I. Human Rights: A New International Agenda

A. International Human Rights

1. The Standard—Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN, 1948)
   General Assembly set forth a "common standard of achievement for all people and all nations...shall strive... to promote respect for these rights and freedoms by progressive measures..."

   o Articles (30) identify basic human rights, including:

     (Articles)

     ✓ Political freedoms
       (e.g., free speech, right to assembly, no exile)

     ✓ Personal freedom
       (e.g., no slavery, right to join union, choose wife)

     ✓ Right to adequate standard of living/health
       (e.g., food, clothing, housing, medical care, social services)

     ✓ Right to an education, jobs
**Strengths/Weaknesses** (visionary--passed 59 years ago!)
- No direct legal force (like Declaration of Independence)
- Sets standards, gives leverage to human rights advocates
- Most nations see "rights" as desirable social goals, but not legally binding

2. Monitoring of Human Rights Abuses

- **UN Commission on Human Rights** (created in 1947)
  - Membership (53 countries)
    - Regional blocks selected representatives
    - Five-year terms, met once a year
  - Historical role/contribution
    - Monitor/investigates abuses
    - Power lies in identifying/embarrassing violators
  - Recent criticisms
    - Once chaired by Libya, members have included countries with poor human rights records (China, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Sudan, Congo, Saudi Arabia)

- US/NGOs said UNCHR was increasingly political--failed to pass resolutions criticizing Zimbabwe, Russia, Cuba, Sudan, etc. Others said US also violate human rights—citing death penalty, executing juveniles, uses "child" soldiers, has supported regimes that violate human rights, many post-9/11 violations (prisoners at Guantanamo Bay w/o charges, etc.)

- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights established in 1993 to promote/protect rights cited in the UDHR
- UNSG Annan proposed reforms—new Human Rights Council established in 2006, limits membership to nations w/ good human rights records, reports to the UN-OHCHR

- International NGOs (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch)
  - Increasingly important in putting pressure on abusing governments
  - Have pressed private companies on labor/environmental issues (e.g., Shell, Reebok, Nike)
**US State Department**

- Reports to Congress annually on human rights violators (500 pp.)

- Definition of human rights, as a US foreign policy objective, has expanded
  - **1960s**—focused on protecting people from government mistreatment
  - **Today**—focus reflects broader UDHR goals (e.g., institutional change, political rights, resolve internal conflicts, insure integrity of the person, press freedom, religious freedom, women/children's rights, workers' rights, and eliminate trafficking in persons (slavery, 27 million, 800,000 per year trafficked worldwide, 18-20,000 enter the US)

- Willingness to promote HR with sanctions has varied by:
  - **Admin:** Carter—strong advocate (2002 Nobel Peace Prize)
  - **Country:** Cuba—yes, China—no

- On-going debate—is "push or pull strategy" best? (e.g., China & WTO, greater engagement ➔ internal reforms)?

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3. **Should All Countries Be Held To the Same Human Right Standards?**

- Controversial Issues (e.g., child labor, women’s rights, fair wage)
  - Do "universally accepted" standards exist?
  - What should be the "criteria" for establishing a standard?
  - Should "cultural/religious values" be considered?
  - Who should sets the "standards"?

- Why aren't human rights criticisms/sanctions applied to all violators?
  - Countries protect their friends/ally
  - Pressure for sanction influenced by domestic politics (Cuba)
  - Criticisms made mainly against LDCs

- Expanding human rights represents a "historical trend" to empower the powerless
  - Evolving standard towards being more inclusive
  - Growing acceptance of expanding choice for all groups
II. Expanding Access to Opportunity

- Much progress, but still many concerns

- US has had to address similar human rights issues that LDCs face today

  ✓ Women (Photos)
    - Vote (New Zealand=1893, 26 before US; US=1920, 19th Amend.
    - Political office?
    - Admission to medical school?
    - Glass ceiling?

  ✓ Disadvantage groups/Minorities (Photos)
    - African Americans
    - Asians:
      - Land ownership restrictions
      - WW II Intern camps (Japanese Americans)
    - Latinos: Deported during the 1930s depression
    - Native Americans—Land stolen, promised broken

- Children (Photos)
  - Factory labor
  - Farm labor
  - Orphans sent west (early 1900s)

- Future—what human rights issues will your kids ask you “Why?”

