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broker, policymaker, or rights protector? : The Brazilian Supremo Tribunal Federal in transition / Diana Kapiszewski -- Legalist vs. interpretivist : the Supreme Court and the Democratic transition in Mexico / Arianna Sanchez, Beatriz Maglioni and Eric Magar -- Theory of the politically independent judiciary : a comparative study of the United States and Argentina / Rebecca Bill Chavez, John A. Ferejohn, and Barry R. Weingast -- Courts, power and rights in Argentina and Chile / Druscilla Scribner -- Bolivia : the rise (and fall) of judicial review / Andrea Castagnola and Anibal Perez-Linan -- The puzzling judicial politics in Latin America : a theory of litigation, judicial decisions and interbranch conflict / Gretchen Helmke and Jeffrey K. Staton.

Sommario/riassunto

To what extent do courts in Latin America protect individual rights and limit governments? This volume answers these fundamental questions by bringing together today's leading scholars of judicial politics. Drawing on examples from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica and Bolivia, the authors demonstrate that there is widespread variation in the performance of Latin America's constitutional courts. In accounting for this variation, the contributors push forward ongoing debates about what motivates judges; whether institutions, partisan politics and public support shape inter-branch relations; and the importance of judicial attitudes and legal culture. The authors deploy a range of methods, including qualitative case studies, paired country comparisons, statistical analysis and game theory.
