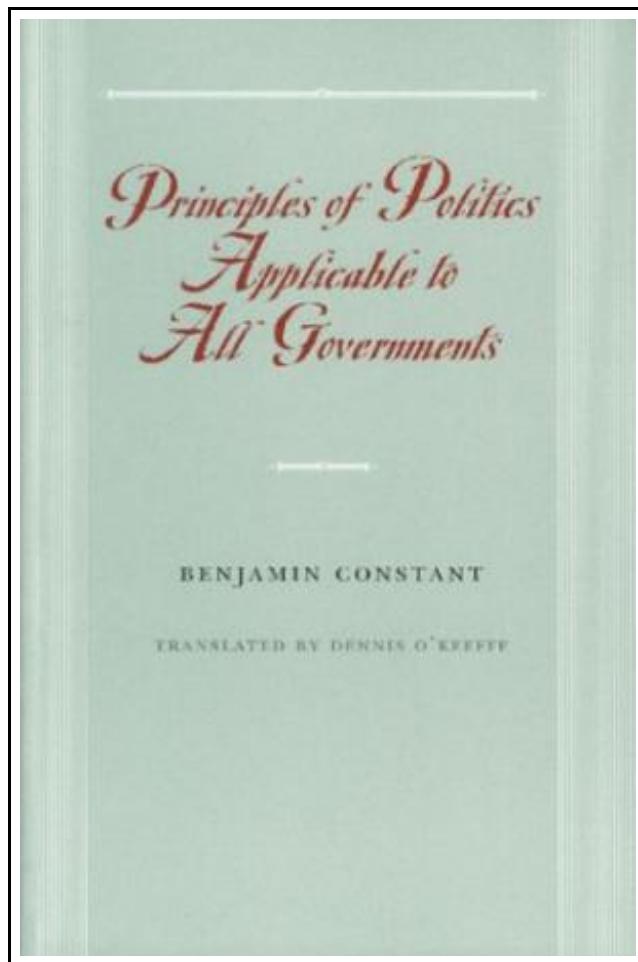


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Liberty Fund Inc, United States, 2004. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 240 x 162 mm. Language: English Brand New Book. Principles of Politics, first published in 1815, is a microcosm of [Constant s] whole political philosophy and an expression of his political experience, says Nicholas Capaldi in his Introduction. In Principles, Constant explores many subjects: law, sovereignty, and representation; power and accountability; government, property and taxation; wealth and poverty; war, peace, and the maintenance of public order; and above all freedom, of the individual, of the press, and of religion. . . . Constant saw freedom as an organic phenomenon: to attack it in any particular way was to attack it generally. Benjamin Constant (1767-1830) was born in Switzerland and became one of France s leading writers, as well as a journalist, philosopher, and politician. His colorful life included a formative stay at the University of Edinburgh; service at the court of Brunswick, Germany; election to the French Tribune; and initial opposition and subsequent support for Napoleon, even the drafting of a constitution for the Hundred Days. Constant wrote many books, essays, and pamphlets. His deepest conviction was that reform is hugely superior to revolution, both morally and politically. While Constant s fluid, dynamic style and lofty eloquence do not always make for easy reading, his text forms a coherent whole, and in his translation Dennis O Keeffe has focused on retaining the general elegance and subtle rhetoric of the original. Sir Isaiah Berlin called Constant the most eloquent of all defenders of freedom and privacy and believed to him we owe the notion of negative liberty, that is, what Biancamaria Fontana describes as the protection of individual experience and choices from external interferences and constraints. To Constant it was relatively unimportant whether liberty was ultimately grounded in religion or metaphysics--what mattered...

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