

# Contents

<i>Table of Cases</i>	ix
<i>Table of Legislation and other Instruments</i>	xiii
1 French Constitutional History: A Difficult Coming of Age	1
The Constitutional 'Big-Bang': The Revolution of 1789	2
The Difficult Implementation of Constitutionalism	7
Understanding French Constitutional History	19
Conclusion: The Merger of Constitutional Traditions?	27
2 In Search of the Constitutional Fundamentals	29
The Legitimacy of the 1958 Constitution	29
The Integrity of the 1958 Constitution	43
The Efficiency of the 1958 Constitution, The Political System	50
Conclusion: Something Old, Something New	54
3 The Primacy of the Executive	56
The Origins – The Search for a Strong Executive	57
The President of the Republic: From Strength to Strength	58
A Contested Bicephalous Executive	63
The Difficult Accountability of the Executive	79
Conclusion	93
4 Towards a Renewal of the Parliament	95
A Return to Institutional Autonomy?	96
The Constitutional Status of Members of Parliament	110
Parliament's Work: A Great Improvement	115
Conclusion: Further Reform?	138
5 The Rise of Judicial Power	141
The Search for Judicial Independence	142
The Rise of the Conseil constitutionnel	150
Towards a Judicial Power?	173
Conclusion	179

6	The Constitution and its People	181
	The French People and the Constitution	182
	The Sovereign Expression of the French People	188
	A Culture of Rights Protection	200
	Conclusion: A 'New' Citizen?	204
7	From Centralised Unity to Multilevel Constitutionalism	206
	The Rise of Territorial Government	207
	Keeping a Check on the European Union	219
	Conclusion	234
8	The Dynamics of Constitutional Change	236
	The Amendment Procedure: A Question of Choice?	237
	The Dynamics of Constitutional Change	243
	The Trends for Constitutional Reform	249
	Conclusion	253
	<i>Index</i>	255

<http://www.pbookshop.com>