

Five Things You Need to Know About the Australian Constitution

The Australian Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It outlines the structure and powers of the government, as well as the rights and freedoms of the people. It was adopted in 1901, following a series of constitutional conventions held in the late 19th century.



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by Helen Irving

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Here are five things you need to know about the Australian Constitution:

1. It is a federal constitution.

The Australian Constitution establishes a federal system of government, which means that power is divided between the federal government and the state governments. The federal government is responsible for matters that affect the whole country, such as foreign affairs, defence, and trade. The state governments are responsible for matters that affect their own states, such as education, health, and transport.

2. It is a constitutional monarchy.

The Australian Constitution establishes a constitutional monarchy, which means that the head of state is a monarch, but their powers are limited by the constitution. The current monarch of Australia is Queen Elizabeth II. She is represented in Australia by the Governor-General, who is appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Australian Prime Minister.

3. It is a parliamentary democracy.

The Australian Constitution establishes a parliamentary democracy, which means that the government is responsible to the parliament. The parliament is made up of two houses: the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House of Representatives is elected by the people, while the Senate is elected by the state parliaments.

4. It protects the rights and freedoms of the people.

The Australian Constitution protects the rights and freedoms of the people. These rights and freedoms include the right to freedom of speech, the right to freedom of religion, and the right to vote. The Constitution also protects the rights of minorities and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

5. It can be amended.

The Australian Constitution can be amended by a referendum. A referendum is a vote by the people on a proposed change to the Constitution. If a majority of voters vote in favour of the change, it becomes part of the Constitution.

The Australian Constitution is a complex and important document. It is the foundation of our system of government and it protects our rights and freedoms. It is important to understand the Constitution so that we can participate in our democracy and make informed decisions about our future.



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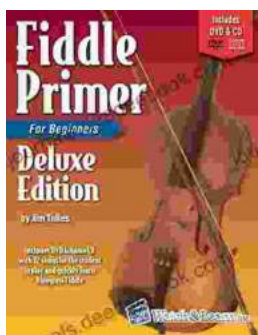
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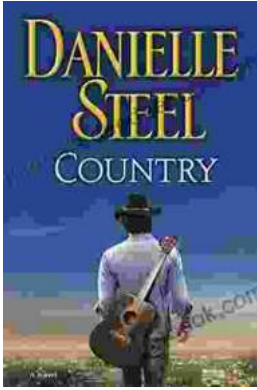
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