

‘Politically obligatory referendums’ (UK and France)
Codebook

Codes	Definitions	Examples
<i>Arguments for the Referendum</i>		
Rousseauian view <i>(France)</i>	National sovereignty belongs to the people.	<i>National sovereignty belongs to the people, who thereby exercise it by means of the referendum!</i>
For Doctrinal <i>(France)</i>	It is inconceivable, despite the silence of the 1958 Constitution on the issue, to ask representatives to ratify a treaty in parliament that was previously rejected by a referendum.	<i>The Constitution was drafted without explicit consideration of such an eventuality because the fundamental principle on which it is based assumes that the will of the people, once expressed by referendum, ought to be respected!</i>
Lockean view <i>(UK)</i>	Parliament cannot transfer the power of making laws to any other hands, as it has but delegated power from the people.	<i>Locke made it clear, and it has been accepted by both Houses since he wrote it, that we in Parliament cannot transfer the power of making laws of this land to any other land without consulting the people by referendum.</i>
<i>Arguments Against the Referendum</i>		
Sieyessan view <i>(France)</i>	National sovereignty belongs to the people, though they exercise it through their representatives.	<i>We are in a legitimate position to make any decision, in line with Article 3 of the 1958 Constitution: ‘National Sovereignty belongs to the people, who shall exercise it through its representatives... and by means of the referendum’</i>
Directorial view <i>(France)</i>	The power is traditionally vested in the head of state to choose whether or not to call a national referendum on issues of 'high politics'.	<i>The Head of State can legitimately decide whether to resort to the referendum or not in order to ratify the Lisbon Treaty.</i>
Burkean view <i>(UK)</i>	Referendums go against the tradition of parliamentary democracy and that parliamentarians are responsible for making decisions.	<i>The holding of a referendum will represent an abdication by Members of Parliament of the responsibilities they are elected to perform.</i>