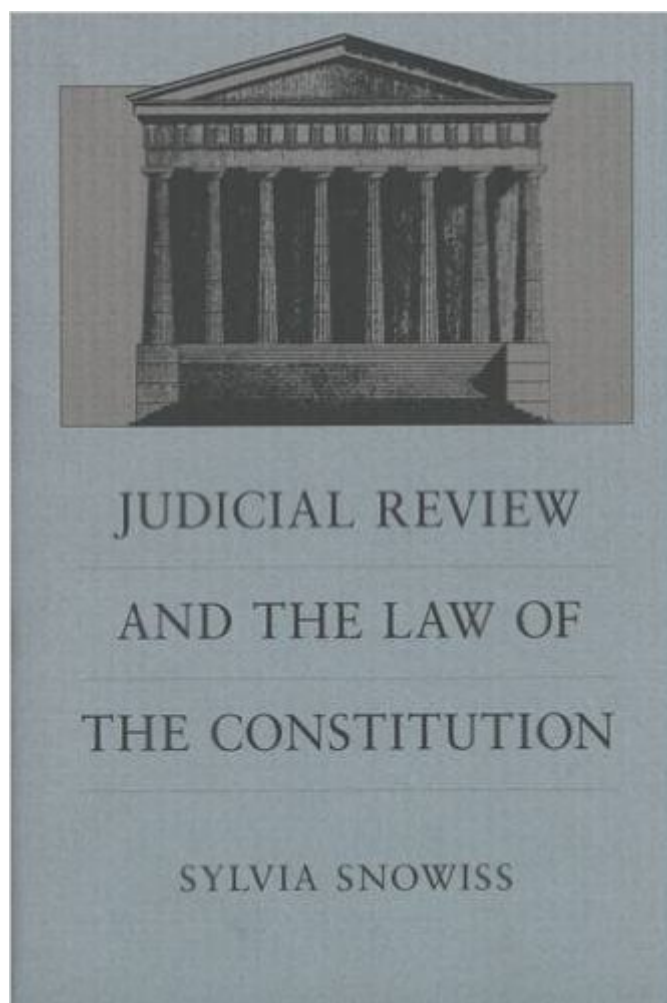


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# Judicial Review And The Law Of The Constitution



## Synopsis

In this book, the author presents a new interpretation of the origin of judicial review. She traces the development of judicial review from American independence through the tenure of John Marshall as Chief Justice, showing that Marshall's role was far more innovative and decisive than has yet been recognized. According to the author all support for judicial review before Marshall contemplated a fundamentally different practice from that which we know today. Marshall did not simply reinforce or extend ideas already accepted but, in superficially minor and disguised ways, effected a radical transformation in the nature of the constitution and the judicial relationship to it. The author argues that originally constitutional limits were understood to be a statement of first political principles committed to writing. Through carefully crafted opinions and without public recognition Marshall transformed these principles into supreme written law. Simultaneously he changed judicial review from the defense of principle in circumstances of clear violation into routine application and interpretation of constitutional text. The last chapter probes the implications of this analysis for contemporary controversies about judicial review.

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Brilliant and Controversial, Snowiss provides a compelling interpretation of the Supreme Court in the Early Republic. A must read for scholars of the era.

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