Human rights is an important issue in contemporary politics, and the last few decades have also seen a remarkable increase in research and teaching on the subject. This book introduces students to the study of human rights and aims to build on their interest while simultaneously offering an alternative vision of the subject. Many texts focus on the theoretical and legal issues surrounding human rights. This book adopts a substantially different approach which uses empirical data derived from research on human rights by political scientists to illustrate the occurrence of different types of human rights violations across the world. The authors devote attention to rights as well as to responsibilities, neither of which stops at one country’s political borders. They also explore how to deal with repression and the aftermath of human rights violations, making students aware of the prospects for and realities of progress.

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To our students and teachers
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## Abbreviations

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<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>African National Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARV</td>
<td>antiretroviral</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>Committee against Torture</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAVR</td>
<td>Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation</td>
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<td>CPR</td>
<td>civil and political rights</td>
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<td>CRP</td>
<td>Community Reconciliation Processes</td>
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<td>DAC</td>
<td>Development Assistance Committee</td>
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<td>ECHR</td>
<td>European Convention on Human Rights</td>
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<td>ECtHR</td>
<td>European Court of Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCR</td>
<td>economic, social and cultural rights</td>
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<td>FGM</td>
<td>female genital mutilation</td>
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<td>GNI</td>
<td>gross national income</td>
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<td>ICC</td>
<td>International Criminal Court</td>
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<td>ICJ</td>
<td>International Court of Justice</td>
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<td>ICTR</td>
<td>International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda</td>
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<td>ICTY</td>
<td>International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia</td>
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<td>IDP</td>
<td>internally displaced person</td>
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<td>IMT</td>
<td>international military tribunals</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-governmental organisation</td>
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<td>ODA</td>
<td>Official Development Assistance</td>
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<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<td>OGP</td>
<td>Office of the General Prosecutor</td>
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<td>Political Terror Scale</td>
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<td>R2P</td>
<td>Responsibility to Protect</td>
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<td>SCFAIT</td>
<td>Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Canada)</td>
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<td>Truth and Reconciliation Commission</td>
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<td>UDHR</td>
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<td>UN High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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