1970

Twenty Years on

This book examines the current debate about constitutional reform. Included in this new edition is a chapter on the Labour Government's plans to reform the system of government.

The Labour Government's proposals for reform of the UK's internal constitutional arrangements promise the most wide-ranging and substantial overhaul of the constitution this century. Their plans, which include devolution for Scotland and Wales, incorporation of the ECHR, a Freedom of Information Bill and reform of both houses of Parliament are already far progressed, but critical choices have still to be made. Against this background, and in view of these historical events, the Directors of the Centre for Public Law at the University of Cambridge recently organised a major conference to discuss.

For most of the twentieth century, the Conservative Party engaged in an ongoing struggle to curb the power of the trade unions, culminating in the radical legislation of the Thatcher governments. Yet, as this book shows, for a brief period between the end of the Second World War and the election of Harold Wilson's Labour government in 1964, the Conservative Party adopted a remarkably constructive and conciliatory approach to the trade unions, dubbed 'voluntarism'. During this time the party leadership made strenuous efforts to avoid, as far as was politically possible, confrontation with, or legislation against, the trade unions, even when this incurred the wrath of some Conservative backbenchers and the Party's mass membership. In explaining why the Conservative leadership sought to avoid conflict with the trade unions, this study considers the economic circumstances of the period in question, the political environment, electoral considerations, the perspective adopted by the Conservative leadership in comprehending industrial relations and explaining conflict in the workplace, and the personalities of both the Conservative leadership and the key figures in the trade unions. Making extensive use of primary and archival sources it explains why the 1945-64 period was unique in the Conservative Party's approach to Britain's trade unions. By 1964, though, even hitherto Conservative defenders of voluntarism were acknowledging that some form of official inquiry into the conduct and operation of trade British unionism, as a prelude to legislation, was necessary, thereby signifying that the heyday of 'voluntarism' and cordial relations between senior Conservatives and the trade unions was coming to an end.

Peter Dorey here presents the most comprehensive, in-depth and original book of the 1964-1970 labour governments published to date. This unique account examines a wide range of political issues and makes extensive use of primary sources recently released by the Public Records Office, including previously unpublished cabinet papers, ministerial correspondence, ministers' private papers and interviews with former ministers. Peter Dorey analyzes the policies and intra-party debates of the era and the problems which ministers faced in the context of both external events, and the growing unrest amongst Labour backbenchers. Providing a systematic analysis of this key period in modern British history, contributions span economic policies, foreign affairs, social reform, liberalism, constitutional reform and territorial management, thus ensuring that this text is essential reading for researchers and students of politics and government.

Constitutional Reform in America

Constitutional Change in the UK

A History of Constitutional Conservatism

Text, Cases and Materials on Public Law and Human Rights

Political Movements and Constitutional Reform During the Rise of Labour, 1900-1924

Contemporary Britain

Since coming to power in 1997 the Labour government's programme of constitutional reform represents an historic challenge to both British constitutional doctrine and Labour Party orthodoxy. Mark Evans examines the nature and extent of this challenge and argues that the New Constitutionalism is a key element of a policy agenda that in its most crucial aspects reflects the continuing transformation of the British industrial-welfare state into a competition state. Constitution-Making and the Labour Party analyzes key areas of reform under the Blair government from the perspective of Labour Party history and contemporary policy analysis. Written by a specially commissioned team of experts, this book provides a collection of authoritative assessments of the government's constitutional reform policies.

"First [originally] published in Great Britain in 2007 by Politico's Publishing ..."--Title page verso.

British Party Politics and Ideology after New Labour brings together academics and politicians to debate the intellectual roots of the ideas that currently drive the main UK political parties. With major players responding to the arguments raised in each chapter, the book will be a must-read for anyone interested in or teaching British politics.

The New Labour Reader

Reinventing Britain

Constitutional Reform and the New Labour Government

Continuities and Change

Principles and Practice

Constitutional Policy in Multilevel Government

Evaluates the Blair government from 1997-2007 conducting high quality research into aspects of British politics with particular emphasis on parties, policies and ideologies. With contributions from key figures in the field further topics include New Labour's record on social policy, defence policy, constitutional reform and public expenditure.

