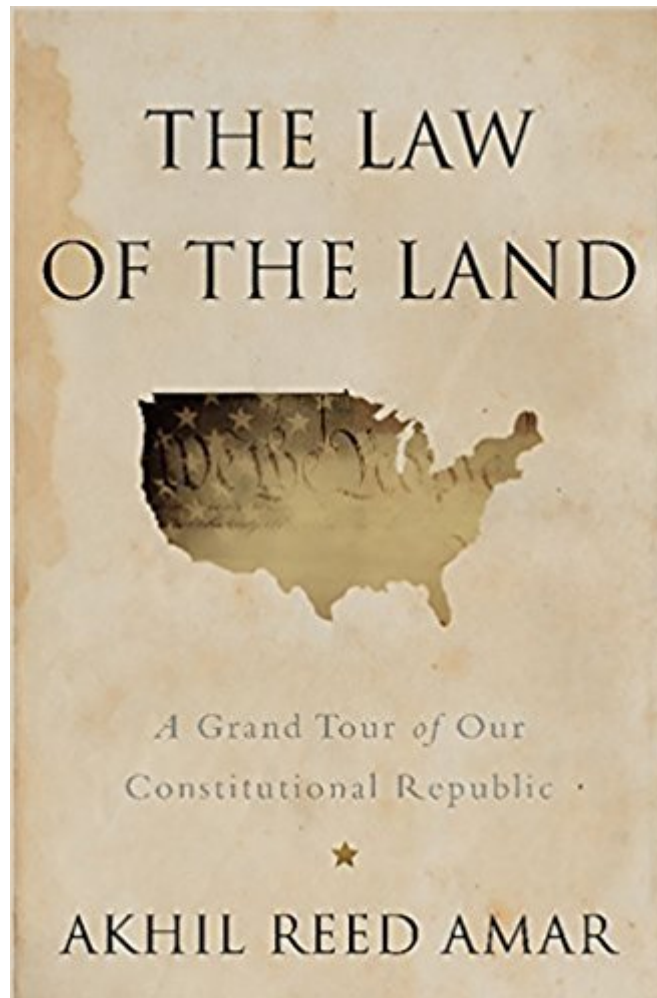




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# The Law Of The Land: A Grand Tour Of Our Constitutional Republic



## Synopsis

From Kennebunkport to Kauai, from the Rio Grande to the Northern Rockies, ours is a vast republic. While we may be united under one Constitution, separate and distinct states remain, each with its own constitution and culture. Geographic idiosyncrasies add more than just local character. Regional understandings of law and justice have shaped and reshaped our nation throughout history. America's Constitution, our founding and unifying document, looks slightly different in California than it does in Kansas. In *The Law of the Land*, renowned legal scholar Akhil Reed Amar illustrates how geography, federalism, and regionalism have influenced some of the biggest questions in American constitutional law. Writing about Illinois, "the land of Lincoln," Amar shows how our sixteenth president's ideas about secession were influenced by his Midwestern upbringing and outlook. All of today's Supreme Court justices, Amar notes, learned their law in the Northeast, and New Yorkers of various sorts dominate the judiciary as never before. The curious *Bush v. Gore* decision, Amar insists, must be assessed with careful attention to Florida law and the Florida Constitution. The second amendment appears in a particularly interesting light, he argues, when viewed from the perspective of Rocky Mountain cowboys and cowgirls. Propelled by Amar's distinctively smart, lucid, and engaging prose, these essays allow general readers to see the historical roots of, and contemporary solutions to, many important constitutional questions. *The Law of the Land* illuminates our nation's history and politics, and shows how America's various local parts fit together to form a grand federal framework.

## Customer Reviews

Washington Post "In the era of blue states and red states, it is a challenge to develop new theories about the governance of our country. In *The Law of the Land*, Yale Law School professor Akhil Reed Amar has done just that by examining a range of issues involving the Constitution and the Supreme Court through the lens of geographical differences.... Amar is one of the leading constitutional scholars in the country and an extremely creative thinker. The book is at its best when he explores some of his own elegant constitutionalism to explain the work of justices or insights about the Constitution." • Wall Street Journal "[Amar's] latest effort, *The Law of the Land*, reflects both his devotion and his creativity. The essays here are civics lessons, artfully blending the conventional with the controversial. The prose is graceful and livened by an easy sense of humor.... We can all learn from following him on his travels across the continent." • Los Angeles Review of Books "[*The Law of the Land*] is profound in its insights about the United States Constitution.... The book is filled with fascinating and important discussions of constitutional issues.... Amar's

analysis is consistently original.... Amar has written a fascinating book on constitutional history.â •

Akhil Reed Amar is Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University. Author of America's Constitution and America's Unwritten Constitution and the winner of awards from the American Bar Association and the Federalist Society, among others, Amar lives in Woodbridge, Connecticut.

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