A. Focus on Women (Social Watch)

  1. Some Indicators of Neglect/Discrimination in Many LDCs (GEI Map)
    - Account for 70% of the poor, big income gap (Table 2)
    - Are less educated, have higher illiteracy rates (Chart 1)
    - Limited access to credit, agricultural extension services
    - Have low social status, compared to men
    - Lack political & legal rights (Table 1, Chart 2)
2. **Concerns Raised by Human Rights Advocates?**
   - Domestic violence (DCs also), honor killings if wife is unfaithful
   - Infanticide (male preference), sati (widow), bride burning (India)
   - FGM (W. Africa/Middle East)
   - Forced marriages, bride price/dowry, polygamy (Africa, India)
   - Banned from school/workplace (Taliban Afghanistan) *(Photo)*
   - Can’t vote (many Middle East countries) or drive (Saudi Arabia)
   - Forced prostitution/sex tourism (Thailand, E. Europe, Brazil) *(Photo)*
   - No right to inherit property, own land, kids/divorce (Zimbabwe)
   - Forces abortions/sterilization (China, India in past years)
   - Work in sweatshops (C. America, Asia) *(Photo)*

**Paradox:** Several LDCs have/had female presidents/prime ministers (e.g., India, Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan, Germany, Liberia)

3. **Consequences (Why does it matter?)**
   - Major individual & societal impacts:
     - Direct impact on women  Examples?
     - Impact on society?  Examples?

4. **What Factors Contribute to Women’s Low Social, Legal & Economic Status (including in the US)?**
   - Culture/traditional values
   - Religion values
   - Lack of political voice/power
5. Strategies to Improve the Social, Legal & Economic Status of Women

- **Promote Legal Reforms & Cultural Changes**
  - **LDCs**—local activists/NGOs are working to
    - Promote legal reforms
      - Morocco—banned polygamy
      - Egypt—gave right to divorce
      - Senegal—banned FGM
      - LAC/India/Morocco/Brazil—quota laws for political offices
      - Jordan—gave women the vote
  - **Educate** women about their existing legal rights
    - China, Zimbabwe
  - **Punish** human traffickers/assist victims
    - Thailand, Philippines
  - **Change cultural values/reinterpret** religious texts
    - Senegal (Tostan—create a social consensus)
    - Middle East—Koran values women, give equal rights
  - **Progress**, but potential for a backlash
    - What’s needed for true reform?

- **DCs**
  - NGOs & legislators are pressing for
    - **Stiffer laws** to prosecute their citizens who traffic in people, participate in sex-tourism
    - **Sanctions** against countries that traffic in people
  - **Note**: Some US companies are setting an example by hiring/training women

- **Invest In Social Services** that Benefit Women
  - Education—female teachers, village schools, relevant curriculum
  - Health Services—family planning, rural clinics

- **Invest in Addressing Women’s Household/Agricultural Needs**
  - Household needs
    - Examples?
    - Tanzania: Solar Circle (Photo)
  - Agricultural needs
    - Examples?

- **Develop Programs that Address Women’s Income-Earning needs**
  - Job training
  - Small loans (e.g., Grameen Bank, Wise Center)
B. Focus on Disadvantaged Groups: the Landless, Minorities, Indigenous People & Refugees

Who/where are they?
- The rural landless
  - Africa (e.g., Zimbabwe, S. Africa)
  - L. America (Brazil--3 largest landowners own >land that 2.5 million smallest)
  - Asia (e.g., India, Indonesia)
- Minorities
  - Low social class (e.g., caste system in India)
  - Minority religion (e.g., Christians in Sudan)
- Indigenous groups (LA=55 million)
  - LAC indigenous people (e.g., Guatemala, Bolivia)
- Refugees (17 million)
  - Victims of civil unrest, wars (e.g., Congo, Darfur, Paleastine)

1. Some Indicators of Neglect/Discrimination
  - Higher incidence of poverty
  - Higher infant mortality rates, poorer health
  - Less access to education, health services

2. Some Concerns Raised by Human Rights Advocates
  - Limited access to land, due to colonial heritage (rural landless)
    - Latin America—Spanish land grants
    - Africa (e.g., Zimbabwe, South Africa)—colonial policies
  - Insecure land right
    - Indigenous people in LA—land grabs for timber, oil, plantations
  - Human rights abuses
    - Indigenous groups in LA (e.g., Guatemala, Chiapas), refugees
  - Limited access to social services (health, education)
    - Indigenous groups, refugees, minorities
  - Neglected by development projects
    - Indigenous groups, minorities

3. Consequences (Why does it matter?)
  - Political instability (e.g., Zimbabwe, Peru, Bolivia, Middle East)
  - Individual and societal loss
4. **What Factors Contribute To Disadvantaged Groups' Low Social, Legal & Economic Status?**
   - Tradition/culture
   - Lack of political power/voice

