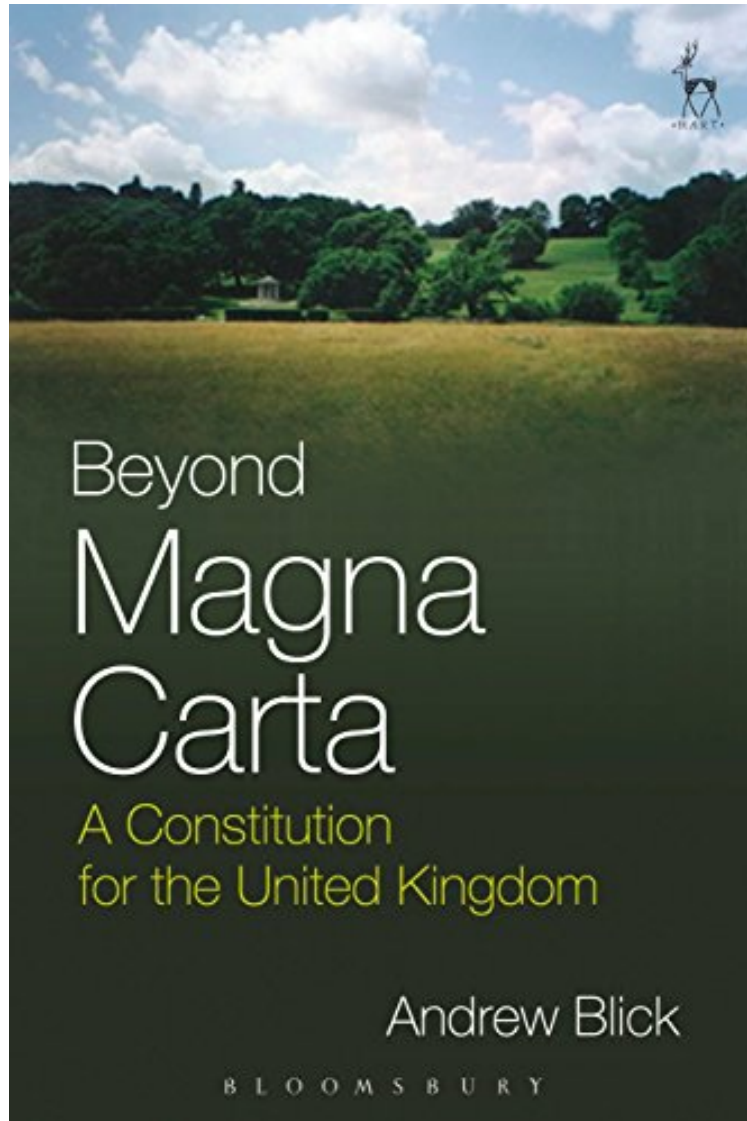


[Download] Beyond Magna Carta: A Constitution for the United Kingdom

# Beyond Magna Carta: A Constitution for the United Kingdom

Von Andrew Blick

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**Von Andrew Blick : Beyond Magna Carta: A Constitution for the United Kingdom** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond Magna Carta: A Constitution for the United Kingdom:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Are we? Von Phillip Taylor MBE ARE WE REALLY BEYOND MAGNA CARTA? CONSIDERING THE CASE FOR A WRITTEN UK CONSTITUTION. An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers In this 800th anniversary year of 2015, there have been almost countless books written about Magna Carta

and numerous celebrations to commemorate it on both sides of the Atlantic. With its fierce defiance of tyrannical and repressive rule, this now ancient document continues to inspire controversy and veneration almost in equal measure. It is fortunate, 800 years later, that the influence of Magna Carta continues to prevail, while still generating further controversy and discussion -- hence the recent publication of this erudite and fascinating book from the Hart Publishing imprint of Bloomsbury. Unlike most current publications on the subject of Magna Carta, this book places it in its historical context. Taking an almost panoramic view of the past eight centuries, the author Andrew Blick of Kings College, London, considers Magna Carta in the light of the social, political and constitutional developments which have followed it. In so doing, he constructs a detailed and carefully argued case as the subtitle indicates for a constitution for the United Kingdom. In case anyone needs reminding, the UK does have a constitution -- which is good. But in the view of many, its major flaw (or perpetually annoying disappointment) is that it is not written down, which is -- um -- not so good. The Americans have a written constitution, complete with amendments implemented from time to time, but in fact difficult to amend. The old Soviet Union certainly had a written constitution which successive dictators cynically ignored. The current Russian constitution, also written down, appears to be alarmingly vulnerable to the whims of whoever holds onto power. In the United Kingdom, an unwritten constitution has been traditionally regarded as more flexible, pragmatic and ultimately fairer for the very reason that it isn't written down. Instruments known as conventions do exist, however which function as mechanisms for change as social mores change. Conventions of the Constitution (which are not effectively binding in perpetuity) offer a level of flexibility which the US constitution does not apparently have. Nonetheless, Blick's arguments in favour of a written constitution are persuasive. In Parts I and II of the book, the reader is taken on a fascinating journey through English -- and subsequently UK history, focusing on those documents, (yes many of which were written) which have shaped or influenced UK constitutional development. In Part III Blick puts forward both the positive and negative case for creating a written constitution and furthermore tackles the practicalities of its actual presentation, including writing style and preamble. The book cannot fail to reveal, however, that there has been little political will to change the status quo and develop a written constitution; otherwise somewhere, sometime in the last 800 years, or notably recently particularly and possibly under Gordon Brown -- we would somehow have acquired one. Complex and convoluted arguments aside, the fundamental question regarding a written constitution for the UK pivots on whether it would be a step forward, or a step backward for this nation. The author therefore has created a valuable and meticulously researched study which should be read both by those who favour a written constitution -- and those who do not. Either way, the book is a valuable contribution to the corpus of literature and analysis on UK constitutional history. The publication date is cited as at 2015.

