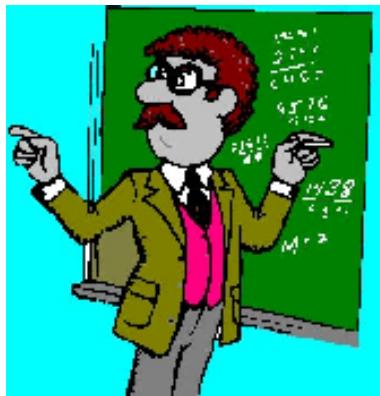


Contemporary World



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8th Lecture

Human Rights Issues and Problem

- Human Rights Historical Background
- Immigrants and aliens in Europe
- War Crime Trails, A Case Study of Ultra nationalism
- The Struggle for Women Right.

What are Human Rights



DEFINITION

- The basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are considered to be entitled, often held to include the rights to life, liberty, equality, and a fair trial, freedom from slavery and torture, and freedom of thought and expression.
- Human rights are basic rights and freedoms that all people are entitled to regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, language, or other status.

DEFINITION

- Human rights include civil and political rights, such as the right to life, liberty and freedom of expression; and social, cultural and economic rights including the right to participate in culture, the right to food, and the right to work and receive an education. Human rights are protected and upheld by international and national laws and treaties.

Hammurabi's Code of Law

- I. Babylonian Empire [2000 BC – 1680 BC]
 - 1. Nomadic warriors overtook the Sumerians.
- II. Hammurabi's Code
 - 1. In 1790 BC, king wrote the world's first large collection of laws.
- III. Legal Principles of Hammurabi
 - 1. "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."
 - A. 282 specific laws.
 - 2. Punishments would be based upon social class of lawbreaker.
 - A. Wealthy citizens would pay fines, commoners would face physical punishment.
 - B. Government had a responsibility for what occurred in society.



builder builds a house and does not make the construction firm and the house collapses and causes death of the owner, that builder shall be put to death.

trader borrows money from a merchant and then denies it, and the merchant can prove this loan was made, the trader shall pay the merchant three times the amount he borrowed

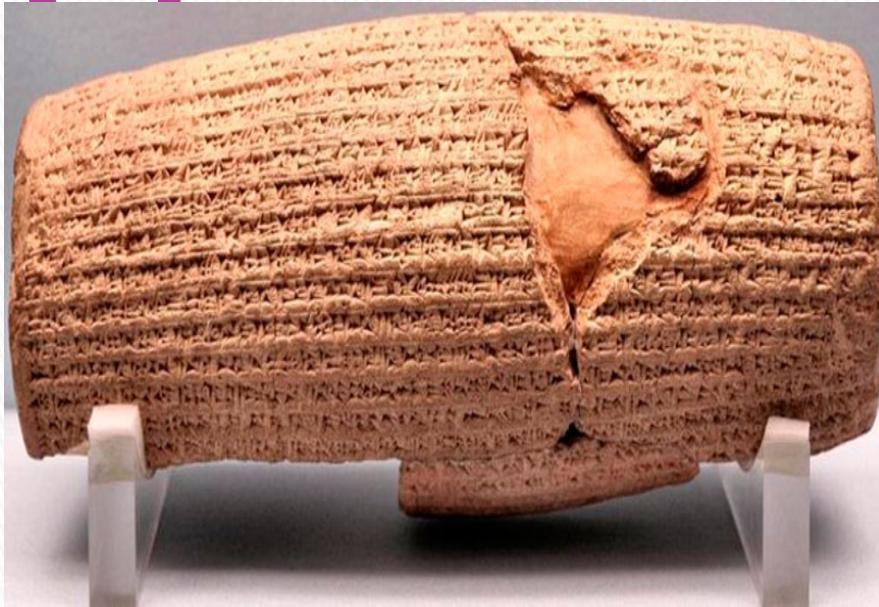
History of Human Rights

- Cyrus the Great (zoulqarnain) 539 B.C
 - 1. He freed the slaves.
 - 2. Declared that all people had the right to choose their own religion.
 - 3. Established racial equality.

The Cyrus Cylinder (539 B.C.)

- In 539 B.C., the armies of **Cyrus the Great**, the first king of ancient Persia, conquered the city of Babylon.
- But it was his next actions that marked a major advance for Man. He freed the slaves, declared that all people had the right to choose their own religion, and established racial equality.
- These and other decrees were recorded on a baked-clay cylinder in the Akkadian language with cuneiform script.

The Cyrus Cylinder (539 B.C.)



The decrees Cyrus made on human rights were inscribed in the Akkadian language on a baked-clay cylinder.

Cyrus the Great, the first king of Persia, freed the slaves of Babylon, 539 B.C.

The Cyrus Cylinder (539 B.C.)

- Known today as **the Cyrus Cylinder**, this ancient record has now been recognized as the world's first charter of human rights.
- It is translated into all six official languages of the United Nations and its provisions **parallel the first four Articles** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Spread of Human Rights

- From Babylon, the idea of human rights spread quickly to India, Greece and eventually Rome.
- There the concept of “**natural law**” arose, in observation of the fact that people tended to follow certain unwritten laws in the course of life, and Roman law was based on rational ideas derived from the nature of things.

