

Table of Contents

1. LEADING STATUTES	1
2. LEADING COMMENTARIES	1
3. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION	1
3.1 Democratic Principle (demokratisches Prinzip)	2
3.2 Republican Principle (republikanisches Prinzip)	2
3.3 Federal Principle (bundesstaatliches Prinzip)	3
3.3.1 Legislative and Executive Powers of the Federation (Article 10 B-VG)	3
3.3.2 Legislative Power by the Federation, but Executive Powers Vested in the Federal States (Article 11 B-VG)	4
3.3.3 Basic Legislation (Grundsatzgesetzgebung) Passed by the Federation, but Implementing Legislation (Ausführungsgesetzgebung) Passed and Executive Powers Exercised by the Federal States (Article 12 B-VG)	4
3.3.4 Legislative Powers and Executive Powers of the Federal States (Article 15 B-VG)	5
3.4 The Rule of Law (rechtsstaatliches Prinzip)	5
3.5 Separation of Powers (Gewaltentrennung)	6
4. NEUTRALITY	10
5. LEGISLATION OF THE FEDERATION	10
5.1 National Council (Nationalrat)	10
5.2 Federal Council (Bundesrat)	12
5.3 Federal Assembly (Bundesversammlung)	12
5.4 The Law-Making Procedure	12

5.4.1 Initiative for a New Federal Law	13
5.4.2 Passage of the Bill Through the Parliament	13
6. LEGISLATION OF THE FEDERAL STATES	16
7. CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE GUARANTEES	16
8. THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (VERFASSUNGSGERICHTSHOF)	17
8.1 The Composition of the Constitutional Court	17
8.2 The Competence of the Constitutional Court	20
8.2.1 Article 137 B-VG (Claims under Public Law)	20
8.2.2 Article 138 B-VG and Article 126a B-VG (Conflicts of Competence)	21
8.2.3 Article 138a B-VG	21
8.2.4 Article 139a B-VG (Examination of Regulations)	22
8.2.5 Article 140 B-VG (Examination of Statutes)	23
8.2.6 Article 140a B-VG (Examination of State Treaties)	24
8.2.7 Article 141 B-VG (Examination of Elections)	25
8.2.8 Article 141 (1) (c), (d), (e) B-VG (Removal of Persons from Certain Offices)	25
8.2.9 Article 141 (3) B-VG (Examination of People's Initiatives [Volksbegehren] and Referendums [Volksabstimmung])	26
8.2.10 Articles 142 and 143 B-VG (Impeachment)	26
8.2.11 Article 144 B-VG (Petitions for Protection of Fundamental Rights)	26
9. FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (GRUNDRECHTE)	32
9.1 Definition	32
9.2 Classification of Fundamental Rights	33
9.2.1 Protection on Everybody – Protection of Nationals	33
9.2.2 Legal Reservation	33
9.3 The Most Important Fundamental Rights	35
9.3.1 Equal Protection Clause (Gleichheitssatz)	35
9.3.2 Freedom of Movement by an Individual and his Possessions (Freizügigkeit der Person und des Vermögens)	37

9.3.3 Liberty of a National to Leave and Reenter his Country (Freiheit des Aufenthalts, der Einreise und der Auswanderung)	37
9.3.4 Protection of Property (Unverletzlichkeit des Eigentums)	37
9.3.5 Freedom to Acquire Real Estate and to Dispose of Real Estate (Freiheit des Liegenschaftserwerbs)	39
9.3.6 Freedom of Gainful Activity (Erwerbsfreiheit)	39
9.3.7 Right to Liberty (Schutz der persönlichen Freiheit)	39
9.3.8 Fundamental Rights with Respect to Privacy and Family Life (Achtung des Privat- und Familienlebens)	40
9.3.9 Freedom of Assembly (Versammlungsfreiheit)	40
9.3.10 Freedom of Association (Vereinsfreiheit)	40
9.3.11 The Right to Marry and to Found a Family (Recht, eine Ehe einzugehen und eine Familie zu gründen)	40
9.3.12 Freedom of Expression (Freiheit der Meinungsäußerung)	40
9.3.13 Freedom of the Arts (Freiheit der Kunst)	40
9.3.14 Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion (Gedanken-, Gewissens- und Glaubensfreiheit)	40
9.3.15 Freedom of Science and Teaching (Freiheit der Wissenschaft und Lehre)	40
9.3.16 Protection against Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Schutz gegen unmenschliche oder erniedrigende Behandlung oder Strafe)	41
9.3.17 The Right to Life (Recht auf Leben)	41
9.3.18 The Right to a Fair Trial (Verfahrensgarantien)	41
9.3.19 The Right not to be Deprived of the Lawful Judge (Recht auf Nichtentzug des gesetzlichen Richters)	42
10. EFFECT OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ON THIRD PARTIES	43
11. THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT (VERWALTUNGSGERICHTSHOF)	43
11.1 The Composition of the Administrative Court	43
11.2 The Competence of the Administrative Court	44
11.2.1 Petitions against Decrees of Administrative Authorities (Bescheidbeschwerden)	44

11.2.2	Petitions against Acts of Immediate Command or Compulsion	45
11.2.3	Petitions for Breach of the Obligation to Decide Cases (Säumnisbeschwerde)	45
11.2.4	Petition against Directives	46