

'Very few rights are absolute, and "accommodation" of conflicting rights and interests is the hallmark of any successful system of governance. Accommodation in response to competing identities is particularly necessary to address many of the tensions in modern states, whether we refer to the relevant principles as minority rights, promotion of diversity, multiculturalism, or devolution of power. This volume offers practical as well as theoretical guidance drawn from a number of important case studies, and it is a welcome contribution to the debate over what democracy really means.' — **Hurst Hannum**, *Professor of International Law, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA*

'This book offers a very good up-to-date analysis of some of the key issues and empirical cases related to the recognition and political accommodation of national minorities in multinational democracies. In recent years, this subject has undergone a change that points to the revision of theories of democracy and federalism in multinational polities as well as in multi-level systems of governance and secessionist processes. Political science and constitutional law are the two balanced approaches presented in the essays of this volume. It is certain to become an academic reference for any reader interested in minority nations and their political and constitutional accommodation in nationally divided societies.'

— **Ferran Requejo**, *Professor of Political Science at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain*

This collection presents a nuanced analysis of a wide variety of cases that cover the spectrum of constitutional strategies of accommodation used by multinational states such as Canada, Spain, and the UK. Although constitutionalism has traditionally been the primary mechanism for facilitating the mutual accommodation of national diversity, there is a need to bridge comparative politics and comparative constitutional law through a meaningful interdisciplinary dialogue. The notion of accommodation in plurinational polities needs to be unpacked and disaggregated, and all of its multiple dimensions analyzed, in order to integrate comparative politics and comparative constitutional law into the analysis. In addition to the well-known cases of Canada-Quebec, Spain-Catalonia, UK-Scotland, this book includes analyses of China (Hong Kong and Macau), Finland (Åland Islands), Puerto Rico, Valle d'Aosta, South Tyrol, and Corsica.

The essays in the book explore three fundamental dimensions of the politics of accommodation: constitutionalism, political culture, and nationalism. Adopting a syncretistic approach to the multiple dimensions of the politics of accommodation, this book opens up new intellectual vistas, and provides the reader with an appreciation of the contribution that political science perspectives can make to law, and how law and jurisprudence can enrich the study of politics.

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Constitutionalism and the Politics of Accommodation  
in Multinational Democracies

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St Antony's Series

