The rule of law is a cornerstone of contemporary constitutional democracy as was underscored by its role in cementing the recent transitions from authoritarian to constitutional democracy. The rule of law and the legitimacy of constitutional democracy basically mean that laws should govern a people. While it is true that the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land, it does provide the foundation upon which all other bodies of law at both the federal and state levels are derived. Constitutional democracy and the rule of law in South Africa are examples of how these principles are applied.

On the one hand, they reveal rule-of-law foundations for some contested positions, such as a free press. The rule of law, like democracy, is one of our most basic political commitments. Others have looked to its complexions in constitutional discourse. The Rule of Law - Foundation of Constitutional Democracy, A joint initiative of the Kofi Annan Foundation and International IDEA.
The rule of law is the alternative to rule by caprice. A constitution is a statement of what constitutes the philosophy of the relationship between citizens and their government. Without the stability of laws that express that philosophical constitution, laws that will be honored over time and across the population, there is no predictability in how authorities will act. The functional aspect of rule of law is the principle of equal protection under the law. A constitution is a voluntary surrendering of what I might be capable of doing (owning slaves, violating another’s property) Democracy and the Rule of Law - edited by José María Maravall July 2003. Ip, Eric C. 2016. Constitutional Conflict in Hong Kong Under Chinese Sovereignty. Hague Journal on the Rule of Law, Vol. 8, Issue. 1, p. 75. CrossRef. Google Scholar. Google Scholar Citations. View all Google Scholar citations for this chapter. Scopus Citations. Responsible government and parliamentary democracy are oriented towards the common good and make self-government possible. They form part of a shared constitutional tradition and their political foundation is the joint commitment of the people of the United Kingdom to be governed by way of these arrangements, which unite them in common action. The devolutionary settlements were introduced and have been extended in this way. It would also compromise the judicial capacity to contribute to the rule of law and would institute a mode of government that is not well-placed to secure the common good.