THE SUPREME LEGAL FORCE OF THE CONSTITUTION AND ITS ROLE IN STATE GOVERNANCE

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Annotation. This article examines the concept of the supreme legal force of the Constitution and its fundamental role in ensuring effective state governance. It analyzes the Constitution as the highest legal authority that determines the structure, powers, and limits of state institutions while guaranteeing the protection of citizens' rights and freedoms. The study highlights how constitutional supremacy strengthens the rule of law, promotes political stability, and prevents the arbitrary exercise of power. Furthermore, it discusses the mechanisms through which constitutional norms are implemented, including judicial review, constitutional control, and legal harmonization across state bodies. The findings demonstrate that the supremacy of the Constitution is essential for democratic governance, institutional accountability, and the development of a coherent legal system.

Introduction. The Constitution is recognized as the highest legal document within any state, serving as the foundation for all legislation and the guiding principle for governance, ensuring that all state authorities operate within a defined legal framework and under the rule of law. Its supreme legal force establishes a hierarchy of norms, whereby no law or administrative act can contradict the Constitution, making it the ultimate standard for evaluating the legitimacy and validity of all other legal acts. The principle of constitutional supremacy is essential for maintaining political stability, preventing the abuse of power, and safeguarding the rights and freedoms of citizens, as it provides a legal reference point against which governmental actions can be assessed. In modern state governance, the Constitution

not only defines the structure and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches but also ensures the separation of powers, accountability, and transparency in public administration. Moreover, the Constitution plays a critical role in guiding policy-making, shaping the legal system, and creating mechanisms such as judicial review, constitutional courts, and oversight institutions that ensure compliance with constitutional norms. Understanding the supreme legal force of the Constitution allows for a deeper appreciation of how democratic principles are implemented, how conflicts between state bodies are resolved, and how the legal system evolves in response to societal needs and international legal standards. The Constitution thus functions not only as a legal document but also as a political and social instrument that reflects the fundamental values of the state, guarantees the protection of individual rights, and provides a stable framework within which governance can be carried out effectively, consistently, and justly.

Literature review. The principle of the supreme legal force of the Constitution has been widely studied in both theoretical and practical contexts, with scholars emphasizing its centrality in maintaining legal order and democratic governance [1]. According to legal theorists, constitutional supremacy serves as the cornerstone of the rule of law, ensuring that all state authorities, including legislative, executive, and judicial bodies, operate within clearly defined legal limits and adhere to the Constitution as the ultimate normative framework [2]. This hierarchy of norms not only guarantees the protection of citizens' rights and freedoms but also prevents the arbitrary exercise of power by state institutions, thereby reinforcing political stability and institutional accountability [3]. Researchers have highlighted that mechanisms such as judicial review, constitutional courts, and the harmonization of statutory laws with constitutional provisions are essential tools for implementing constitutional supremacy, allowing for the correction of legislative or administrative acts that conflict with the Constitution [4]. Furthermore, contemporary studies indicate that the supremacy of the Constitution contributes to the coherent development of the legal system, fostering consistency in law enforcement, the predictability of legal outcomes, and public trust in state institutions, while also providing a legal foundation for integrating international standards into domestic governance [5]. Overall, the literature demonstrates a consensus that the Constitution's supreme legal force is indispensable for ensuring effective governance, upholding democratic principles, and establishing a stable and just legal environment within the state.

Research methodology. The research methodology employed in this study integrates both qualitative and analytical approaches to provide a comprehensive examination of the supreme legal force of the Constitution and its influence on state governance. The primary materials for analysis included the Constitution itself, relevant constitutional amendments, national legislation, official government documents, and judicial decisions that demonstrate the practical application and enforcement of constitutional norms. Secondary sources consisted of scholarly articles, monographs, and comparative legal studies that explore constitutional supremacy, the role of constitutional courts, and mechanisms of judicial review in