**Kurzbeschreibung** The 800th anniversary of Magna Carta falls in June 2015. In this work Dr Blick argues that this event should be the occasion for a reassessment of the past, present and future of the UK constitution. He draws on his experience as research fellow to the first ever parliamentary inquiry into the possibility of a written constitution for the UK. Dr Blick considers a series of English and UK historical texts from Anglo-Saxon times onwards, among which Magna Carta is the most prominent, which sought to set out arrangements for the governance of England and later the UK as a whole. He argues that they comprise a powerful tradition of written constitutional documents, and stresses the importance of the European dimension to their introduction and content. The author then considers the present nature of the UK constitution, describing the period of immense flux through which it has passed in recent decades, and the implications of this phase of change. Dr Blick identifies a need for a full written constitution for the UK as the next appropriate step. Finally, he discusses the democratic processes suitable to devising such a text, and what its contents might be. 'With this book Andrew Blick has made a major contribution to our understanding of how our system of government has worked in the past, how it is working or not working now, and what it could be in the future. Combing the centuries, he challenges many misconceptions and makes a powerful case for a written constitution. This volume is absolutely essential to anyone who wants to appreciate the real meaning of Magna Carta and why we should celebrate it.' Graham Allen MP, Chair, House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee 'Beyond Magna Carta brings together the utility of a road map with the fascination of a changing cartography of political thought all part of the constitutional development of these islands from the Great Charter of 1215 to the confusing aftermath of the Scottish Referendum of 2014. It is a superb work of explanation capped by intriguing suggestions of future possibilities.' Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield, FBA, Atlee Professor of Contemporary British History, Queen Mary, University of London. Pressestimmen... a valuable and meticulously researched study which should be read both by those who favour a written constitution - and those who do not... the book is a valuable contribution to the corpus of literature and analysis on UK constitutional history. -- Phillip Taylor MBE, Elizabeth Taylor The Clapham Omnibus, Summer 2015 Andrew Blick's highly intelligent Beyond Magna Carta combines a re-assessment of this ancient text with an argument for new constitutional writing in the UK in the future... -- Linda Colley Times Literary Supplement I recommend this book to all with an interest in British and Canadian history, political science or constitutional law. --

Sandra Geddes Canadian Law Library Kurzbeschreibung The 800th anniversary of Magna Carta falls in June 2015. In this work Dr Blick argues that this event should be the occasion for a reassessment of the past, present and future of the UK constitution. He draws on his experience as research fellow to the first ever parliamentary inquiry into the possibility of a written constitution for the UK. Dr Blick considers a series of English and UK historical texts from Anglo-Saxon times onwards, among which Magna Carta is the most prominent, which sought to set out arrangements for the governance of England and later the UK as a whole. He argues that they comprise a powerful tradition of written constitutional documents, and stresses the importance of the European dimension to their introduction and content. The author then considers the present nature of the UK constitution, describing the period of immense flux through which it has passed in recent decades, and the implications of this phase of change. Dr Blick identifies a need for a full written constitution for the UK as the next appropriate step. Finally, he discusses the democratic processes suitable to devising such a text, and what its contents might be. 'With this book Andrew Blick has made a major contribution to our understanding of how our system of government has worked in the past, how it is working or not working now, and what it could be in the future. Combing the centuries, he challenges many misconceptions and makes a powerful case for a written constitution. This volume is absolutely essential to anyone who wants to appreciate the real meaning of Magna Carta and why we should celebrate it.' Graham Allen MP, Chair, House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee 'Beyond Magna Carta brings together the utility of a road map with the fascination of a changing cartography of political thought all part of the constitutional development of these islands from the Great Charter of 1215 to the confusing aftermath of the Scottish Referendum of 2014. It is a superb work of explanation capped by intriguing suggestions of future possibilities.' Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield, FBA, Attlee Professor of Contemporary British History, Queen Mary, University of London.