

Hong Kong's Constitutional Debates

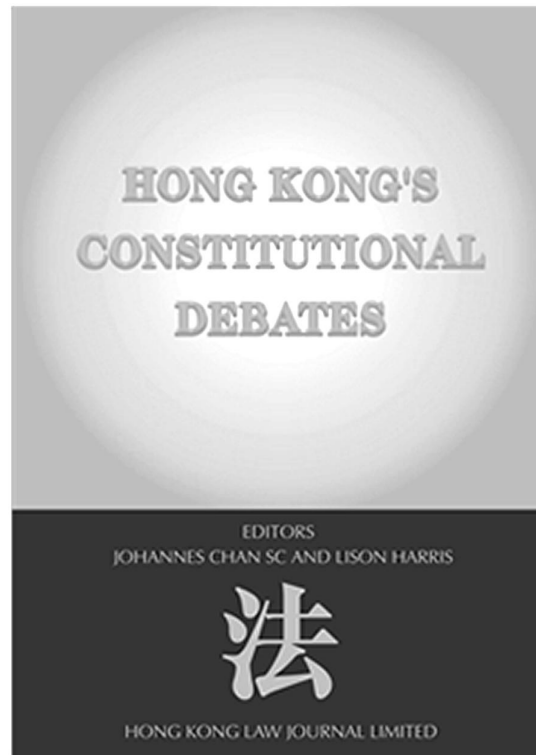
Edited by Johannes Chan SC and Lison Harris

Hong Kong is at a crossroads in its democratic development. The Hong Kong government has taken control of debates about the direction of development, through the reports of the Task Force on Constitutional Development, and Central Government has further limited the available choices through its interpretations of the Basic Law. This book examines the principles that should guide the discussion of Hong Kong's constitutional development and the constraints placed on that reform, and constructively explores the opportunities for significant democratic change that may be achieved within those constraints.

The first part of the book revisits some fundamental principles. The second part focuses on functional constituencies and advocates for the reform of functional constituencies system and the possibility of a bicameral system. The third part of the book is a comparative study on the development of political parties in a democratic system. The last part considers the way forward. It also includes the texts of the four Task Force reports issued up to December 2004, the Interpretations of the Basic Law by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) of April 2004 and April 2005, the Chief Executive's Report of April 2004, and the Decision of the NPCSC of April 2004, all in one handy volume. Published on the eve of the publication of the 5th consultation document on political reform in Hong Kong, this book will provide a useful contribution to the debates.

The contributors comprise well-known academics and international commentators, including* Professor Cai Dingjian (Peking University), Professor Johannes Chan, Professor Albert Chen, Professor Richard Cullen (Monash University, Melbourne, Australia), Dr Michael DeGolyer (Hong Kong Baptist University), Professor Yash Ghai, Lison Harris, Ma Ngok (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), Dr Sing Ming (City University of Hong Kong), Benny Tai, Laura Thornton (National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, Singapore), Peter Wesley-Smith, and Simon Young.

* Contributors are from the University of Hong Kong, unless otherwise indicated.



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