

M.I. LICHBACH, *Democratic Theory and Causal Methodology in Comparative Politics*, University of Maryland, Cambridge University Press, 2013, 232 pp., ISBN: 978-1-107-62235-7

Deriving heavily from Barrington Moore's *Social Origins of Democracy and Dictatorships: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World* and examining the issues displayed by Moore through the comparativist scopes of texts from Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, Lisa Wedeen, Atul Kohli, and Charles Tilly, Lichbach uses a methodological approach to explore causal democratic theory. The key question, as with many comparativist political thinkers, looks at the pragmatic application of democracy, *i.e.* is the ideal form of democracy one that is purely free and rational, allowing the most direct configuration of political agency to come forward, or does a functioning democracy, thick or thin, need to understand the forces from which it has been created, and shape institutions working within the constraints of the society from which it is derived from? Lichbach uses a methodological approach to examine this question, breaking down rationalism and constructivism by the scope of each of the examined texts, and concludes with a multitheoretical approach to understanding democratization and its development.

D. McDevitt

D. O'BRIEN, *The Constitutional Systems of the Commonwealth Caribbean: A Contextual Analysis* (Constitutional Systems of the World), Hart Publishing, 2014, 328 pp., ISBN-10: 184946152X, ISBN-13: 978-1849461528

Colonization played an important role in the Caribbean during the 18th and 19th century. Establishing political control over a particular geographic region and a particular people was necessary in order to increase power, extort resources and have cheap labor. Many countries in the Caribbean had the common experience of colonization by the British Empire. The legal systems put into place were based on the English system. However, when these countries gained their

independence, they had to change systems and adopt their constitutions.

Derek O'Brien states that these new constitutions were eventually based on the 'Westminster model' of government. This meant that the Constitution was supreme and certain fundamental rights were guaranteed by the Constitution. The Constitution adopted in each country is critically analyzed in the book.

While thoroughly examining the region's background and history, Derek O'Brien tries to prove whether or not the Westminster model was successfully adapted. He concludes that these constitutions were in large part replications of the former colonial empire's governmental systems. Additionally, he states that they originated as an act of the imperial Parliament in Westminster. Derek O'Brien also discusses the progress and positive transformations of certain states from independence until now. In addition, he mentions the rising interest for constitutional reform in the region.

A. Georges

M. J. PERRY, *Human Rights in the Constitutional Law of the United States*, Cambridge University Press, 2013, 192 pp., ISBN: 9781107666085 (paperback), ISBN: 9781107038363 (hardcover)

Human rights are a concept that has been an issue for many years. In accordance to human rights, there was a significant increase in political morality in the Second World War. By increasing a person's morality is by pursuing a set of policies. Michael Perry says basic human rights consist of the constitutional law and constitutional morality. He goes by demonstrating controversies of the constitutional law: capital punishment, same-sex marriage and abortion.

Human rights state that all human beings are born and have equal dignity and should act in the spirit of brotherhood. Each human being is inviolable. This statement creates an issue when it comes to capital punishment. The punishment crosses the line and demonstrates the failure of the government, whether or not it is protecting human beings or not.