various countries. The study applied doctrinal legal analysis to interpret constitutional texts, assess their hierarchical position within the legal system, and examine their normative relationship with statutory and administrative laws. Content analysis was conducted on legislative acts and court rulings to evaluate how constitutional provisions are implemented and enforced, particularly in cases involving conflicts between state authorities or challenges to citizens' rights. Comparative legal analysis was utilized to identify international best practices and lessons in the application of constitutional supremacy, including institutional arrangements that enhance compliance and accountability. Additionally, case study methodology provided detailed examination of specific instances where constitutional principles played a decisive role in governance decisions, policy implementation, or conflict resolution. Observational and interpretative methods were employed to assess the effectiveness of mechanisms such as judicial review, constitutional oversight, and legal harmonization across government bodies. Overall, this methodological framework enabled a rigorous evaluation of both theoretical foundations and practical applications of constitutional supremacy, offering insights into its critical role in promoting the rule of law, ensuring institutional accountability, and supporting the coherent and effective functioning of state governance.

1-Table. Key mechanisms ensuring the supreme legal force of the constitution

Mechanism	Purpose	Impact on Governance
Judicial Review	Assess legality of legislative and executive acts	Prevents unconstitutional actions and reinforces rule of law
Constitutional Courts	Interpret constitutional provisions and resolve conflicts	Ensures consistent application of the Constitution
Legal Harmonization	Align laws and regulations with constitutional norms	Promotes legal coherence and reduces conflicts between laws
Separation of Powers	Define distinct roles and limits of legislative, executive, and judicial branches	Prevents abuse of power and strengthens accountability
Citizens' Rights Protection	Guarantee fundamental rights and freedoms	Enhances public trust and ensures democratic governance

This table summarizes the key mechanisms through which the Constitution exercises its supreme legal force, highlighting their purpose and direct impact on the functioning and effectiveness of state governance.

Research discussion. The research demonstrates that the supreme legal force of the Constitution plays a central role in shaping the structure, functions, and accountability of state governance, ensuring that all branches of power operate within

the limits prescribed by the highest legal norms. Analysis of primary legal documents and judicial practices reveals that constitutional supremacy provides a clear hierarchy of legal norms, which serves as a reference point for evaluating the legitimacy of legislation, executive decisions, and administrative acts, thereby preventing the arbitrary exercise of power and reinforcing the rule of law. Comparative examination indicates that countries with effective mechanisms for constitutional control, such as independent constitutional courts and well-established systems of judicial review, exhibit higher levels of legal consistency, political stability, and protection of fundamental rights, demonstrating the practical significance of enforcing constitutional supremacy. The study also highlights that the Constitution functions not only as a legal instrument but as a framework for governance, guiding the actions of state institutions, establishing separation of powers, and promoting transparency and accountability in public administration. Furthermore, empirical evidence from case studies shows that where constitutional provisions are rigorously applied, conflicts between state bodies are resolved through legal channels rather than political confrontation, citizens' rights are safeguarded, and public trust in institutions is strengthened. The discussion also emphasizes the dynamic nature of constitutional supremacy, as amendments, judicial interpretations, and evolving legal doctrines continually adapt the Constitution to new social, economic, and international conditions, ensuring that governance remains responsive, coherent, and aligned with democratic principles. Overall, the findings confirm that the Constitution's supreme legal force is not merely symbolic but a practical tool for structuring governance, harmonizing legal systems, and promoting the stability, legitimacy, and effectiveness of state institutions.

Conclusion. The study demonstrates that the supreme legal force of the Constitution is a fundamental pillar of state governance, serving as the ultimate normative framework that ensures all branches of government operate within defined legal limits, protects citizens' rights and freedoms, and upholds the principles of the rule of law. By establishing a hierarchy of norms, the Constitution provides clarity and consistency in legal interpretation, preventing arbitrary actions by state authorities and fostering political stability, institutional accountability, and public trust. The analysis highlights that mechanisms such as judicial review, constitutional courts, and legal harmonization are essential tools for enforcing constitutional supremacy and ensuring that governance remains transparent, effective, and aligned with democratic principles. Comparative perspectives indicate that countries with robust constitutional oversight experience greater coherence in their legal systems, higher protection of individual rights, and more predictable and stable governance structures.

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