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In this section of the course, we examine some key notions, related to the general regime of human rights. We will examine successively how the notion of "jurisdiction" has sometimes been used to define restrictively the situations in which human rights treaties may be invoked against a particular State (the key idea being that a State can only be responsible for situations over which it exercises effective control) (Sub-section 1); how the duties of the State have been delineated (to respect, protect and fulfil and human rights) (Sub-section 2); and whether States may suspend human rights in certain situations of emergency, to face specific threats to the life of the nation (Sub-section 3). Many of these notions are examined superficially here, to be explored in greater detail in later parts of the course.

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