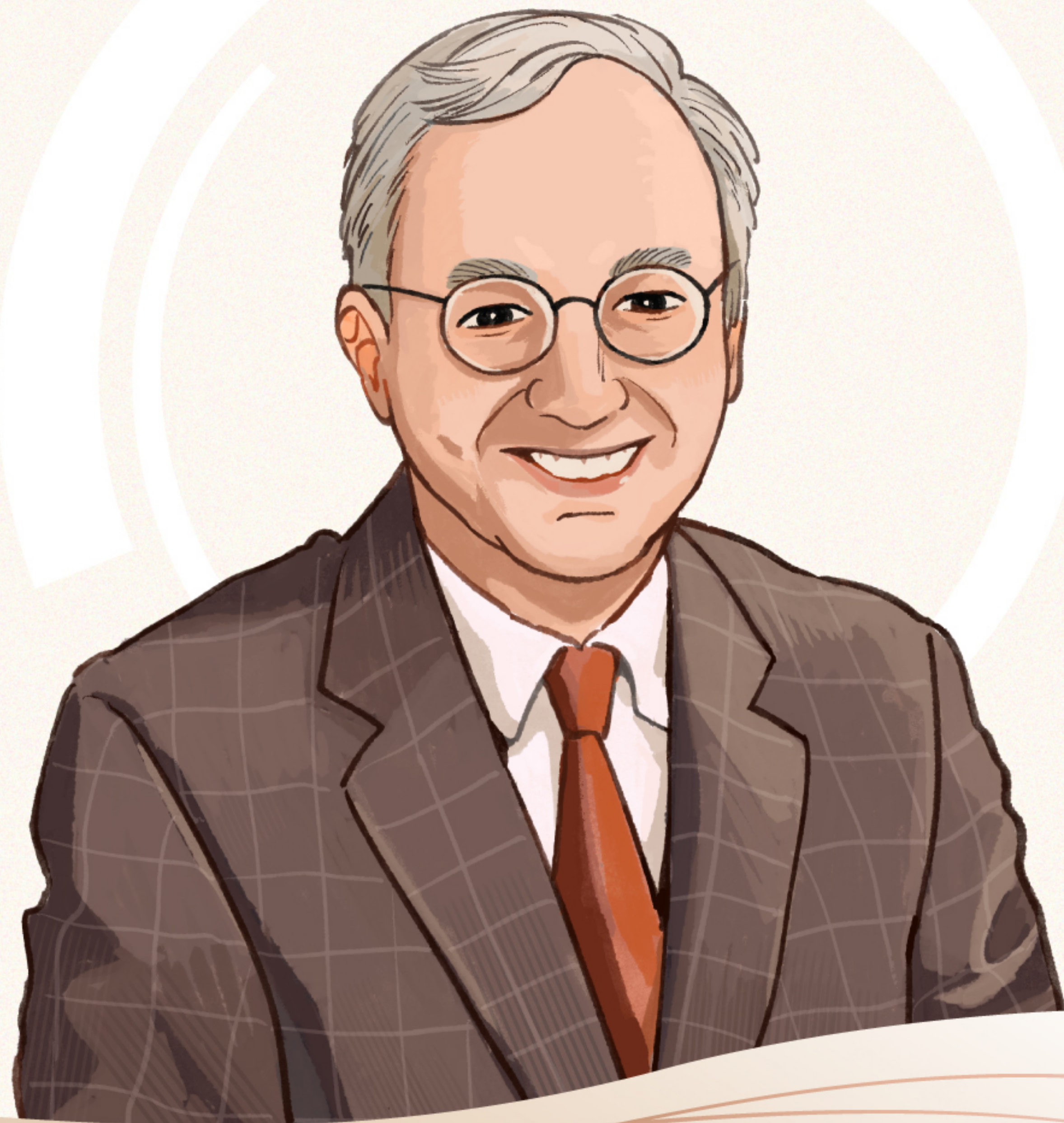




2026 Tang Prize

RULE OF LAW

Bruce Ackerman



Why is he awarded the Tang Prize?

- **Intellectual Leadership in Democratic Constitutional Governance:**
Professor Bruce Ackerman has developed new conceptions of constitution-making, judicial review, and the structures needed for democratic constitutional governance, offering conceptual and practical approaches to defend the rule of law amid the crises facing modern republics.
- **Inspiring Transnational and Intergenerational Efforts:**
His comparative engagements and passionate commitment to understanding constitutional legitimacy and popular sovereignty, exercised across generations, have inspired constitutional lawyers around the world in their pursuit of social justice and the rule of law.





The Finding of Critical “Constitutional Moments”

Professor Ackerman’s theory of “dualist democracy” distinguishes “constitutional politics” from “normal politics”:

- The formation of a new constitutional paradigm through high civic mobilization intersecting with constitutional mechanisms, giving rise to the “constitutional moment.”
- This theory responds to the challenges currently facing modern democracies, and inspires constitutional lawyers around the world to look for “constitutional moments” in their constitutional histories.

Advancing Popular Sovereignty through Citizen Deliberation

Professor Ackerman has proposed highly innovative and practical mechanisms for the realization of popular sovereignty.

- “**Deliberation Day**”: A proposal to provide a public holiday for citizen deliberation before elections, which has inspired deliberation mechanisms in Mongolia and other nations.
- “**Voting with Dollars**”: A proposal for the government to provide a small amount of funding for voters to make anonymous donations to candidates, offering a significant reform direction for campaign finance.



