

The Evangelical Origins Of The Living Constitution

The "living Constitution" is a theory of constitutional interpretation that holds that the Constitution is a living document that should be interpreted in light of changing circumstances. This theory is often contrasted with the "originalist" theory of constitutional interpretation, which holds that the Constitution should be interpreted according to its original meaning.



The Evangelical Origins of the Living Constitution

by John W. Compton

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The living Constitution theory has its roots in the evangelical Protestant tradition. Evangelicals believe that the Bible is a living document that should be interpreted in light of changing circumstances. They also believe that the Holy Spirit guides believers in their understanding of the Bible. These beliefs have led some evangelicals to argue that the Constitution should be interpreted in the same way.

One of the most influential proponents of the living Constitution theory was the evangelical pastor and theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. Niebuhr argued that the Constitution was a "living document" that should be interpreted in light of changing circumstances. He also argued that the Holy Spirit guides believers in their understanding of the Constitution. Niebuhr's ideas were influential in the development of the living Constitution theory, and they continue to be influential among evangelicals today.

The living Constitution theory has been used to justify a wide range of judicial decisions. For example, the Supreme Court has used the living Constitution theory to justify decisions on issues such as abortion, affirmative action, and same-sex marriage. The living Constitution theory has also been used to justify judicial activism, which is the practice of judges using their own personal beliefs to interpret the Constitution.

The living Constitution theory is a controversial theory of constitutional interpretation. Critics of the theory argue that it is too vague and that it gives judges too much power. They also argue that the theory is based on a flawed understanding of the Bible. Defenders of the living Constitution theory argue that it is a necessary theory of constitutional interpretation in a changing world. They also argue that the theory is based on a sound understanding of the Bible.

The living Constitution theory is a complex and controversial theory of constitutional interpretation. It has been used to justify a wide range of judicial decisions, and it continues to be influential among evangelicals today.

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