



The Classical Foundations of the American Constitution: Prevailing Wisdom

By David J. Bederman



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Essential reading for anyone interested in the history of the Constitution and the mindset of the framers! The drafters and ratifiers of the American Constitution were influenced by ancient history and classical political theory. This new volume combines techniques of intellectual history, classical studies, and constitutional interpretation offering fresh insights into the way the Framers designed the structural aspects of the Constitution, including separation of powers, the balance between federal and state power, the authority of the senate, judicial independence, and the exercise of war and foreign relations powers.

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Review

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"In this innovative and erudite study, Bederman surveys the influence of classical works on the American founding generation. A convincing argument for the Founding Fathers' use of classical ideas is lucidly advance. The book offers a more historically accurate and philosophically coherent argument than other recent volumes on the topic...The author defends the importance of original intent, with limitations, while concluding that the Founders' use of ancient sources was "instrumental and pragmatic."...Highly Recommended..."

--H.L. Cheek Jr., CHOICE

About the Author

David J. Bederman is a professor of law at Emory University's School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia. He has written extensively on the classical analogies of contemporary international and constitutional law.

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