Constitutionalism

in the Post–Cold War World

As we approach the twenty-first century, the world is undergoing rapid and wide-ranging legal and political changes. The Cold War has ended. New democratic institutions are being introduced in the former Soviet Bloc and many parts of Africa and Latin America. Europe is moving toward unification. There is a growing prospect of a general reform of the United Nations. Law, especially constitutional law, is playing a large and vital role in these events. These changes and challenges provided the backdrop for this Symposium, held at Yale Law School on March 27–28, 1993.

The Property Rights Panel considered the role of property rights in the nascent democracies of Eastern Europe and in the constitutional scheme of states in general. The Federalism Panel reviewed Alice Rivlin’s book *Reviving the American Dream* and discussed how the experience of federalism in Germany and Canada can inform our assessment of the book’s plan for strengthening federalism in the United States (and possibly elsewhere). The Judiciary Panel examined the institutional role of courts during transitional periods, focusing in particular on the constitutional courts that have recently emerged in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The Human Rights Panel discussed the extent to which constitutions should contain uniform norms, such as those of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The remarks that follow were selected for publication by the Editorial Board of *The Yale Journal of International Law*. The Editorial Board thanks all of the participants for making the Symposium a success.
Symposium Participants

Introductory Remarks
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