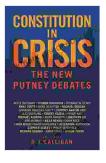
The Constitution in Crisis: The New Putney Debates

The United States Constitution is a foundational document that has served as the framework for American government and society for over two centuries. However, in recent years, the Constitution has come under increasing scrutiny and debate, leading many to question its relevance and effectiveness in the 21st century.



Constitution in Crisis: The New Putney Debates

by David Schmidtz	
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One of the most pressing challenges facing the Constitution is the rise of hyper-partisanship and political polarization. The two major political parties in the United States, the Democrats and Republicans, have become increasingly entrenched in their ideologies, making it difficult to find common ground and compromise on important issues. This has led to gridlock in Congress and a general sense of dysfunction in the federal government. Another challenge facing the Constitution is the growing influence of money in politics. Wealthy individuals and corporations have been able to use their financial resources to exert undue influence on the political process, often at the expense of the average citizen. This has led to concerns about corruption and the erosion of democratic principles.

Finally, the Constitution is also facing challenges from external forces, such as the rise of global terrorism and the increasing interconnectedness of the world. These challenges require new and innovative approaches that may not be fully addressed by the current framework of the Constitution.

In light of these challenges, there is a growing movement to reform the Constitution. This movement, known as the "New Putney Debates," is named after the Putney Debates of 1647, which were a series of discussions held by the English Parliament to debate the future of the English government. The New Putney Debates are a similar attempt to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss the future of the U.S. Constitution.

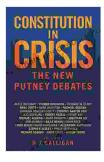
There are a wide range of proposals for reforming the Constitution, including:

- Amending the Constitution to overturn Citizens United, the Supreme Court ruling that allowed corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts of money on political campaigns.
- Creating a new constitutional convention to rewrite the Constitution from scratch.
- Passing a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College and implement a popular vote for president.

- Passing a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of Supreme Court justices.
- Passing a constitutional amendment to create a new independent commission to redraw congressional districts.

The New Putney Debates are still in their early stages, and it is unclear what the outcome will be. However, the growing recognition that the Constitution is facing serious challenges is a positive sign. By engaging in a thoughtful and open discussion about the future of our founding document, we can ensure that it remains a vital and relevant force for generations to come.

The U.S. Constitution is a remarkable document that has served the country well for over two centuries. However, it is not perfect, and it is facing new and unprecedented challenges in the 21st century. The New Putney Debates are a vital and necessary step in addressing these challenges and ensuring that the Constitution remains a strong foundation for American democracy.



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