Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach, 2nd Edition
Michael Freeman

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DESCRIPTION

Human Rights is an introductory text that is both innovative and challenging. It invites students to think conceptually about one of the most important and influential political concepts of our time. In this unique interdisciplinary approach, Michael Freeman emphasizes the complex ways in which the experiences of the victims of human rights violations are related to legal, philosophical and social-scientific approaches to human rights.

By tracing the history of the concept, the book shows that there is a fundamental tension between the philosophy of human rights and the way in which it is understood in the social sciences. This analysis throws light on some of the most controversial issues in the field: Is the idea of the universality of human rights consistent with respect for cultural difference? Are there collective human rights? Should feminists embrace, revise or reject the idea of human rights? Does the idea of human rights distract our attention from the structural causes of oppression and exploitation? What are the underlying causes of human rights violations; and why do some countries have much worse human rights records than others?

The book will appeal to students in the social sciences, as well as students of human rights law who want an introduction to the non-legal aspects of their subject. It will also be read by scholars interested in ethics and the social sciences, as well as the general reader. This is a substantially revised edition that takes account of recent events such as the ‘war on terror’ and the global economic crisis of 2008.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Freeman is a research professor in the Department of Government at the University of Essex. He has given lectures at universities in more than 20 countries and has published extensively on the theory and practice of human rights.

NEW TO EDITION

Fully revised and expanded with new material covering the War on Terror, the global economic crisis of 2008, and contemporary issues such as climate change and global justice.

FEATURES

• Eagerly awaited second edition of this highly respected introduction to the theory and practice of human rights.

• Innovative and challenging, this book invites students to think conceptually about one of the most important and influential political concepts of our time.

• Emphasizes how the experiences of the victims of human rights violations are related to legal, philosophical and social-scientific approaches to human rights.

• Asks key questions, such as: Does the idea of human rights distract our attention from the structural causes of oppression and exploitation? What are the underlying causes of human rights violations? Why do some countries have much worse human rights records than others?

• This substantially revised edition takes account of crucial recent events such as the ‘war on terror’ and the global economic crisis of 2008.

SERIES

Key Concepts
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