"This textbook provides an introduction to the topical subject of constitutional change in Britain. It considers the historical origins of the constitution but its main focus is on recent reforms and their likely impact. The key theme running throughout the book is the debate as to whether the constitution has undergone a revolutionary transformation or has gradually evolved. The search for a robust balance of power is a continuous challenge for multilevel political system. Institutions like parliaments or courts can protect the existing order. However, necessary adjustments to economic, social, or international challenges or policies determined to improve ineffective structures or to prevent disintegration require constitutional amendments. Whereas constitutional policy appears as essential to maintain balance, changing a constitution is rather difficult in multilevel governments. Due to the veto power of many actors pursuing divergent interests, policies aiming to redistribute power or fiscal resources risk to end in the joint decision trap. Hence, multilevel government is confronted by a fundamental dilemma. Constitutional Policy in Multilevel Government compares processes of constitutional reform in federal and regionalized states. Based on a theoretical framework emphasizing the relevance of negotiations in parliamentary, intergovernmental, and societal arenas, it identifies conditions for successful reforms and explains the consequences of failed reforms. Moreover, it highlights the interplay of reform processes and constitutional evolution as essential to maintaining a robust balance of power. The book demonstrates that an appropriate arrangement of multiple arenas of negotiation including executives, members of parliament and civil society organizations, and sequential order of reform processes proves fundamental to prevent federal or regionalized governments from becoming either unstable or ending with rigid constitutions. Transformations in Governance is a major new academic book series from Oxford University Press. It is designed to accommodate the impressive growth of research in comparative politics, international relations, public policy, federalism, environmental and urban studies concerned with the dispersion of authority from central states up to supranational institutions, down to subnational governments, and side-ways to public-private networks. It brings together work that significantly advances our understanding of the organization, causes, and consequences of multilevel and complex governance. The series is selective, containing annually a small number of books of exceptionally high quality by leading and emerging scholars. The series targets mainly single-authored or co-authored work, but it is pluralistic in terms of disciplinary specialization, research design, method, and geographical scope. Case studies as well as comparative studies, historical as well as contemporary studies, and studies with a national, regional, or international focus are all central to its aims. Authors use qualitative, quantitative, formal modeling, or mixed methods. A trade mark of the books is that they combine scholarly rigour with readable prose and an attractive production style. The series is edited by Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the VU Amsterdam, and Walter Mattli of the University of Oxford.

Building on the strengths of the Sourcebook on Public Law, this book has been comprehensively revised to take account of the radical programme of constitutional reform introduced by the Labour Government since 1997.

Examines the Labour Party's approach to constitutional reforms in historical context, and how these have been pursued more to 'modernize' political institutions, rather than radically transform them. Explains the reasons for this constitutional conservatism, and the debates which specific reform proposals have prompted in the Party.

Policy and Politics Under Blair

Our Constitutional Revolution

A2 Government and Politics: Ideologies and Ideologies in Action

Governing as New Labour

New Labour

Precedents and Prospects

The New Labour Reader draws together in one accessible volume a set of authoritative interpretations and accounts of New Labour in government, including key commentaries on the contemporary Labour Party and the Blair government. Using a variety of primary and secondary sources, the book maps out and explains New Labour's political trajectory, the policy agenda it has pursued and the process by which it governs. It uses excerpts from the best and most interesting material, including the writings and speeches of the Labour government's most influential figures. There are chapters on the New Labour debate, economic policy, the public services, constitutional reform, European policy and Labour's Whitehall style, as well as a critical introduction by the editors. This Reader will provide an initial point of access to the varied literature on this subject and prove an essential reference for understanding the wide-ranging implications of the New Labour project. Since British politics is a core option on all undergraduate politics courses, it will be a vital resource for all who study the subject. Visit www.polity.co.uk/newlabour for articles and updates which support the book.

This textbook provides an introduction to the topical subject of constitutional change in Britain. It considers the historical origins of the constitution but its main focus is on recent reforms and their likely impact. The key theme running throughout the book is the debate as to whether the constitution has undergone a revolutionary transformation or has gradually evolved.

Covering the monarchy and the City, the army and the Church, Europe and sovereignty, the author demonstrates how constitutional issues influence our daily lives. He encourages the new Labour government to take a radical course and shows how constitutional reform can improve the society we live in.

