

## GENERAL EXPLANATION

This work arose from my entrance speech to El Colegio Nacional on February 12, 2007. The original speech, brief by necessity, increased to become this volume. It is a study of comparative law written with Mexico in mind. The social constitutional system founded in 1917 - of which we Mexicans are proud - has not yet been complemented by an authentic democratic constitutional system. With this work I add my voice to that of many Mexicans who aspire to consolidate democracy among us. Upon entering El Colegio Nacional, I evoked the most recent of its missing members, and dedicated my speech to him, as I now dedicate this book to him.

In the following pages I transcribe the constitutional texts relative to each institution alluded to in this study so that the reader has the direct version. In this way, instead of making a summary of each precept, I chose to formulate a cursory analysis of its content considering that the original text is available. Most of the precepts whose language was not Spanish were translated by me, based on the official versions in English, French and Portuguese.

Each item presents examples of various constitutional systems. First of all, Latin Americans and the Caribbean systems are examined to offer a panorama on this matter that allows us to appreciate the trends in the hemisphere as a whole, and then the cases identified in the presidential systems of other continents. In some examples, reference will be made to intermediate systems, which will be pointed out in that sense. Its inclusion is due to the interest of showing to what extent similarities are observed in the design of controls between these systems and those that maintain the classic presidential structure.

The sixth chapter addresses in greater detail the question of intermediate systems that can be considered paradigmatic, as well as others that have tried to qualify their authoritarian nature with the adoption of parliamentary control mechanisms.