

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vii
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Nature and evolution of the Constitution of the French Fifth Republic: reflections on semi-presidentialism</b>	<b>11</b>
1.1 <i>A semi-presidential Constitution?</i>	11
1.2 <i>Theoretical framework</i>	12
1.3 <i>Original institutional arrangement and its evolutions</i>	15
1.4 <i>'Elasticity' of the Constitution</i>	24
1.5 <i>Towards a postmodern (or second modern) system of government?</i>	35
<b>2 The greening of the French Republic: the constitutionalisation of the environment</b>	<b>37</b>
2.1 <i>A new French bill of (environmental) rights</i>	37
2.2 <i>The interesting historical development of the Charter</i>	39
2.3 <i>From an expected impact to multiple impacts on the French legal system</i>	44
2.4 <i>A 'greener' constitutional future</i>	53
Appendix: <i>Article 2 of the Constitutional amendment incorporating the Charter for the Environment into the French Constitution</i>	54
<b>3 Human rights (in practice) and the French Republic: the example of exclusion</b>	<b>56</b>
3.1 <i>Preliminary remarks on exclusion</i>	57
3.2 <i>Human rights in action</i>	61
3.3 <i>Conclusion</i>	70

<b>4</b>	<b>The French Republic and its supranational offspring: the love–hate relationship between France and European law</b>	<b>72</b>
	<i>4.1 Introduction</i>	72
	<i>4.2 Position of European law in relation to the French Constitution</i>	75
	<i>4.3 Position of EC/EU law in relation to French statute law</i>	79
	<i>4.4 Recent developments</i>	82
	<i>4.5 Conclusion</i>	84
<b>5</b>	<b>Principle of indivisibility of the French Republic and the people’s right to self-determination: the ‘New Caledonia test’</b>	<b>87</b>
	<i>5.1 Introduction</i>	87
	<i>5.2 General context</i>	88
	<i>5.3 Administration of New Caledonia before the statute of 1999</i>	90
	<i>5.4 Administration of New Caledonia under the statute of 1999</i>	94
	<i>5.5 Is New Caledonia closer than ever to independence?</i>	100
	<i>5.6 Conclusion</i>	106
<b>6</b>	<b>The French Republic, its language and the paradigm of unity</b>	<b>108</b>
	<i>6.1 Introduction</i>	108
	<i>6.2 Monolingualism as an aid to the construction of France and the Republic: the myth of one language unifying internal minorities</i>	113
	<i>6.3 From the affirmation of monolingualism to the recognition of pluri-linguism: the reality of pluri-linguistic (internal and external) minorities</i>	118
	<i>6.4 Conclusion</i>	127
	<i>Conclusion</i>	129
	<i>Notes</i>	133
	<i>References</i>	175
	<i>Index</i>	190