

Adam Liptak (Sunday, March 14, 2010, p. WR 1,5) writes it is good we are having a national debate on what the US Constitution means. But the underlying issue is never discussed: the dangerous obsolescence of the once-inspiring social invention called the Constitution of the United States.

No other institution in our lives is as utterly old-fashioned as is our structure and philosophy of governance. Everything about our individual, social, and environmental lives now is different from what they were in 1789. And yet the Constitution is "the nation's sacred text" (as Adam Liptak wrote) that we seem forbidden to question much less to consider replacing. So we are left to fume and fight over crippling symptoms while the root cause remains beyond our intelligence to address.

That need not be. There are ideas and viable proposals for governance beyond "constitutionalism" that deserve serious public discussion.

Jim Dator  
Department of Political Science  
University of Hawaii

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