

GV103: Introduction to International Relations

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Human Rights

Introduction

- Two goals for this lecture
 - Discuss **controversial** nature of human rights
 - Discuss impact of **int'l politics** on human rights practices

Which Rights?

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 has four pillars: dignity, liberty, equality, and brotherhood
 - First two have roots in Western Enlightenment
 - Third reflects socialist principles
 - Fourth reflects goals of decolonization
- Two separate treaties were passed in 1966
 - ICCPR, championed by US, protects **civil and political** rights
 - ICESCR, championed by USSR, **economic and cultural** rights

A Failed Campaign?

- Though human rights **agreements** have ↑, **abuses** have not ↓
- Ratification of the CAT associated with **more** torture
- Many gov's offer **pretense** of freedom w/ **rigged elect**
- Typical response to state-led **mass killings** is none at all
- Repression typically increases following **economic sanctions**

Unsung Victories

- Economic benefits often tied to HR practices
 - Preferential trade agreements
 - World Bank loans
 - Foreign direct investment
- Improvement without economic incentives
 - Reassurance and compliance with laws of war
 - Demobilization of agents of oppression