The search for a robust balance of power is a continuous challenge for multilevel political system. Institutions like parliaments or courts can protect the existing order. However, necessary adjustments to economic, social, or international challenges or policies determined to improve ineffective structures or to prevent disintegration require constitutional amendments. Whereas constitutional policy appears as essential to maintain balance, changing a constitution is rather difficult in multilevel governments. Due to the veto power of many actors pursuing divergent interests, policies aiming to redistribute power or fiscal resources risk to end in the joint decision trap. Hence, multilevel government is confronted by a fundamental dilemma. Constitutional Policy in Multilevel Government compares processes of constitutional reform in federal and regionalized states. Based on a theoretical framework emphasizing the relevance of negotiations in parliamentary, intergovernmental, and societal arenas, it identifies conditions for successful reforms and explains the consequences of failed reforms. Moreover, it highlights the interplay of reform processes and constitutional evolution as essential to maintaining a robust balance of power. The book demonstrates that an appropriate arrangement of multiple arenas of negotiation including executives, members of parliament and civil society organizations, and sequential order of reform processes proves fundamental to prevent federal or regionalized governments from becoming either unstable or ending with rigid constitutions. Transformations in Governance is a major new academic book series from Oxford University Press. It is designed to accommodate the impressive growth of research in comparative politics, international relations, public policy, federalism, environmental and urban studies concerned with the dispersion of authority from central states up to supranational institutions, down to subnational governments, and side-ways to public-private networks. It brings together work that significantly advances our understanding of the organization, causes, and consequences of multilevel and complex governance. The series is selective, containing annually a small number of books of exceptionally high quality by leading and emerging scholars. The series targets mainly single-authored or co-authored work, but it is pluralistic in terms of disciplinary specialization, research design, method, and geographical scope. Case studies as well as comparative studies, historical as well as contemporary studies, and studies with a national, regional, or international focus are all central to its aims. Authors use qualitative, quantitative, formal modeling, or mixed methods. A trade mark of the books is that they combine scholarly rigour with readable prose and an attractive production style. The series is edited by Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the VU Amsterdam, and Walter Mattli of the University of Oxford.

Changing Constitution

British Politics

Constitutional Reform in the United Kingdom

This Time

British Conservatism and Trade Unionism, 1945–1964

Practice and Principles

The election of the most left-wing Labour Party Leader since 1945, followed by the Party's third consecutive general election defeat and the ongoing cultural divisions around Brexit present an ideal opportunity for a thorough re-evaluation of the state of the Party within its broader ideological and historical context. This second edition of this highly respected book analyses the current developments and places them in their historical setting through a clear three-part framework of Ideological Positions, Struggles and Commentaries. Thoroughly updated and featuring contributions by leading academics and politicians, it continues to represent one of the most ground-breaking and thorough analyses of Labour's political thought in a generation and will be of key interest to scholars, students and observers of British Politics, British History, Party Politics, and the Labour Party.

First published in 1999, Andrew Chadwick provides an important new interpretation of British radical, suffrage-feminist and socialist movements during the first quarter of the twentieth century, based on analysis of their visions of democratic constitutional reform. He argues that a shared discourse of 'radical constitutionalism' allowed these groups to forge alliances based upon a common preoccupation with extending and improving constitutional democracy. This book is a significant contribution to current methodological debates around the importance of language and discourse in social and political history. It is the first detailed study to integrate material on three important constitutional campaigns of this era: the reform of the House of Lords, women's suffrage, and proportional representation. It will be of interest to students of British politics, social and political history, historical methodology and political theory.

New Labour in Power combines historical, political and practical approaches to the questions raised by the Labour election victory. Addressing core themes such as Europe, the economy, welfare, education, and the constitution, this volume provides an assessment of the new era. This book explores Blair's victory through its historical context and the words of contemporary media commentators, journalists, economists and politicians. This book includes much-needed analysis of the current state of the party and invaluable insight into longer term trends.

The years since New Labour came to power in 1997 have seen changes to the British institutions of political power on an unprecedented scale. The reforms have been widespread, ranging from devolution of power in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to the reform of the House of Lords and the changing role of the Monarchy. This book is the first to examine these changes collectively and in detail, placing each in its historical context, analysing problems, solutions and what the future holds for this ambitious period of reforms. The book is comprehensive in coverage, and accessibly written. As such it should be the ideal resource for undergraduate students of British Politics seeking to make sense of this complex subject.

Constitutional Reform

Mastering British Politics

A Survey With Texts

Understanding Labour's Political Thought Since 1945

The Labour Party and Constitutional Reform

Electoral Systems and Voting in the United Kingdom

This, the definitive text on Constitutional and Administrative Law, helps students understand and comment upon crucial events and their historical context. Taking into account the wide variety of changes in Britain's system of government and public law since 1993, this text provides the background for understanding the proposals for constitutional reform made by the new Labour government.

Examines the debates and developments about House of Lords reform since 1911, and notes that disagreements have occurred within, as well as between, the main political parties and governments throughout this time. It draws attention to how various proposals for reform have raised a wider range constitutional and political problems.

