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The

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Sinopsis

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The European Convention on Human Rights underwent a spectacular evolution over the first fifty years of its life. In recent times the European Court of Human Rights has been compared to a quasi-constitutional court for Europe in the field of human rights, and for some time the Convention has been viewed as a European Bill of Rights. The 'coming of age' of the ECHR system in the late 1990's was marked by the entry into force of Protocol 11, creating a new, full time Court.

By contrast those who first proposed a European human rights guarantee were driven by an ambition to put in place a collective pact to prevent the re-emergence of totalitarianism in 'free' Europe. They were motivated by grisly memories of human rights abuse associated with World War Two, and the protection of 'human rights' was seen in that light. When the Convention was opened for signature in 1950 it was viewed by many with skepticism and disappointment. The Convention system took many years to get established. In the mid-1960's doubts were expressed as to whether the Court had a future and in the 1970's the Convention system of control faced a number of serious challenges.

This book examines the story of the evolution of the Convention over its first 50 years (1948-1998). It reflects on the Convention's origins and charts the slow progress that it made over the 1950's and 1960's, before, in the late 1970's, the European Court of Human Rights delivered a series of landmark judgments which proved to be the foundation stones for the European Bill of Rights that we know today.

Features

Thorough analysis of the history and development of the European Convention on Human Rights, starting from the preparatory works and the intentions of the drafters

Comprehensive analysis of key cases

Single author approach ensures consistency and makes sure that every aspect of the Convention's development is covered

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Reviews

"Bates has written a lucid, readable book on the development of the European Court of Human Rights, from the kernel of the Convention, written in 1948 as an safeguard against totalitarianism, to its development as a European Bill of Rights, with the court as a constitutional court for Europe delivering landmark jurisprudence at significant points in its development."

--David J Dickson, The Journal of the Law Society of Scotland

"Bates picks up the mantle of these earlier important works and his magisterial study is a worthy successor to them."

--Urfan Khaliq (Cardiff University), Journal of Law and Society