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CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY (rev. ed.), by Carl J. Friedrich. Ginn and Company, Boston. 1950. Pp. xvi, 688.; INTERPRETATION OF UNIFORM COMMERCIAL LAWS, by Frederick K. Beutel. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., Indianapolis, 1950. Pp. xxiii, 881.

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Book Notes

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY (rev. ed.), by Carl J. Friedrich. Ginn and Company, Boston. 1950. Pp. xvi, 688.

The conflict between the United States and Soviet Russia, the author points out, is a conflict of ideas concerning government, economics and the good life, but more especially concerning constitutionalism. "For while both parties to the global antithesis proclaim themselves champion of democracy—both making it amply clear that they do not mean what the others mean—it is only the Western powers who insist upon constitutionalism." In this setting the assessment of constitutional democracy in all its ramified manifestations, theoretical and practical, is an important and urgent task for all of us. The author, professor of government at Harvard University, undertakes this assessment by analyzing the nature and development of constitutional democracy, its patterns and functioning processes and its tensions, breakdowns and adjustments. Professor Friedrich brings to his task a deep learning, and incisive thinking. The reward for the reader will be some keen insights into the philosophy of our government and a truer understanding why "constitutionalism is probably the greatest achievement of modern civilization, without which little or none of the rest is conceivable."

INTERPRETATION OF UNIFORM COMMERCIAL LAWS, by Frederick K. Beutel. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., Indianapolis, 1950. Pp. xxiii, 881.

Every lawyer knows that commercial law problems do not come across his desk neatly labeled "sales," "negotiable instruments," "letters of credit" and so on. Instead the problems cut across several fields at the same time, often inextricably so. This points up the need for a unified commercial law course, treating the problems as a whole in a realistic context. Professor Beutel has intended to provide a casebook for such a course. Unfortunately it does not seem to do the job as well as it might have. The book unduly deals with negotiable instruments and virtually ignores large areas of commercial law that deserve treatment. A welcome element in the volume is the handling of statutory materials which is done more thoroughly than in most prior casebooks.