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* COMPARATIVE *

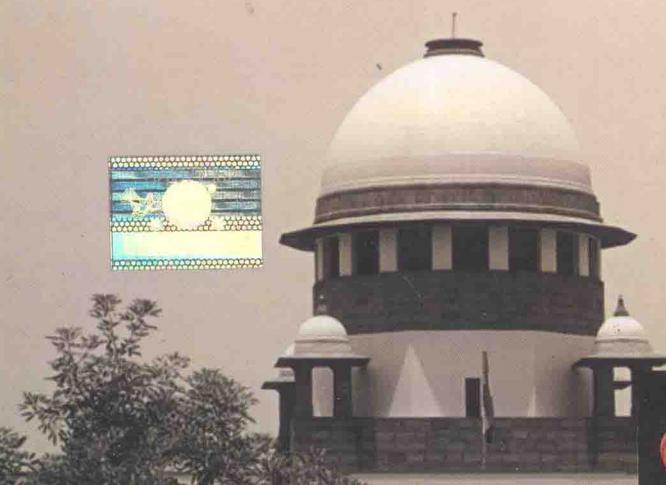
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*** LAW ***

3RD EDITION

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JUSTICE G B PATNAIK
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Dr Durga Das Basu

Comparative Constitutional Law

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Preface

An incomparable treatise on comparative Constitution for Post-Graduate Degrees in Political Science and Law, for various Universities. Broad perspective and scope of the Comparative Study of Constitutional Law, History of Constitution-Making and its Development in India, Natural Justice, Departures from Foreign Precedents., Bill of Rights, Judicial Decision Violating Due Process, Scope of the Present Work, The Basic Concepts Involved, Incidents and Justiciability of a Written Constitution, Interpretation of the Constitution, Equality and Rule of Law, Final Interpretation of Constitution, Extraneous Evidence: Admissibility of Amendability of the Constitution, The Constitution as Higher Law, The Written Constitution as a Limitation, The Principle against Delegation of Constitutional Powers as a Limitation, Judicial Review, Role of Judiciary and the Doctrine of State Action etc. This edition has incorporated precedents till early 2014 of major Constitutions; updating the book substantially without tinkering with the monumental work of Dr. Basu. Our efforts would have failed but for the able inputs by the Lexis Nexis editorial team and Sri. Arvind Tiwary, Advocate.

G B Patnaik

Yasobant Das

Rita Das

Preface to the Second Edition

Dr D D Basu is not known in legal realms by his name alone but it is because of his maturity of understanding, excellence of elucidation and simplicity of expression which ranks him at the top amongst Indian Authors known, read and acclaimed throughout India and abroad. Amongst many of his outstanding works "Comparative Constitutional Law and Comparative Federalism" have always been recognized as unparalleled and incomparable works with any other book on the subject, much because of the in-depth study of special features and incidents of a Federal Constitution, from the standpoint of comparative law in addition to the exhaustive and analytical study of the theme and thought of Comparative Federalism.

The eloquence of the earlier edition was superb much because of excerpts from Constitutions of almost all the developed and developing countries with cross references of decisions on the intricacies of Comparative Constitutional Law and Comparative Federalism as interpreted by numerous Courts at national and international levels.

The plan of the Series of which this book is presented as the first volume, is unique and unprecedented inasmuch as though there are classical treatises on the Constitutional Law of different countries, such as the U.K. or the U.S.A., there is hardly any treatise (apart from casebooks) which discusses the principles of Constitutional Law on a comparative and global level.

There are also works on Comparative Polities or Comparative Government which deal with the provisions of different Constitutions from the institutional aspect and the working of those provisions from the political standpoint. The present work, on the other hand, is concerned with the *legal* interpretation of the various Constitutions and the universal propositions emerging therefrom. Though professedly a work of research, it does not offer an essay into abstruse philosophy or legal mysticism, divorced from the needs for the daily bread of the practitioner or the law reformer. It deals, critically, with burning topics which currently agitate the public mind, in different lands; for instance, the doctrines of 'basic features', 'political questions', 'separation of powers', 'rule of law', 'prospective overruling', 'due process', rights to human dignity and privacy, constitutionality of capital punishment; and suggests solutions to the problems in the background of the special circumstances of each particular country and its national Constitution which call for variations, if any, in the application of the general principles arrived at on a comparative study.

Since the study proceeds on the basis of the highest juristic principles about which there is a fair consensus amongst Judges and academicians, a particular judicial pronouncement is not taken as the last word on the point it decides, but as a deduction from or illustration of the principles enunciated. Tested on the touchstone of immanent principles, criticism would not be lacking wherever a Court has unfortunately been diverted from those principles by the gust of sentiments, political slogans or the like.

This first Volume has been given the title of the entire Series, because it is designed as an introduction to as well as an epitome of the message of the entire Series. A cursory glance at

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its pages will show how wide is the sweep of the survey, including the decisions of the highest tribunals, with the relevant constitutional tests, not only of the major countries like the U.K. the U.S.A., Australia, Canada, Eire, Japan, West Germany, India but also so far afield as Malaysia, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Nigeria, Malta, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla, Southern Rhodesia, Jamaica, Bermuda, Leeward Islands.

Though the discussion is primarily concerned with the constitutional law of the countries which have adopted the Anglo-American system, occasional reference has been made, by way of contrast, to the Constitutions of countries like the U.S.S.R., China or France which do not have Judicial Review and cannot, therefore, offer judicial decisions containing legal interpretation of those respective Constitutions.

In view of the encyclopaedic nature of this book it would not be possible to reproduce the relevant texts of the Constitutions dealt with herein. So far as foreign Constitutions are concerned, it would be advisable for the reader to keep on his table a copy of the Author's "Select Constitutions of the World" so that the reader's information might be precise and correct.

With all available resources at our end, expertise acquired and experience earned in the field, we have tried our level best to match more than the expectations of our distinguished readers and research scholars who are always in the quest of the latest.

We are really grateful and truly indebted to our esteemed readers whose urge to delve deeper and deeper in the mines of knowledge, led us to do our level best in the revision of this work. The utility of this work and the purpose of this edition would only be achieved in case this publication is found to be of any help to our esteemed readers and erudite scholars.

16 November, 2007

Editors

Preface to the First Edition

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Thanks are due to the Banaras Hindu University which offered the opportunity of delivering the nucleus of this Volume as the B.H.U. Honorary Professorship Lectures, 1981. Since

Preface to the First Edition

then the contents have been much enlarged and embellished and the case-law has been updated till the end of 1983.

It is not practicable to reproduce the entire text of the Constitutions referred to in this book. For the text of the major Constitutions (other than India), the reader is advised to keep by his side the Author's *Select Constitutions of the World*, and for the text of the Indian Constitution, he may refer to the Author's *Constitutional Law of India*, which is almost an annual publication and therefore offers an up-to-date text, incorporating the latest amendments, as far as possible.

August 1984
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