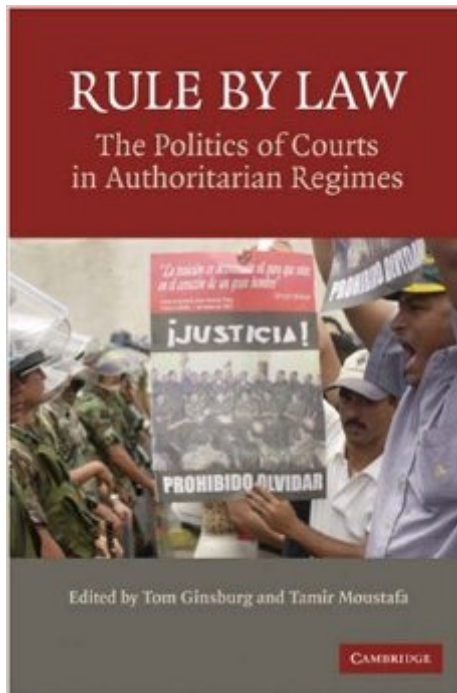


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Rule By Law: The Politics Of Courts In Authoritarian Regimes



Synopsis

Scholars have generally assumed that courts in authoritarian states are pawns of their regimes, upholding the interests of governing elites and frustrating the efforts of their opponents. As a result, nearly all studies in comparative judicial politics have focused on democratic and democratizing countries. This volume brings together leading scholars in comparative judicial politics to consider the causes and consequences of judicial empowerment in authoritarian states. It demonstrates the wide range of governance tasks that courts perform, as well as the way in which courts can serve as critical sites of contention both among the ruling elite and between regimes and their citizens. Drawing on empirical and theoretical insights from every major region of the world, this volume advances our understanding of judicial politics in authoritarian regimes.

Book Information

Paperback: 392 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press; 1 edition (May 8, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0521720419

ISBN-13: 978-0521720410

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #954,010 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #139 in [Books > Law > Legal Theory & Systems > Comparative](#) #535 in [Books > Law > Rules & Procedures > Courts](#) #910 in [Books > Law > Foreign & International Law](#)

Customer Reviews

I recently took a comparative constitutional law class at my law school. Even though my school is one of the best for international law, I felt it really lacked depth when we discussed courts in illiberal countries like China. Frankly, this book was much more useful than that class. I purchased this book because I am currently doing research on judicial systems in Asia under authoritarian control. The articles provide both a theoretical framework for how courts operate in such environments and a selection of case studies from all over the world. The overarching theme is that authoritarian regimes in many cases actually provide an illiberal form of rule of law for their courts, rather than simply treating them as a facade. I thought the chapters on Singapore (Silverstein), Chile (Hilbank), Egypt (Moustafa), and Turkey (Shambayati) were particularly insightful and made me look at

courts and judges in these regimes differently. On a personal note, I wish the book had included one more chapter looking at another judicial system in Asia. Given recent events last year, a chapter on Pakistan would have been very interesting. I also think the book would have benefitted from a chapter exploring the patronage and corruption that authoritarian leaders in Southeast Asia used to influence judges, such as Suharto in Indonesia or Mahathir in Malaysia. Overall, this is a great book and I hope it encourages more research in this field.

Great book, very expensive but also cutting edge on the politics of judicialization.

Timely service, and the book was exactly as described.

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