Political Science 12: IR -- Eighth Lecture, Part 2
Human Rights
Human Rights

1. Half a Century of Progress
2. Defining Human Rights
3. Why Do States Violate Human Rights?
4. Treaty Politics
5. Enforcement
6. Will Protection Improve?
Human Rights

1. Half a Century of Progress
2. Defining Human Rights
3. Why Do States Violate Human Rights?
4. Treaty Politics
5. Enforcement
6. Will Protection Improve?
# Half a Century of Progress

## Table 12.1: United Nations Human Rights Agreements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty</th>
<th>Date Signed/ In Force</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Outlines basic human rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide</td>
<td>1948/1951</td>
<td>Bans acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)</td>
<td>1965/1969</td>
<td>Bans all racial discrimination, with particular attention to policies and practices of apartheid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)</td>
<td>1966/1976</td>
<td>Details the basic economic, social, and cultural rights of individuals and nations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW)</td>
<td>1990/2003</td>
<td>Details the special rights of workers outside their country of origin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Human Rights

1. Half a Century of Progress
2. Defining Human Rights
3. Why Do States Violate Human Rights?
4. Treaty Politics
5. Enforcement
6. Will Protection Improve?
Conceptions of human rights usually follow Western ideals.
Defining Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Two binding agreements

1. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
2. International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
Defining Human Rights

Vague consensus on rights masks major differences in definition
Defining Human Rights
Weaker states may see foreign efforts to promote individual political rights as a means of increasing Western influence.
Human Rights

1. Half a Century of Progress
2. Defining Human Rights
3. Why Do States Violate Human Rights?
4. Treaty Politics
5. Enforcement
6. Will Protection Improve?
Why Do States Violate Human Rights?

• Lack of capacity
• Foreign threats
• Sovereignty
• To maintain power
Why Do States Violate Human Rights?
Why Do States Violate Human Rights?

Map 12.1: Imprisonment for Nonviolent Politics Beliefs and Actions, 2009
Why Do States Violate Human Rights?

Map 12.2: Torture, 2009

- Torture practiced frequently
- Torture practiced occasionally
- Torture not practiced in given year
- No data available
Human Rights

1. Half a Century of Progress
2. Defining Human Rights
3. Why Do States Violate Human Rights?
4. Treaty Politics
5. Enforcement
6. Will Protection Improve?
Treaty Politics

Why sign human rights treaties?
Why do states care about human rights abuses overseas?
Treaty Politics
Treaty Politics
Treaty Politics

Treaty Politics

Optimists hope that treaties may have longer-term effects.
Human Rights

1. Half a Century of Progress
2. Defining Human Rights
3. Why Do States Violate Human Rights?
4. Treaty Politics
5. Enforcement
6. Will Protection Improve?
Enforcement

• Cost / benefit analysis
• Interests
• Motives for others to punish violators may be weak, or provide too few benefits
• Under what conditions are states likely to enforce human rights?
Enforcement
Enforcement
Enforcement
Enforcement
Human Rights

1. Half a Century of Progress
2. Defining Human Rights
3. Why Do States Violate Human Rights?
4. Treaty Politics
5. Enforcement
6. Will Protection Improve?
Will Protection Improve?

- Transnational justice
- Individual petition
- Universal jurisdiction
- The International Criminal Court (ICC)
Will Protection Improve?
Will Protection Improve?

Linking material interest to human rights
Will Protection Improve?

Map 12.3: Women’s Political Rights, 2009
Political Science 12: International Relations