1. Defining the Constitution?

This chapter identifies evaluative criteria that readers may keep in mind when considering the description and analysis of Britain’s current constitutional arrangements presented in the rest of the book, and discusses the essential features of a democratic state. It considers hypothetical examples of democratic governance and the notion of a constitution as a social and political contract, as well as the solutions adopted by the American revolutionaries to resolve the constitutional difficulties they faced when the United States became an independent country.

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1. Defining the Constitution?

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