

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW IN CHINA

XU CHONGDE
NIU WENZHAN



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XU Chongde was born in Qingpu, Shanghai in 1929. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the Department of Law, Fudan University in 1951, and after obtaining his Graduate Certificate, started his teaching career at the School of Law, Renmin University of China in 1953. Xu Chongde was appointed as Professor and Tutor of Doctoral Students in 1986 and has been teaching Constitutional Law at the University since then. Beginning in the late 1980s, he has been invited to lecture at the University of Macao, the City University of Hong Kong, Seoul National University, Chungang University, New York State University, Yale University, and Ritsumeikan Uni-

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In 1954, Xu Chongde, was a contributor to the drafting of the *Constitution of 1954*, engaging in collecting relevant information. In 1979, he participated in the draft and revision of the *Organic Law of Local People's Congresses and Governments at All Levels* and the *Election Law*. From 1980 to 1982, as a member of the Secretariat of the 'Constitutional Revision Committee', he was involved in the drafting of the current Constitution. He was nominated by the Standing Committee of The National People's Congress (NPC) as a member of the drafting committee for the *Basic Law of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region* in 1985 and for the *Basic Law of Macao Special Administrative Region* in 1988. Also, he was nominated by the Standing Committee of the NPC as a member of the preparatory committee of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 1995 and of the Macao Special Administrative Region in 1998; thus witnessing the establishment of two special administrative regions.

At present, Xu Chongde is a member of the academic committee of the Law Society of China and Honorary President of the Constitution Research Association of China, and has also held offices as Vice President of the Political Research Association of China, the editor of the Political System volume of the Chinese Encyclopaedia, among other positions. Xu Chongde has been engaged in teaching and legal research since 1953 and has made bold innovations to the structure of constitutional textbooks. Some of his research results and opinions regarding the matters, for instance, that the President of The People's Republic of China (PRC) shall 'engage

The Authors

in activities involving State affairs' and the protection of human rights should be written into the Constitution have been accepted by the central authority.

Xu Chongde has published 318 academic articles to date, and published scholarly works, as author, contributor, or chief editor, of 75 different categories of books, including the *Constitutional History of the PRC*, *Discussing the Constitution by Learning*, *Theory of Power Division*, *Head of State*. One of the textbooks, *Constitutional Law of China* by the Press of Renmin University in 1988, has been published several times with over one million copies issued. *The Constitutional History of the PRC* won the Special Prize for outstanding achievement at the Eighth Beijing Philosophy and Social Sciences Congress in 2004 and again gained the Special Award of the Fifth Wu Yuzhang Humanities and Social Science Congress in 2007. Xu Chongde was designated, through online national voting hosted by China Central Television (CCTV), as the leading Rule of Law Figure in 2004. In January 2009, he was granted an Outstanding Contribution Certificate by the Beijing Education Committee and Beijing Degree Committee.



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