Hardin argues that the major threat to American constitutional government is the separation of powers doctrine, particularly the division of power between the President and Congress. To correct the imbalance wrought by the separation of powers principle, he suggests constitutional reform toward a form of parliamentary government. He advocates three major reforms: provide defeated presidential candidates with a seat in the House of Representatives to encourage a strong, organized opposition; allow for interim election-year changes in national leadership via votes of confidence; and institute the 4-8-4 proposal that would elect the House of Representatives and half of the Senate every four years (if Senate terms were extended to eight years) at the same time as the election of the President. He also provides a critical review of the literature on constitutional government and reform. ISBN 0-8138-0118-4: \$27.95.

In May 2005 the Labour Party led by Tony Blair won an unprecedented third term in power. After eight years in government its achievements were many. But there was controversy too, not least the decision to support the United States in the invasion of Iraq. The Blair government promised to be different both at home and abroad. New Labour would move social democratic politics on in the face of a rapidly changing world. It would also take British politics and policy-making beyond Thatcherism. But how successful has it been? In this second edition of the widely praised New Labour: Politics after Thatcherism, Stephen Driver and Luke Martell explore the origins of New Labour and examine in detail the Labour government's record in power. They argue that this record bears the imprint of the reforms to the British state and society made under successive Conservative administrations. At the same time, New Labour has taken British politics and public policy in directions that reflect the party's progressive, liberal and social democratic past. New Labour is post-Thatcherite. The completely revised second edition of New Labour politics - An accessible and comprehensive account of New Labour politics - Up-to-date policy chapters on economic, social and constitutional affairs - A new chapter on European and foreign policies - An original and critical interpretation of New Labour and the future of social democratic politics in Britain, Europe and other parts of the world The second edition of New Labour will be an invaluable resource for students of politics, sociology and other social sciences, those involved in public policy and public affairs and anyone looking for an accessible guide to New Labour and the Blair government.

Q&A Constitutional & Administrative Law 2009-2010

The Labour Government and the End of Empire, 1945-1951: Strategy, politics, and constitutional change

Constitution-Making and the Labour Party

The Impact of New Labour

Parliamentary reform at Westminster

An up-to-date critical assessment of the 'New Labour' phenomena. It assesses the impact of Labour's 'modernizers' in three crucial areas: changes within the Labour party itself, the reformation of the British state, and the influence on particular areas of policy. The essays do not seek to provide unequivocal answers to the questions raised by the arrival of New Labour and their initial period in office, but provide a debate between the contributors over the nature and significance of these changes. The book is a wide-ranging and accessible account of the political phenomena which will lead Britain into the twenty-first century.

This splendid resource provides a concise introduction to British politics. Dennis Kavanagh's revised and fully updated text offers an up-to-date profile of politics and the system of government in Britain. New topics include an assessment of the first three years of Labour government and the issues surrounding devolution and constitutional change. Contemporary developments are placed in their historical context, allowing an understanding of the ways in which the politics of the 1980's and 1990's have shaped and affect current issues. Part of the successful Routledge-Cavendish Q&A series, which provides students with essential advice and guidance for essay and exam success, Q&A Administrative Law 2007-2008 has been fully updated and revised to incorporate developments in public law since the publication of the previous edition. Covering the main topics of constitutional and administrative law, the authors examine the radical programme of constitutional reform introduced by the Labour government since 1997 and explore its impact over the last ten years. The book gives clear examples of how to answer questions on all the main topics examined, including devolution the Human Rights Act and the key cases decided under it the A-G v Jackson decision on the Parliament Acts the core areas of police powers, including the very significant changes made by the Serious and Organized crime Act 2005 and recent anti-terrorism legislation new case-law in the area of public order and freedom of expression the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 possible reform of the Royal Prerogative, following the Iraq war recent judicial review cases on the prerogative the contemporary application of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Ministerial responsibility the recent Shayler litigation under the Official Secrets Act plans for reform of the house of Lords and proposed reforms to the Ombudsmen system. An excellent revision and practice guide, with full coverage of recent important judicial review cases, this book gives students an important insight into exactly what examiners are looking for in an answer.

Contemporary Britain is the latest book from the bestselling author of British Civilization and American Civilization. It is a wide-ranging collection of sources concerning every important aspect of life in Britain today, from national identity to moral panics and offers an accurate snapshot of life in Britain at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Topics covered include:
* Britain's role in world affairs
* British national identity
* constitutional reform within Britain
* social institutions including the NHS
* political parties
* Morality and religion.

Lively and accessible Contemporary Britain is the essential companion for anyone studying current British civilization.

Augmenting Democracy

Essays on the Separation of Powers

New Labour in Power

Constitutional and Administrative Law