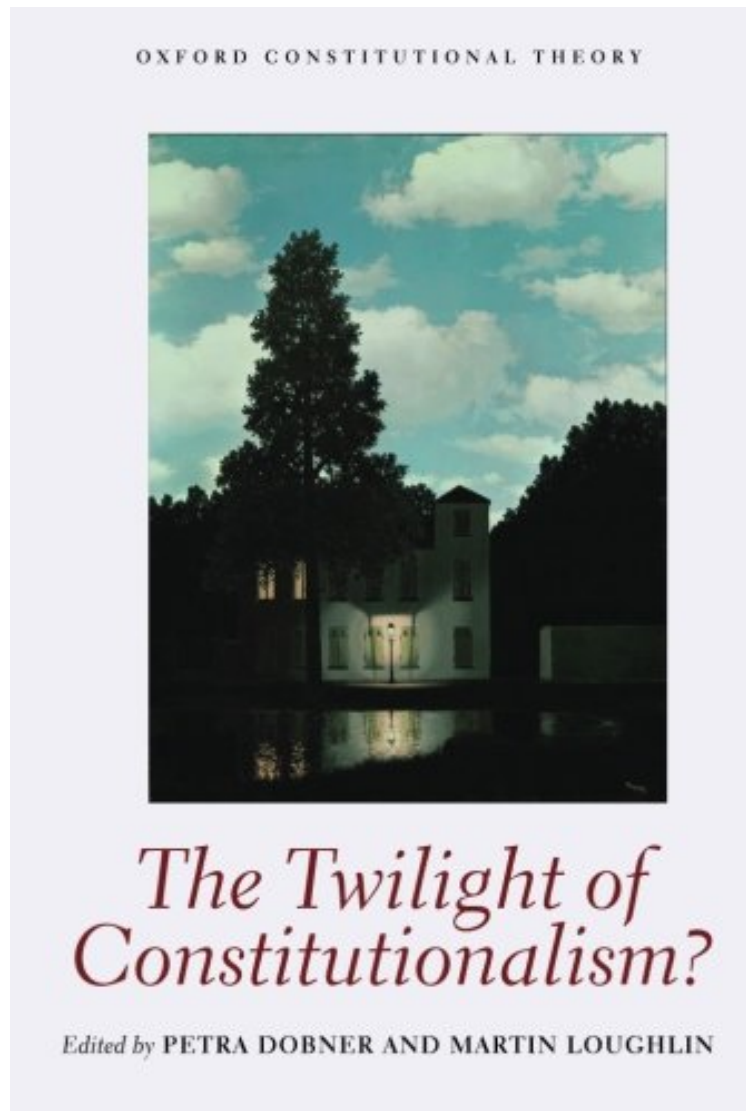


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## The Twilight of Constitutionalism? (Oxford Constitutional Theory)

*Petra Dobner, Martin Loughlin*  
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#3435486 in Books 2012-03-21 2012-03-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.10 x .70 x 9.10l, 1.20 #File Name: 019965199X368 pages | File size: 35.Mb

**Petra Dobner, Martin Loughlin : The Twilight of Constitutionalism? (Oxford Constitutional Theory)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Twilight of Constitutionalism? (Oxford Constitutional Theory):

The concepts and values that underpin traditional constitutionalism are increasingly being challenged by political realities that place substantial power beyond the state. Among the few certainties of a global economy is the growing

incongruity between the political (the world of things that need to be ordered collectively in order to sustain society) and the state (the major institution of authoritative political decision-making during modern times). The consequences, and possible remedies, of this double disjunction of politics and state and of state and constitution form the center of an open debate about 'constitutionalism beyond the state'. The essays gathered in this collection explore the range of issues raised by this debate. The effects of recent changes on two of the main building blocks of constitutionalism - statehood and democracy - are examined in Parts I and II. Since the movement of overcoming statehood has, arguably, been advanced furthest in the European context, the question of the future of constitutionalist ideas in the framework of the EU provides the key theme of Part III. The remaining parts consider possible transformations or substitutes. The engagement of constitutions with international law offers one line of transmutation of constitutionalism (Part IV) and the diffusion of constitutionalism into separate social spheres provides an alternative way of pursuing constitutionalism in a new key (Part VI). Finally, the ability of the theory of global administrative law (examined in Part V) to offer an alternative account of the potential of jurisdictional control of global governing processes is examined. Through these explorations, the book offers cross-disciplinary insights into the impact of recent political and economic changes on modern constitutionalism and an assessment of the prospects for constitutionalism in a transnational environment.

"[The collection] do[es] not only represent the current state of research, but advance[s] it." --Thomas Kleinlein, *Global Law Books* "...the quality of the contributions is extremely high. It shows that most of the contributors have worked on the topic of constitutionalism for many years. Still the volume goes further than merely presenting summaries of the existing positions at the same time as new aspects and dimensions are added. As such the volume provides a very important step in the attempt to move beyond the constitutional twilight." --Poul F. Kjaer, *European Law* "...a compulsory read for anyone interested in the subject matter of the series by OUP for which it is the debut volume, the Oxford Constitutional Theory Series, approaches the themes of globalisation and transnationalism from the viewpoint of constitutionalism, one of the hallmarks of modern sovereign statehood...this eclectic, erudite and highly-recommended collection provokes the conclusion, to this reviewer at least, that in the contemporary world constitutionalism faces the same dilemma as the protagonists of Di Lampedusa's "Il Gattopardo": it will have to change if it is to stay the same." --Cormac Mac Amhlaigh, *Public Law*

About the Author Martin Loughlin is Professor of Public Law at the London School of Economics. He specialises in constitutional theory and his books in the field include *The Paradox of Constitutionalism* (edited with Neil Walker, 2007), *Foundations of Public Law* (2010), *The Idea of Public Law* (2003), and *Public Law and Political Theory* (1992). Petra Dobner is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Halle, Germany.