Social Justice for Enhancing Democracy

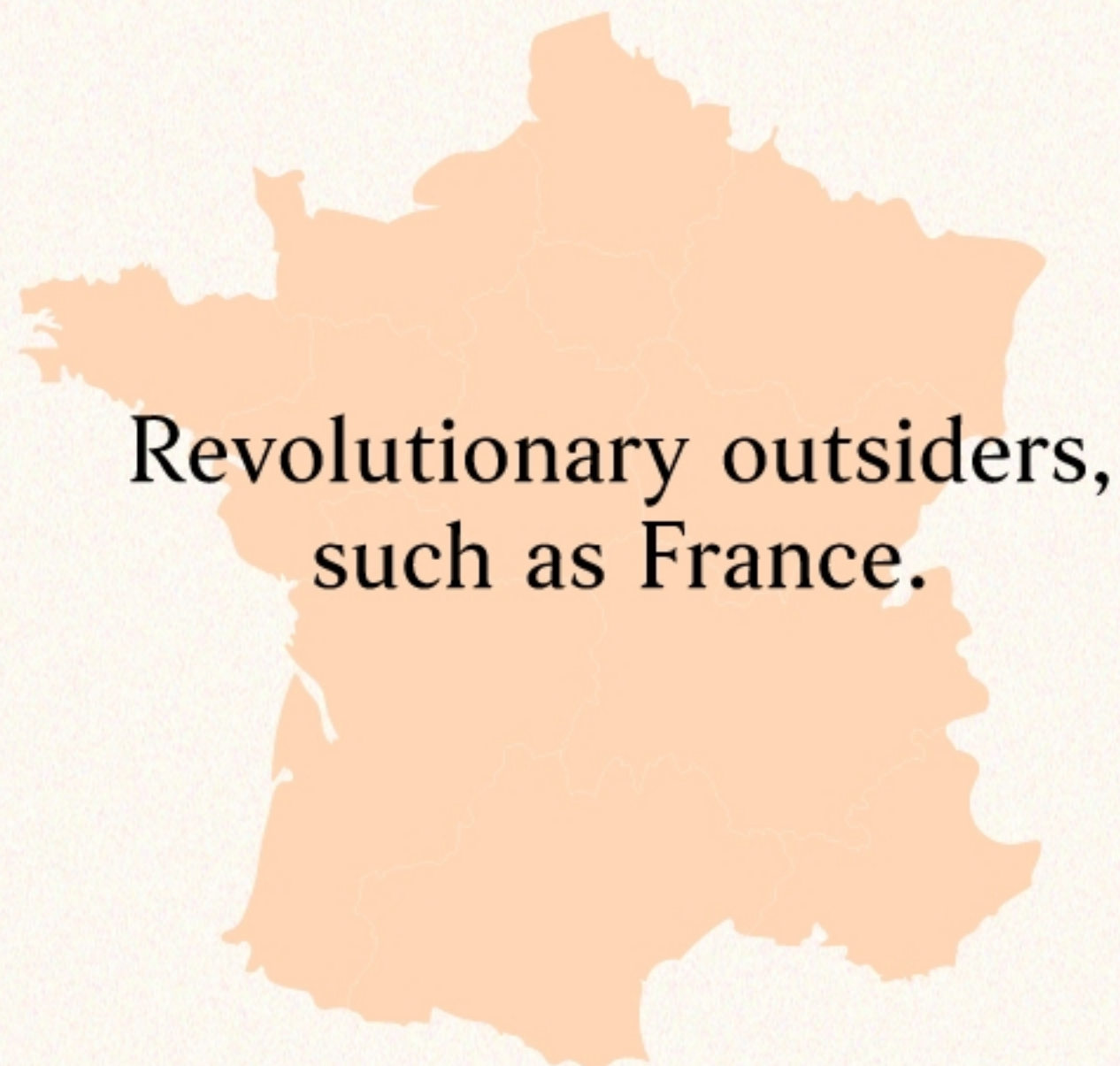
Professor Ackerman has advanced the concept of “**stakeholder society**,” and through his works on social justice and resource distribution, enhanced the foundations of democracy.

- Through **resource distribution mechanism**, young citizens are provided with fair resources and equal opportunities, enabling their effective participation in democratic politics.
- This concept has also inspired policy initiatives in Brazil and the United Kingdom.



Uncovering Diverse Pathways to Constitutional Legitimacy

Professor Ackerman's scholarship transcends temporal and spatial boundaries. His work on comparative constitutional histories identifies three pathways toward constitutional legitimacy:



Revolutionary outsiders,
such as France.



Pragmatic insider,
such as Great Britain.



Elitists,
such as post-war
Germany and Japan.

Addressing Contemporary Crises in the Rule of Law

- Amid terrorist attacks that have shaken global confidence in the rule of law, Professor Ackerman proposed the concept of “emergency constitution,” serving as a foundation for emergency powers while guaranteeing checks and balances for the subsequent return to a normal constitutional order. This concept inspires relevant reform in French Constitution.
- At this critical moment as crises in the rule of law surface, he has demonstrated cross-generational wisdom. Through his active advocacy for constitutional legitimacy and popular sovereignty, he provides vital direction for the reconstruction and consolidation of the rule of law.



Visionary **Scholarship** and Cross-Generational Impact

- As a Thinker: His scholarship integrates legal, political, historical and economic perspectives, establishing a grand theoretical framework for strengthening democratic constitutionalism.



- As a Legal Scholar: His work has provided crucial conceptual and practical approaches for addressing contemporary crises facing the rule of law and constitutionalism.

- As an Educator: Exercised across generations, his pursuit of constitutional legitimacy and popular sovereignty continues to inspire constitutional lawyers around the world.