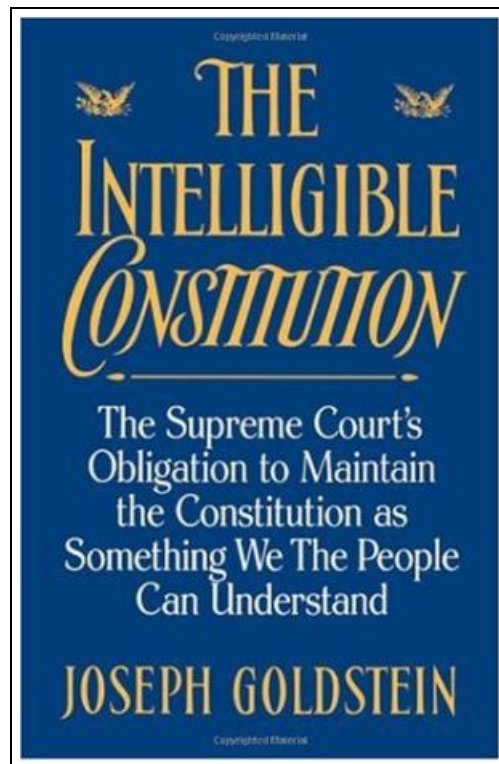


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Reviews




An exceptional publication as well as the font employed was exciting to see. it was actually writtern extremely flawlessly and helpful. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.
(Dominic Collins)

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Oxford University Press, 1995. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New book, never been read. In *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, a critical abortion rights case, a bitterly divided Supreme Court produced no less than six different opinions. Writing for the plurality, Chief Justice Rehnquist attacked the trimester framework established in *Roe v. Wade* because it was "not found in the text of the Constitution or in any place else one would expect to find a constitutional principle." This approach, writes legal authority Joseph Goldstein, confuses constitutional principles (in this case, the right to privacy) with the means to protect them (here, the trimester system). As a result, the Court left the public bewildered about the constitutional scope of a woman's right to reproductive choice -- failing in its duty to speak clearly to the American public about the Constitution. In *The Intelligible Constitution*, Goldstein makes a compelling argument that, in a democracy based upon informed consent, the Supreme Court has an obligation to communicate clearly and candidly to We the People when it interprets the Constitution. After a fascinating discussion of the language of the Constitution and Supreme Court opinions (including the analysis of *Webster*), he presents a series of opinion studies in important cases, focusing not on ideology but on the Justices' clarity of thought and expression. Using the two *Brown v. Board of Education* cases, *Cooper v. Aaron*, *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, and others as his examples, Goldstein demonstrates the pitfalls to which the Court has succumbed in the past: Writing deliberately ambiguous decisions to win the votes of colleagues, challenging each others' opinions in private but not in public, and not speaking honestly when the writer knows a concurring Justice misunderstands the opinion which he or she is supporting. Even some landmark decisions, he...

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