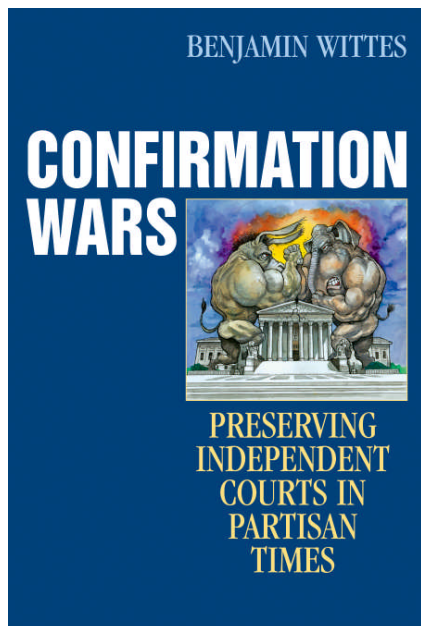


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CONFIRMATION WARS

*Preserving Independent Courts
in Partisan Times*

By Benjamin Wittes

In *Confirmation Wars*, *Washington Post* editorial writer Benjamin Wittes examines the degradation of the judicial nominations process over the past fifty years—including the recent confirmations of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito.

Drawing on years of experience reporting on judicial nominations, including numerous interviews with nominees and sitting judges, Wittes explains how the process has changed and how these changes threaten the independence of the courts. Getting beyond the partisan blame game that dominates most discussion of nominations, he argues that changes represent an institutional response by Congress to modern judicial power and urges for basic reforms to better insulate the judiciary system from the nastiness of contemporary politics. *Confirmation Wars* is published in cooperation with the Hoover Institute.

Benjamin Wittes is an editorial writer for the *Washington Post* and a columnist for *Atlantic Monthly*. He is the author of *Starr: A Reassessment* (2002).

~OVER~

Praise for Confirmation Wars:

"Benjamin Wittes, one of America's most insightful legal commentators, has achieved something remarkable: a book that casts genuinely fresh light on the question of judicial appointments. At a time when the debate about nominating and confirming judges tends to be shrill and partisan, this book is the opposite: scholarly, provocative, full of surprising history, and ultimately convincing. Both Wittes's analysis of the confirmation process and his proposed solutions will confound ideologues and delight open-minded readers of all political persuasions." – **Jeffrey Rosen, author of /The Most Democratic Branch: How the Courts Serve America**

"This is the most interesting and fair-minded book ever written about the politics of judicial confirmation. The partisan participants in the judicial confirmation process should take Wittes's proposals for fixing the system very seriously, but for reasons he discouragingly explains, they probably won't." – **Jack Goldsmith, Harvard University**

"This beautifully written and thought-provoking book is everything that the current confirmation process is not: temperate, thoughtful, nuanced, and fair. It is a 'must read' for anyone interested in the confirmation of federal judges." – **John Maltese, University of Georgia**

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