The Cultural Politics of Human Rights: Comparing the US and UK


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Abstract or Description

The cultural politics of human rights disrupts taken-for-granted norms of national political life. Human rights activists imagine practical deconstruction of the distinction between citizens and noncitizens through which national states have been constituted. They envisage a world order of cosmopolitan states in which the rights of all would be fully respected. How likely is it that such a form of society might be realised through their activities? Is collective responsibility for human rights currently being shaped in cultural politics? If so, how, and with what consequences? If not, how is it that the vision of human rights activists is failing to take effect given the explosion of discourse on human rights in recent years?

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was coined by Eleanor Roosevelt. Generally Accepted Characteristics of Human Rights. - Universal - Internationally Guaranteed - Legal Protections - Protects Individuals and groups - Cannot be taken away - Equal and indivisible - Obliges States and State Actors. Alternative Theories. - Jurisdiction Over Crimes Committed in areas of "State Parties" who have signed Statute into force when national and state enforcement not working - Russia and the US signed but withdrew their signature - China, India, and other never signed - UN Security Council can authorize ICC Jurisdiction in certain areas. 5 Basic Categories of Human Rights. IB human rights global politics. 18 terms. laura011.