

## 8/The Future of Human Rights and International Law in a Divided World

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### Acronyms and abbreviations

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights:** Adopted by the U.N. in 1948, it outlines the fundamental human rights and freedoms that belong to all people such as equality, freedom of expression, and protection from discrimination, among others. The UDHR serves as a cornerstone for international human rights law and advocacy.

**International Covenant of Civil Political Rights (ICCPR):** The ICCPR adopted by the United Nations in 1966, is a treaty that protects individuals' civil and political rights such as freedom of speech, religion, and fair trial.

**International Covenant of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR):** Adopted by the U.N. in 1966, the ICESCR commits countries to protect rights related to work, education, health, and an adequate standard of living. It emphasizes the progressive realization of these rights through development and international cooperation.

**International Labor Organization (ILO):** Founded in 1919, it is a U.N. agency that promotes social justice and internationally recognized labor rights. It advocates for fair wages, safe workplaces, and the elimination of forced and child labor.

**United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):** A specialized U.N. agency established in 1945 to promote international collaboration in education, science, and culture. It works to promote cultural heritage, support education initiatives, and foster scientific cooperation across the world.

**World Health Organization (WHO):** A U.N. agency founded in 1948, responsible for coordinating international public health efforts. It sets health standards, provides guidance on disease prevention, and responds to global health emergencies.

**UN Security Council (UNSC):** A principal organ of the U.N. responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It has fifteen members, including five permanent members with veto power, and can authorize sanctions, peacekeeping missions, or military action.

**Convention Against All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD):** Adopted by the U.N. in 1965, it commits countries to eliminate racial discrimination and promote equality. It requires states to take legal and policy measures to combat racism and protect the rights of all individuals.

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):** A set of 17 global objectives adopted by the United Nations to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. Some goals include no poverty, zero hunger, quality education, gender equality, and clean water and sanitation, among others.

### Historical Events/Concepts/Organization:

**Age of Rights:** The Age of Rights refers to the period after WWII, where human rights became a central focus of international law. It is marked by the creation of key documents like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials:** Post-WWII military tribunals that prosecuted Axis leaders for war crimes and crimes against humanity. They established the principle that individuals, including heads of state, can be held accountable under international law.

**Rome Statute:** Adopted in 1988, it is the treaty that established the International Criminal Court. It defines international crimes such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The statute aims to ensure accountability and promote global justice.

**Proto-constitutions:** Early frameworks or documents that outlined governing principles before the creation of formal constitutions.

**Convention on Torture:** Adopted by the U.N. in 1984, it prohibits the use of torture and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment. It requires member states to prevent and punish torture.

**Non-refoulement:** A principle of international law that forbids countries from returning refugees or asylum seekers to a place where they face persecution, torture, or serious harm. It is a cornerstone of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

**Alligator Alcatraz:** A nickname for a remote immigration detention center built by the State of Florida in the Everglades to house a large number of migrants. It has drawn human-rights scrutiny with lawsuits alleging harsh conditions and lack of transparency.

**Agency for International Development:** Refers to USAID, a U.S. government agency that provides foreign aid to promote global development, health, and humanitarian assistance. Established in 1961, it promotes programs in education, agriculture, democracy, and economic growth.

**International Bill of Rights:** A set of fundamental human rights document that includes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

**Third World Approaches to International Law:** A scholarly perspective that critiques how international law has historically favored powerful states, while marginalizing developing countries. It emphasizes the need

for reform to address inequality, colonial legacies, and the interests of the Global South.

**Amnesty International:** An international global human rights organization founded in 1961 which documents human rights violations, advocates for justice, and mobilizes public pressure on governments.

**Geneva Convention:** A series of international treaties that set the standard for humanitarian treatment of people in times of war. They protect wounded soldiers, prisoners of war, and civilians from abuse.

**Jus cogens:** A Latin term for “compelling law” which refers to fundamental principles of international law that are universally binding on all states and cannot be violated by any state. These rules protect the core interests of the international community. Examples include the prohibition of genocide, torture, slavery, wars of aggression, and more.

**Inter-American Court of Human Rights:** A judicial body established in 1979 to enforce and interpret the American Convention on Human Rights. It hears cases of human rights violations and issues rulings for member states in the Organization of American States.

**International Court of Justice:** Established in 1945, it’s the principal judicial organ of the U.N.. It provides advisory opinions on international legal questions referred by the U.N. General Assembly or other agencies.

**Global Human Rights System:** An international framework of treaties, organizations, and norms designed to protect the human rights of all individuals.

**Organization of American States:** A regional organization of 35 members founded in 1948 to promote democracy, human rights, and development in the Americas.

**Maputo Protocol:** A legal instrument adopted in 2003 that complements the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights by specifically addressing the rights of women in Africa. It covers issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, protection from violence, and participation in political and social life.

**Treaty of Westphalia:** A treaty signed in 1648 which ended the Thirty Years' War and established the foundations of the modern state system. It introduced the principles of state sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs of other states.

**Just War:** A framework in ethics and international law that evaluates when it is morally acceptable to go to war and how war should be conducted. It emphasizes criteria such as just cause, legitimate authority, proportionality, and discrimination between combatants and civilians.