Take Note of these:

- Human Rights in Islam
- Imam Zainul Abideen الرسالة الحقوق
- Magna Carta (1215)
- the Petition of Right (1628)
- the US Constitution (1787)
- the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789)
- US Bill of Rights (1791)

The Magna Carta (1215)

- The **Magna Carta**, or “Great Charter,” was arguably the most significant early influence on the extensive historical process that led to the rule of constitutional law today in the English-speaking world.
- In 1215, after **King John of England** *violated a number of ancient laws and customs* by which England had been governed, **his subjects forced him to sign the Magna Carta**, which enumerates what later came to be thought of as human rights.
- Widely viewed as one of the most important legal documents in the development of

Petition of Right (1628)

- The next recorded milestone in the development of human rights was the **Petition of Right**, produced in **1628** by the English Parliament and sent **to Charles I** as a statement of civil liberties.
- The Petition of Right, initiated by **Sir Edward Coke**, was based upon earlier statutes and charters and asserted four principles:
 1. No taxes may be levied without consent of Parliament
 2. No subject may be imprisoned without cause shown (reaffirmation of the right of habeas corpus)
 3. No soldier may be quartered on the citizens

United States Declaration of Independence (1776)

- On July 4, 1776, the United States Congress approved the Declaration of Independence.
- Its primary author, **Thomas Jefferson**, wrote the Declaration as a formal explanation of why Congress had voted on July 2 to **declare independence from Great Britain**, more than a year after the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War, and as a statement announcing that the thirteen American Colonies were no longer a part of the British Empire.
- Congress issued the Declaration of Independence in several forms. It was

United States Declaration of Independence (1776)

- Philosophically, the Declaration stressed two themes:
- **individual rights** and the **right of revolution**.
- These ideas became widely held by Americans and spread internationally as well, influencing in particular the French Revolution.

The Constitution of the United States of America (1787)

- Written during the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia, the Constitution of the United States of America is the fundamental law of the US federal system of government and the landmark document of the Western world.
- It is the oldest written national constitution in use and defines the principal organs of government and their jurisdictions and the basic rights of citizens.

Bill of Rights (1791)

- The first ten amendments to the **Constitution—the Bill of Rights—came** into effect on December 15, 1791, limiting the powers of the federal government of the United States and protecting the rights of all citizens, residents and visitors in American territory.
- The Bill of Rights protects freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to keep and bear arms, the freedom of assembly and the freedom to petition.
- It also prohibits unreasonable search and seizure, cruel and unusual punishment and

Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789)

- In 1789 the people of France brought about the abolition of the absolute monarchy and set the stage for the establishment of the first French Republic.
- Just six weeks after the storming of the Bastille, and barely three weeks after the abolition of feudalism, the **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen** was adopted by the National Constituent Assembly as the first step toward writing a constitution for the Republic of France.
- The Declaration proclaims that all citizens are to be guaranteed the rights of “liberty,

The First Geneva Convention (1864)

- In 1864, sixteen European countries and several American states attended a conference in Geneva, at the invitation of the Swiss Federal Council, on the initiative of the Geneva Committee.
- The diplomatic conference was held for the purpose of adopting a convention for the treatment of wounded soldiers in combat.
- The main principles laid down in the Convention and maintained by the later Geneva Conventions provided for the obligation to extend care without discrimination to wounded and sick military

The United Nations (1945)

- World War II had raged from 1939 to 1945, and as the end drew near, cities throughout Europe and Asia lay in smoldering ruins. Millions of people were dead, millions more were homeless or starving.
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- Russian forces were closing in on the remnants of German resistance in Germany's bombed-out capital of Berlin.
- In the Pacific, US Marines were still battling entrenched Japanese forces on such islands as Okinawa.

5)



Fifty nations met in
San Francisco in
1945 and formed the
United Nations to

The United Nations (1945)

- In April 1945, delegates from fifty countries met in San Francisco full of optimism and hope.
- The goal of the United Nations Conference on International Organization was to fashion an international body to promote peace and prevent future wars.
- The ideals of the organization were stated in the preamble to its proposed charter:
 - ***We the peoples of the United Nations are determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in less than a generation has brought untold sorrow to mankind.***

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

- By 1948, the United Nations' new Human Rights Commission had captured the world's attention.
- Under the dynamic chairmanship of **Eleanor Roosevelt**—President Franklin Roosevelt's widow, a human rights champion in her own right and the United States delegate to the UN—the Commission set out to draft the document that became the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Roosevelt, credited with its inspiration, referred to the **Declaration as the international Magna Carta for all mankind**. It

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

- In its preamble and in Article 1, the Declaration unequivocally proclaims the inherent rights of all human beings:
 - ***“Disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people...All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”***

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

- The Member States of the United Nations pledged to work together to **promote the thirty Articles of human rights** that, for the first time in history, had been assembled and codified into a single document.
- In consequence, many of these rights, in various forms, are today part of the constitutional laws of democratic nations.