

Chapter 20: Culture and Community in the Global Age: 20-1a Universal Rights and Values
Book Title: The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History 7th Edition Update, AP® Edition
Printed By: James Harper (carter_mcquaid@roundrockisd.org)
© 2022 Cengage Learning, Inc., Cengage Learning, Inc.

20-1a Universal Rights and Values

Alongside the growing influence of religion on politics, efforts to promote adherence to universal human rights also expanded. The modern human rights movement grew out of secular statements like the French Declaration of the Rights of Man (1789) and the U.S. Constitution (1788) and Bill of Rights (1791).

The [**Universal Declaration of Human Rights**](#) (A 1948 United Nations covenant binding signatory nations to the observance of specified rights. (p. 587)) , passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, culminated this movement by proclaiming itself “a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations.” Its thirty articles condemned slavery, torture, cruel and inhuman punishment, and arbitrary arrest, detention, and exile. The Declaration called for freedom of movement, assembly, and thought. It asserted rights to life, liberty, and security of person; to impartial public trials; and to education, employment, and leisure. The principle of equality was most fully articulated in Article 2:

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, or political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. *

This passage reflected an international consensus against racism and imperialism and a growing acceptance of the importance of social and economic equality. Most newly independent countries joining the United Nations willingly signed the Declaration because it implicitly condemned Europe’s colonial past. The Declaration’s principles, however, have too often suffered from neglect under authoritarian regimes.

Chapter 20: Culture and Community in the Global Age: 20-1a Universal Rights and Values
Book Title: The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History 7th Edition Update, AP® Edition
Printed By: James Harper (carter_mcquaid@roundrockisd.org)
© 2022 Cengage Learning, Inc., Cengage Learning, Inc.

© 2025 Cengage Learning Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means - graphic, electronic, or mechanical, or in any other manner - without the written permission of the copyright holder.