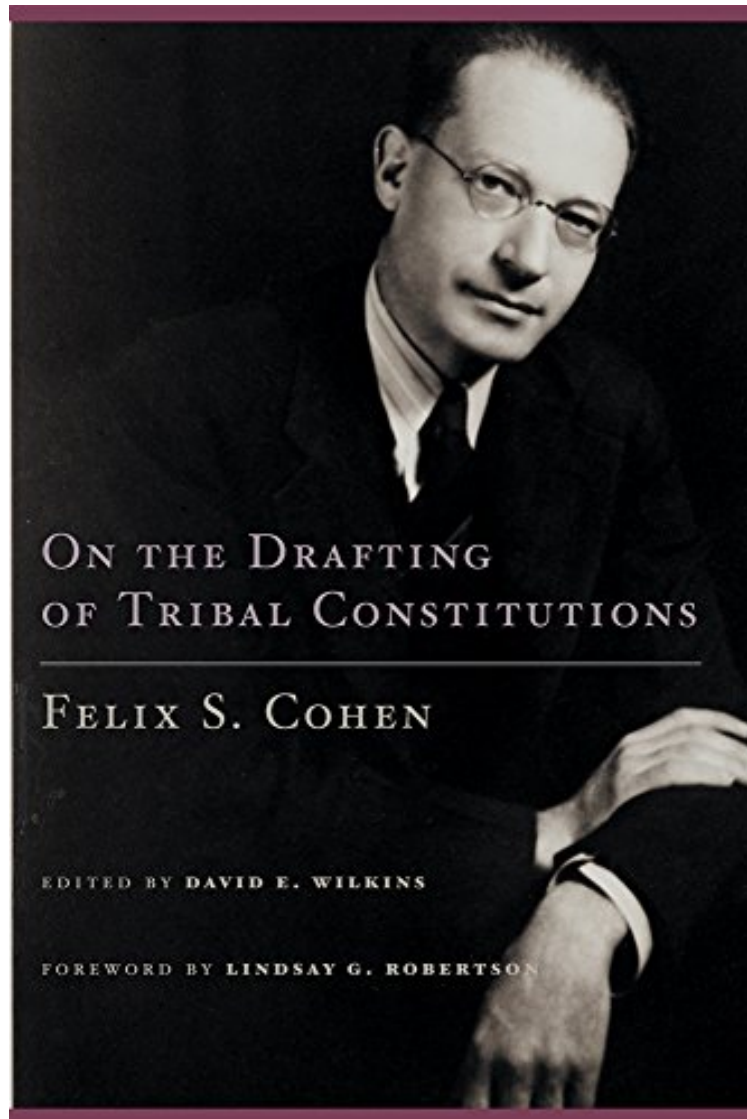


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On the Drafting of Tribal Constitutions (American Indian Law and Policy Series)

Felix S. Cohen

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Felix S. Cohen : On the Drafting of Tribal Constitutions (American Indian Law and Policy Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Drafting of Tribal Constitutions (American Indian Law and Policy Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cohen is the man...By James Storm ShirleyAwesome historical account of an otherwise very dark period of Native American jurisprudence. Highly recommended to gain some

greater insight into this great man...5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Perfect for college-level collections on Native American or American legal history. By Midwest Book Review Felix Cohen was a leading creator of the Indian New Deal and a champion of American Indian rights, so there's no better author than he to cover On the Drafting of Tribal Constitutions, reflecting his practical guidelines created in 1934 for tribal constitutional development. The entire work has been edited by David E. Wilkins, includes an essay that describes its origins and background, and is presented with a key to understanding Indigenous autonomy and self-governance efforts: perfect for college-level collections on Native American or American legal history. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. On the Drafting of Tribal Constitutions (Am. Indian Law Policy Series) By Martha A. Dorsey I have been familiar with Mr. Cohen's various books on Indian Law, just didn't have the opportunity to own them. I feel very fortunate. As usual, they don't disappoint. Thank You. Marty Dorsey

A newly discovered document sheds light on Indian self-governance Felix Cohen (1907-1953) was a leading architect of the Indian New Deal and steadfast champion of American Indian rights. Appointed to the Department of the Interior in 1933, he helped draft the Indian Reorganization Act (1934) and chaired a committee charged with assisting tribes in organizing their governments. His Basic Memorandum on Drafting of Tribal Constitutions, submitted in November 1934, provided practical guidelines for that effort. Largely forgotten until Cohen's papers were released more than half a century later, the memorandum now receives the attention it has long deserved. David E. Wilkins presents the entire work, edited and introduced with an essay that describes its origins and places it in historical context. Cohen recommended that each tribe consider preserving ancient traditions that offered wisdom to those drafting constitutions. Strongly opposed to sending out canned constitutions from Washington, he offered ideas for incorporating Indigenous political, social, and cultural knowledge and structure into new tribal constitutions. On the Drafting of Tribal Constitutions shows that concepts of Indigenous autonomy and self-governance have been vital to Native nations throughout history. As today's tribal governments undertake reform, Cohen's memorandum again offers a wealth of insight on how best to amend previous constitutions. It also helps scholars better understand the historic policy shift brought about by the Indian Reorganization Act.

About the Author David E. Wilkins is Professor of American Indian Studies and Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Law, and American Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and coauthor of *Uneven Ground: American Indian Sovereignty and Federal Law*.