

# HUMAN RIGHTS

## **GENERAL OVERVIEWS.**

The past, present, and future of human rights can be summarized by the 15 recent books, below. [The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History](#) by Columbia historian Samuel Moyn (Harvard UP/Belknap, Sept 2010, 305p) describes how human rights rose from the ruins of earlier political utopias, was strengthened by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and was eventually embraced by broad communities in the decade after 1968; but the ideal requires more vigilance and scrutiny now due to rival political agendas. [The Atlas of Human Rights: Mapping Violations of Freedom around the Globe](#) by Andrew Fagan (U of California Press, Aug 2010, 128p) details the status of sexual and religious freedom, racism, women's rights, children's rights, etc.; worries about state-sponsored torture, indefinite detention, and police brutality, as governments use the threat of terrorism to restrict basic human rights. [Freedom in the World 2011](#) by Freedom House (Rowman & Littlefield, Jan 2011, 446p), the detailed annual survey of political rights and civil liberties published since 1972, provides ratings and reports on 193 countries, finding "the fifth consecutive year in which global freedom suffered a decline." [World Report 2010](#) by Human Rights Watch (Seven Stories Press, Feb 2010, 592p) investigates human rights abuses and describes the way forward to a more humane future. [Human Rights Regimes in the Americas](#) edited by Monica Serrano and Vesselin Popovski (United Nations U Press, March 2010, 280p) reports considerable progress in human rights, although abuses of rights have now taken on a different and elusive character. [International Human Rights Law: An Introduction](#) by David Weissbrodt and Connie de la Vega (U of Pennsylvania Press, Aug 2010, 448p) summarizes principles and practices relevant to self-determination, equality, life, slavery, torture, fair trial, detention, privacy, health, food, and housing, as well as emerging rights such as sustainable development, environmental health, peace, and security from terrorism. Also describes UN human rights procedures, and national institutions and processes. [Conflict and Compliance: State Responses to International Human Rights Pressure](#) by Sonia Cardenas (U of Pennsylvania Press, Aug 2010, 448p) describes international pressures applied to numerous states with varying results; policies are more efficient when they target root causes of state oppression.

Looking ahead, [Universal Rights and Extraterritorial Obligations](#) edited by Mark Gibney and Sigrun Skogly (U of Pennsylvania Press, Jan 2010, 296p) argues for a more complex and updated approach to protecting human rights worldwide, in that globalization is challenging fundamental principles of international law. [Human Rights and the Ethics of Globalization](#) by Daniel E. Lee and Elizabeth J. Lee (Cambridge UP, Nov 2010, 224p) discusses how to enforce global compliance with basic human rights standards, and maps out the foundations of an ethics of globalization. [The Future of Human Rights: US Policy for a New Era](#) edited by William F. Schulz, former director of Amnesty International USA (U of Pennsylvania Press, Feb 2009, 288p) assembles 13 essays on the state of global human rights, promoting democracy, women's rights, refugee policy, labor standards, economic rights, and once again making the US a respected proponent. [The International Struggle for New Human Rights](#) edited by Clifford Bob (U of Pennsylvania Press, Aug 2010, 208p) describes efforts of various groups to use human rights framing to gain support for their cause (disabled people, indigenous people, AIDS patients, the right to water, etc.), and resistance by human rights groups worried that rights "proliferation" will weaken efforts to protect civil and political rights. [Preventive Human Rights: Strategies in a World of Acute Threats and Challenges](#) by Bertrand G. Ramcharan (Routledge, Feb 2010, 144p) considers preventive human rights diplomacy, preventive strategies of NGOs, and roles of peacekeepers and human rights monitors. [The Evolution of International Human Rights: Visions Seen](#) by Paul Gordon Lauren (U of Pennsylvania Press, Feb 2011, 480p) focuses on growing recognition that the way governments treat their own people is a matter of international concern (leading to R2P—Responsibility to Protect doctrine), the International Criminal Court, terrorism and torture, and globalization and modern technology. [Human Rights for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Sovereignty, Civil Society, Culture](#) by Helen M. Stacy of the Stanford Law School (Stanford UP, Feb 2009, 304p) proposes a new ethical and legal framework to fill gaps in current approaches. Finally, looking far ahead, [2048: Humanity's Agreement to Live Together](#) by J. Kirk Boyd of the UC-Berkeley Law School (Berrett-Koehler, April 2010, 222p; GFB Book of the Month for June 2010; [www.2048.berkeley.edu](http://www.2048.berkeley.edu)) proposes an enforceable International Convention in place by the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR that safeguards five fundamental freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom for the environment.

***OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.***

Some specific issues with book-length treatment address labor migration, stateless children, child labor, hunger and children, health rights, workplace human rights, subsistence rights, human rights and development, U.S. human rights, indigenous people rights, Muslims and global justice, reproductive health, torture and law, and state terrorism. The book titles can be accessed in the GFB database by using these keywords, or by looking under Human Rights, a major sub-category of World Futures.