## **PREFACE**

We began work on the Weimar jurisprudence of crisis almost ten years ago, soon after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Our hope was that the Weimar debates would provide a unique vantage from which to survey states throughout the world struggling to embrace political democracy and a liberal legal culture. Weimar offers a dark but useful paradigm for states in which constitutionalism and the rule of law must confront lasting and entrenched antidemocratic and anti-liberal forces. Nations in which the state precedes the constitution face significantly different and perhaps more difficult paths toward constitutional government than nations, such as the United States, in which the constitution precedes the state.

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