

Advantages of the rule of law and the associated challenges

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January 6, 2025

What is the purpose of the rule of law?

The rule of law is supposed to protect the individual citizen, to create and maintain social and state order and to make life plannable. In legal language, this is of course formulated differently, as can be found on the internet.

However, the freedoms associated with it end where the rights of other people begin.

What does this mean in practice?

Protection against arbitrary violence

Citizens do not have to expect state organs to use arbitrary violence, e.g. to carry out controls and arrests for dictatorial reasons. There is no surveillance, so there are no arbitrary searches and arrests.

The state must protect its citizens from private violence and crime.

This is the expectation in a constitutional state, which unfortunately is not always fulfilled or cannot always be fulfilled everywhere.

The freedom to travel wherever you want

Freedom of travel means that you can travel freely within your own country without needing official permission. It also means that you can leave your country without official authorization and return when you want, without restriction.

The freedom to choose where you want to live

The freedom to choose where you want to live is also part of the rule of law.

Being able to decide freely how you want to work

A constitutional state does not dictate how you should organize your professional life.

Being able to decide freely where and how you spend your free time

In a constitutional state, you are free to organize your free time, choose your hobbies and select your business partners.

Being able to choose your own shopping options

In a constitutional state, there is a free economy in which there is competition. Within this diverse system, you can choose in a constitutional state where you want to shop, where you want to order something and how you find out about offers.

Being able to freely decide with whom you want to spend your life

In a constitutional state, you are free to decide with whom you want to spend all or part of your life.

Always being able to obtain or find ways to uphold the rule of law for yourself

An objection or lawsuit can be filed against any administrative decision. Every court decision can be reviewed in several, sometimes even many stages by other courts.

Being able to live peacefully, because violence must not be part of everyday life

In a constitutional state, violence is not a method of solving problems, so that more and more peaceful solutions are found overall. This applies not only to physical violence, but also to verbal and emotional violence; for example, there are fewer insults and threats.

Politicians must also act accordingly, because solutions based on facts must take precedence over building up opposition.

You can do anything as long as you follow the law and do not violate the rights of others

In a constitutional state, you can determine your own everyday life, your development and your destiny. The constitutional state protects this action and supports it through offers (e.g. through educational institutions, financial aid).

Challenges for the individual in a constitutional state

Constitutionality is also thoroughness. Therefore, many things can take longer than you would like.

You are responsible for many things

If you are responsible for many things, you may sometimes feel insecure, perhaps even disoriented. In a constitutional state, you can get help in most cases (e.g. from neutral advice centers).

Sometimes you even bear the ultimate responsibility for the consequences of your own actions

You bear the ultimate responsibility, for example, when deciding how many children you want to have.

But there are also professions in which you bear the ultimate responsibility, e.g. as a doctor, a judge, a scientist, a self-employed person or as the owner of a company or as an artist.

Because of this responsibility, or rather because of the freedom, you can become insecure and anxious, because you can't have a grip on everything. If you fail, you will also be supported in a constitutional state.

Education, expertise, advice and your own thorough consideration can help to reduce your own insecurities and to live successfully in a constitutional state.