

Chapter 8: Human Rights

Glossary

Amnesty: an agreement not to prosecute individuals for certain offenses, and to pardon individuals already convicted of those offenses

Consular jurisdiction: separate legal systems for foreigners that were overseen by consular officials from the foreigners' home-state

Derogable right: a right that can be suspended by states during public emergencies

Ethnic cleansing: the compelled removal of an ethnic group using intimidation or violence

Genocide: “acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group”, including: killing; “causing serious bodily or mental harm”; “inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction”; preventing births; and “forcibly transferring children of the group to another group”

Human trafficking: the use of force, fraud, or coercion to secure labor; includes the recruitment, movement, harboring, or sale of individuals, both domestically and across international borders

Individual petition: process that allows individuals to directly complain to an international organization if they believe that their rights have been violated by a state

Margin of appreciation: doctrine that posits that because states have more knowledge about their own social context, a court ought to defer to states when applying legal standards.

Non-derogable right: a right that a state must uphold in all circumstances

Refoulement: the forced return of migrants to states where they are likely to suffer severe human rights violations, like torture

Relativism: a set of ethical, moral, and political theories that argue that human rights must be understood within their social context

Responsibility to protect: principle that (1) every state has responsibility to protect its population from severe violations of human rights and humanitarian law; and (2) failure to meet this responsibility can trigger force by the international community

Scorecard diplomacy: the public assessment and grading of states to influence behavior

Social security: financial assistance to protect individuals from unexpected outcomes that harm their livelihoods, including accidents, disability, illness, involuntary unemployment, and the death of a spouse; sometimes also includes benefits for the elderly and pregnant women

Special treaty body: an international institution that monitors compliance with a multilateral human rights treaty and assesses individual petitions about possible violations

Universal jurisdiction: the principle that a domestic court can prosecute severe crimes that: (1) occurred on foreign territory; (2) involved only foreign nationals; and (3) did not threaten the state's national security

Universalism: a set of ethical, moral, and political theories that argue that human rights are inherent to mankind and do not vary across social contexts