This chapter assesses the rule of law. The rule of law is a constitutional
value or principle which measures good governance, fair law-making, and
applying law in a just way. It acts as a protecting mechanism by
preventing state officials from acting unfairly, unlawfully, arbitrarily, or
oppressively. These are also key terms in judicial review. The rule of law
is also regarded as an external measure for what a state does; if the rule
of law breaks down in a state, it will fail to function in an internationally
acceptable way. Ultimately, the core meaning of the rule of law is that the
law binds everyone. This includes those in government, who must obey
the law. Moreover, any action taken by the government must be
authorised by law, that is, government needs lawful authority to act.

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7. Rule of law