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The following video describes how the typology proposed in the early 1980s by a Norwegian jurist, Asbjorn Eide, emerged, and what motivated its formulation; and how it entered into the United Nations human rights system in the mid 1980s. It also explains the importance of this shift in our understanding of all human rights, and not of economic and social rights alone.

A TYPOLOGY OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

Help

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Sometimes, legal doctrine really matters.  
And one good example of this is the very impressive progress  
that was made in the area of economic, social, and cultural rights  
in the 1980s, thanks to the tool that was provided to understand and think  
about the significance of economic and social rights by a Norwegian jurist,  
Asbjorn Eide, who in the early 1980s was requested  
by the Norwegian ministry of foreign affairs  
to help them understand what human rights requirements implied  
in the area of development cooperation.  
And Asbjorn Eide, writing initially in Norwegian for the Ministry,

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thought about a typology that would define

the relationship between human rights and states obligations

and the duty of states to intervene in market relationships.

Essentially the reasoning of Asbjorn Eide was that states had a first duty, which was to abstain from interfering with the existing

levels of enjoyment of human rights.

And that he called the obligation to respect human rights as they

were already implemented, if you wish.

But then he said states also must intervene sometimes

in market relationships in inter-individual relationships

to protect weak parties from their rights

### Help

You may also watch this video on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoEK-D9Q9Po>), or download it here (<http://podcast.uclouvain.be/D5U8JCJSEt>) (captions ([/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/\\_Captions\\_Louv2.01x\\_-\\_Typology\\_of\\_human\\_rights.srt](/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Captions_Louv2.01x_-_Typology_of_human_rights.srt)) in .srt format and a full transcript ([/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/\\_Transcript\\_Louv201x\\_-\\_Typology\\_of\\_Obligations.pdf](/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Transcript_Louv201x_-_Typology_of_Obligations.pdf)) are also available).



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