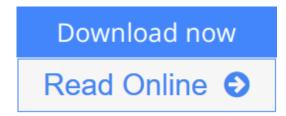


# Magna Carta and its Modern Legacy (Comparative Constitutional Law and Policy)

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Magna Carta is celebrated around the world as a symbol of limited government and constitutionalism. But in 1215 Magna Carta was a failure, abrogated within months. Why then do we celebrate this piece of parchment? To mark the 800th anniversary this book brings together top scholars from the UK, US and Australia to answer this question and analyse Magna Carta's historic and contemporary influence. Using a political science framework, Magna Carta and its Modern Legacy draws from scholarship on influence and constitutional design to explain how parchment can contain executive power. Individual chapters on Britain discuss such topics as socioeconomic rights in Magna Carta; Magna Carta and the British constitution; and public understanding of the charter. Internationally-focused chapters look at Magna Carta and jury trial in America, slavery in the Caribbean, court delays in the Pacific, the proportionality principle, and judicial supremacy.

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### About the Author

Robert Hazell is Professor of Government and the Constitution at University College London. He is the Founder and Director of the Constitution Unit, an independent think tank specialising in constitutional reform that has published detailed reports on Britain's constitutional reform programme. Professor Hazell frequently appears on the BBC and other media to talk about constitutional issues, and has received the Political Studies Association's Communication Award.

James Melton is a Senior Lecturer in Comparative Politics at University College London. His research focuses on comparative constitutional design, investigating the origins, stability, and enforcement of formal constitutional texts. He is a principal investigator at the Comparative Constitutions Project and co-author of the project's first book, The Endurance of National Constitutions (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

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