HIST 72600

Human Rights and Nation-States: A Global History
Fall 2017
Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 PM

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Course Description
We live in a world of 195 independent, sovereign states. Virtually every one of them has a constitution that proclaims the rights of its citizens – even when those rights are only a veneer, below which the jailer, the torturer, the censor reign supreme. Only as members of particular nations do we become rights-bearing citizens; we never have rights simply as individuals, and global citizenship is rhetoric or ideal, not something that represents any kind of realistic possibility. Rights based in national (or racial) belonging are inherently limiting: only citizens may partake of the full panoply of rights, others are pushed to the margins, granted lesser rights or excluded altogether through policies like forced assimilation, ethnic cleansing, and, ultimately, genocide.

The central questions that drive "Human Rights and Nation-States: A Global History" are: Who, in fact, constitutes the nation, and by what criteria? And who, therefore, has the “right to have rights,” as Hannah Arendt, and, before her, the German Enlightenment philosopher Johann Gottlieb Fichte proclaimed? Moreover, are rights universal? And what is the relationship between human rights and humanitarian intervention?

The course will combine theoretical and empirical readings and move to different cases around the globe from the late eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries to explore the entwined phenomena of nation-states and human rights and all their accompanying achievements, paradoxes, and disasters.

Learning Objectives
• Develop a critical understanding of the history of human rights and nation-states.
• Become familiar with the extensive historiography on the topics.
• Develop your ability to write in a variety of genres: research papers, brief critical commentaries, op-ed's.
• Enhance your ability to frame and defend historical arguments.
• Develop your knowledge of particular historical cases in the modern world.
• Enhance your ability to read, speak, and write critically.

Course requirements
• Active participation in class (30%).
• Write brief (ca. 200 words) commentaries and questions on the weekly readings. Commentaries should be posted on Blackboard by 10:00 AM the day of the class (20%).
• Write an op-ed (ca. 250 words) (10%).
• Write a research paper (ca. 20 pages) on a topic of your choice related to the theme of the course (40%).
• Choose one or two class sessions to introduce the topic and readings (included in class participation).

Class Schedule
NB! I have deliberately left open three sessions of the course schedule. We will fill that in as we get toward November based on your interests. We can go in a variety of directions: deeper theoretical engagements, examination of additional cases, more intensive explorations of cases we have already considered, or some combination thereof.

Full citations for the readings are in the bibliography, which follows the Class Schedule.

* = on Blackboard
** = on reserve in Library
≠ = electronic resource from Library

August 29  
**Introduction: The Problem (as I see it)***

**Basic definitions: Human Rights, Crimes against Humanity, Genocide**


Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Genocide Convention
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ CrimeOfGenocide.aspx

Crimes against Humanity

September 5  
**Debating Human Rights I: The End of Human Rights?***

Sikkink, *Evidence for Hope*

**Neier, *International Human Rights Movement*, pp. 57-92

Read in at least one of the following:

**Moyn, *Last Utopia***

Posner, *Twilight of Human Rights Law*

≠Hopgood, *Endtimes of Human Rights*

*Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*, 1-38

September 12  
**Debating Human Rights II: Universalism and Particularism***

*Ben-Habib, "Another Universalism: On the Unity and Diversity of Human Rights"


*Shestack, "The Philosophic Foundations of Human Rights"

*Kennedy, *Dark Sides of Virtue*, xi-xxvi, 3-35

*Sen, "Elements of a Theory of Human Rights"

≠Nussbaum, *Creating Capabilities*, pp. 17-45, 113-22
September 12  
**Empires and Nation-States**

**Burbank and Cooper, Empires in World History, pp. 1-22**

Kumar, *Visions of Empire*, pp. 1-36, 465-75

#Suny, "The Empire Strikes Out"

*Weber, definition of the state

Read in one of the following:

**Gellner, Nations and Nationalism**

**Kedourie, Nationalism**

**Anderson, Imagined Communities**

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September 19  
**No class (Thursday schedule)**

