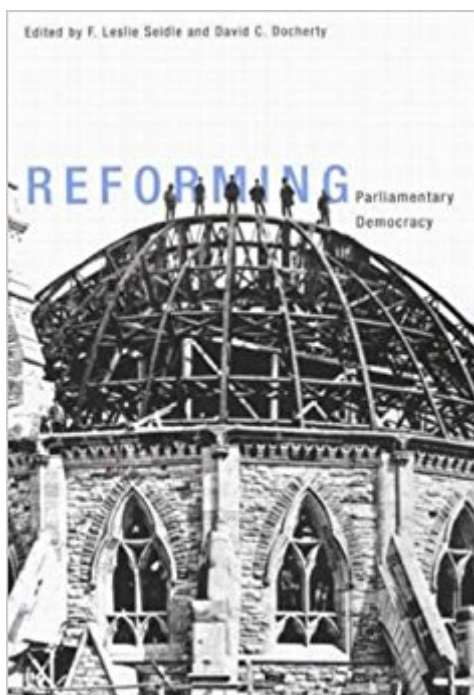


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# Reforming Parliamentary Democracy



## Synopsis

Parliamentary government's continuity is rooted in enduring principles such as citizen representation and accountability to the legislature. But parliamentary systems have evolved in response to changes in the societies they govern and in citizens' views about democratic practices. In this title, the authors demonstrate how, in their respective countries, parliamentary governments have combined stability with the capacity to adapt to such changes. They provide analyses of reforms to parliamentary institutions and governance in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. The authors address issues of representation - the move to a proportional electoral system in New Zealand, the unsuccessful attempt to establish a domestic head of state in Australia, and the reform of the British House of Lords - and demonstrate that citizens increasingly want legislative institutions to more closely reflect the societies they serve. To discuss responsiveness, the governance of indigenous communities and their place within the broader society in Canada and New Zealand are examined.

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"A significant contribution to the field of parliamentary studies both in respect to parliaments themselves and how they relate to other state institutions, such as courts. Comparative studies of Westminster-derived parliaments are few and far between, and this one does a good job of revealing how these legislatures continue to adapt to distinctive local circumstances." Anthony

Sayers, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary

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