5. **Strategies to Improve the Social, Legal, & Economic Status of the Disadvantaged**
   - **Political action:**
     - Organize the disadvantaged to increase their political influence (NGOs, grassroots organizations)
     - Strengthen democratic institution (legal & political systems)
   - **Legal remedies**—enact laws to end legal discrimination, promote affirmative action to reduce inequality
     - India: affirmative action (lower casts, women)
       - Gandhi—1940’s, jobs for untouchables  *(video clip, 6 min.)*
     - Brazil: affirmative action for Afro-Brazilians
     - **Why** are affirmative action/racial preferences **needed**?

   - **Targeted programs** to meet the needs of the disadvantaged:
     - (e.g., Brazil—land reform, “Fome Zero” (food distribution program); India—social spending, “Rural Employment Guarantee Act”, development projects, micro-credit)

C. **Focus on Youth**
   1. **Legal Framework**
        - Similar to UDHR, but focuses on kids (not ratified by US)
        - Sets standards for:
          - Eliminating child labor, child prostitution, serving in armed forces, sale of children
          - Providing access to social services (health, education, etc)
   2. **Concerns Raised by Human Right Advocates**
      - Child labor, especially bonded labor  *(Photo)*
      - Child soldiers (300,000 kids)—forced recruitment  *(Photo)*
      - Child trafficking/sex tourism (ECPAT)  *(Photo)*
      - Street kids/orphans  *(Photo)*
3. **Consequences**
- Lifelong damage to health/AIDS
- Loss of self-esteem
- Loss of opportunity to attend school
- Delinquency/crime

4. **Some Contributing Causes**
   - **LDCs**
     - Poverty
     - Civil conflicts, wars
     - Lack of “government will” in some LDCs
     - Cultural values
   - **DCs**
     - “Demand” for cheap products/services in DCs
     - Lack of **public awareness** in DCs

5. **Strategies to Improve the Status of Children**
   - **LDCs**
     - **Enforce** existing laws
     - Support local initiatives (NGO) to rescue & rehabilitate victims
     - Increase access to education (NGOs, governments)
       - After school program (Brazil’s slums)
       - Reduce gender gap in education (Ethiopia)
       - Free education (Kenya—eliminated primary school fees)
       - Public libraries (Nepal, Kenya’s camel library)
       - Innovative initiatives in higher education (S. Africa)
   - **International Organizations** (NGOs, ILO, WTO)
     - **Pressure** LDCs to enforce existing laws, improve conditions
   - **DCs/Citizens in DCs**
     - Pressure their **governments** to pass new legislation
     - Pressure **private firms** to address human rights issues, improve working conditions
III. The Challenge of Increasing Access to Human Rights & Opportunity

A. Full access to human rights & opportunity is limited by interrelated factors--poverty, culture/traditions, legal & political structures

B. Challenges facing LDCs
   ✓ Promoting cultural change through education
   ✓ Developing programs that target groups most at-risk
   ✓ Passing/enforcing legislation that eliminate discrimination & guarantees human rights
   ✓ Developing more representative political systems

C. Challenges facing DCs
   ✓ Promoting a greater awareness of human rights issues and OUR role in contributing to & addressing these problem (Demand)
     ▪ Sex trade
     ▪ Child labor, sweatshop labor

   ✓ Assisting LDCs to reduce poverty--a major factor that limits access to opportunity & contributes to human rights in LDCs
Children & Women Subjected to Commercial Sexual Exploitation:

- India 400,000
- Taiwan 100,000
- Thailand 200,000
- Philippines 100,000
- United States 244,000 - 325,000
- Eastern & Central Europe 175,000
- Brazil 100,000
- West Africa 35,000

Source: UNICEF calls for eradication of commercial sexual exploitation of children
New Report Says Millions of Children are Sexually Exploited
http://www.unicef.org/newsline/01pr97.htm
Clothed in controversy

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The World According to GAP

Another day, another dollar...

- We got a discount?

Those workers saw at a maquila, or sweatshop in Central America. Many Central Americans have been indentured into worse labor situations, including sweatshops, where they face near-horrible conditions of indentured servitude.
RAOUL: That's true. Some of the population increase in the cities... and the poverty problems don't get solved. Now there are more younger kids begging and living on the streets.
TABLE 2. Income gap (women/men) by geographical region

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>0.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>0.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>0.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0.52</td>
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MAP 1. GEF average by geographical region