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September 26  
**Greece: Leaving the Empire and Founding the Nation-State**


**Dakin, Greek Struggle for Independence, pp.**

#Rodogno, *Against Massacres, pp.*

Lord Byron, excerpts

Greek constitutions

Research paper topic and initial bibliography due

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October 3  
**Removals of Indigenous Peoples and the Nation-State**

**Weitz, draft chapter 3**

Moses, "Empire, Colony, Genocide"

Wolfe, "Structure and Event"

#Levene, *Genocide in the Age of the Nation State, 5-60*

#Mehta, "Liberal Strategies of Exclusion"

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October 10  
**New World Slavery and the Abolitionist Movement**

Nabucco, *Abolitionism*


**Williams, Capitalism and Slavery, pp.**

**Davis, Inhuman Bondage, pp.**

#Drechsel, *Abolition, pp.*

Read in:

**Hochschild, Bury the Chains**

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October 17  
**The Creation of Minorities: Armenians and Jews**

Weitz, draft chapter 7

**Arendt, Origins of Totalitarianism, 267-302: "The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man"**

*Leuprecht, "Minority Rights Revisited"

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October 24  
**Namibia: Colonial Subjects, Genocide, and the Rights of Whites**

Lake and Reynolds, *Drawing the Global Colour Line*

#Hull, *Absolute Destruction, 1-90*

Research paper thesis statement and developed bibliography due
October 31  
**Korea: Colonial Subjects, or: Nation-States without Rights?**
**Cumings, Korea, pp.**
**Lee, Sourcebook of Korean Tradition, pp.**
≠Manela, Wilsonian Moment, pp. 119-35

November 7  
**Partitions and National Rights: India/Pakistan and Palestine/Israel**
Lausanne Treaty (1923), excerpts
Palestine Royal Commission Report (1937), excerpts
Mountbatten, excerpts
≠Weitz, "Self-Determination"
*Kumar, "Troubled History of Partition"
Metcalf and Metcalf, Concise History of Modern India, 203-30.
≠Wolpert, Shameful Flight, 153-82
≠Morris, 1948, 1-74
≠Confino, "Miracles and Snow in Palestine and Israel"
**Khalidi, Origins of Arab Nationalism

November 14  
**Op-ed's due**

November 21  
**No class (Friday schedule)**

November 28

December 5

December 12  
**The Problem of Humanitarian Intervention**
Menon, Conceit of Humanitarian Intervention
Responsibility to Protect
Klose, Emergence of Humanitarian Intervention, pp.
**Bass, Freedom's Battle, 11-43
≠Rodogno, Against Massacre, pp.**

December 14  
**Final papers due at 12:00 noon**

**Recommended for Purchase**
Sikkink, Kathryn. Evidence for Hope.
Nussbaum, Martha. Creating Capabilities.
Lake, Marilyn and Henry Reynolds. Drawing the Global Colour Line.
Menon, Rajan. The Conceit of Humanitarian Intervention.
Bibliography
NB: The literature on nation-states and human right is immense, and includes the disciplines of history, law, philosophy, political science, and sociology, among others. The bibliography I have assembled is by no means complete, a task that, in any case, would be impossible. The bibliography reflects works that are related to the specific topics we are covering, as well as books and articles that I have found particularly significant. With a few exceptions, I have limited the bibliography to works in English, but there are of course an immense number of works in other languages as well.
I have grouped the entries under four themes; in many cases the books and articles overlap into one or another of the adjacent categories.

In addition to the regular historical journals, you should consult:

*Humanity*
*Human Rights Quarterly*
*Journal of Genocide Research*
*Journal of Human Rights*
*Nations and Nationalities*


**Philosophy, Theory, and Law**


Cassese, Antonio. *The Self-Determination of Peoples: A Legal Reappraisal*. Cambridge:


**Contemporary Issues**


**Empires and Nation-States**


Weber, Max. excerpt in

**Histories**


Anderson, Gary Clayton and Alan R. Woolworth, eds. *Through Dakota Eyes: Narrative*


