# CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix  
Introduction xiii  

**PART I. THE TRIUMPH OF AN IDEA**  
1 The Rise of Constitutional Courts 3  
2 Historical Background: The Principle of Separation of Powers 10  
3 A Traditional Justification: Legal Certainty 20  

**PART II. EXPLORING THE ADVANTAGES OF CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS**  
4 The Justification of Constitutional Review: The Sketch of an Argument 29  
5 The Special Nature of Constitutional Discourse 36  
6 The Structure of the Constitutional Conversation 55  
7 Overcoming Judicial Timidity 71
8 The Democratic Objection to Constitutional Review  86

9 Democratic Checks on Courts  98

PART III. CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS UNDER PRESSURE

10 Decentralizing Tendencies in the System  111

11 The Impact of the European Court of Justice  122

12 The Impact of the European Court of Human Rights  139

Afterword  155

Notes  159

Index  223