



# To Run a Constitution: The Legitimacy of the Administrative State

By John A. Rohr

University Press of Kansas. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, To Run a Constitution: The Legitimacy of the Administrative State, John A. Rohr, In 1887, the centennial year of the American Constitution, Woodrow Wilson wrote that "it is getting to be harder to run a constitution than to frame one." The context for Wilson's comment was an essay calling for sound principles of administration that would enable government officials to "run" a constitution well. Wilson and his fellow civil-service reformers had a profound influence on the development of American administrative institutions. Unfortunately, the reformers paid more attention to the exigencies of running a constitution than to the Constitution itself. They and their intellectual progeny developed a theory of administration that was at odds with the theory of the Constitution. As a result, we find ourselves living today in what we often call an "administrative state" a state seemingly bereft of legitimating principles grounded in the political thought of the framers of the Constitution. In "To Run a Constitution," John A. Rohr takes seriously two basic premises: d Tocqueville's belief that citizens are corrupted by obeying powers they believe to be illegitimate, and the view that, despite present political sentiment, the...



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