

FROM PARCHMENT TO PRACTICE

From Parchment to Practice explores the problems that arise when a new constitution has been adopted. All new constitutions must manage tension between two forces: aspirations for social and political transformation on the one hand and demands for preservation of old interests and institutions on the other. The period following the initial adoption of a new constitution is the conceptual, temporal, and institutional bridge between the past and future. It is the moment when the transformative and the preservative forces in constitutional design can come into the sharpest conflict. Through a series of case studies, this volume analyses the variable nature of these type of conflicts – and the diverse means through which they are mediated, whether successfully or not.

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Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48773-3 — From Parchment to Practice
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UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-48773-3 — From Parchment to Practice
 Edited by Tom Ginsburg, Aziz Z. Huq
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
 79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

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/9781108487733

DOI: 10.1017/9781108767859

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First published 2020

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd, Padstow Cornwall

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: From Parchment to Practice: Implementing New Constitutions (Conference) (2017 : University of Chicago Law School) | Ginsburg, Tom, editor. | Huq, Aziz Z, editor. | University of Chicago. Law School, sponsoring body.

TITLE: From parchment to practice : implementing new constitutions / edited by Tom Ginsburg, University of Chicago; Aziz Z. Huq, University of Chicago

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY, USA : Cambridge University Press, 2020. |

SERIES: Comparative constitutional law and policy | Includes index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2019037627 (print) | LCCN 2019037628 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108487733 (hardback) |

ISBN 9781108738026 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108767859 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Constitutional law—Congresses. | New democracies—Congresses.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC K3165.A6 F76 2017 (print) | LCC K3165.A6 (ebook) | DDC 342—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019037627>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019037628>

ISBN 978-1-108-48773-3 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-73802-6 Paperback

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Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48773-3 — From Parchment to Practice
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Cambridge University Press
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Frontmatter
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