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978-1-107-11216-2 - The Making of International Human Rights: The 1960s,  
Decolonization and the Reconstruction of Global Values

Steven L. B. Jensen

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**The Making of International Human Rights**  
*The 1960s, Decolonization and the Reconstruction  
of Global Values*

This book fundamentally reinterprets the history of international human rights in the post-1945 era by documenting how pivotal the Global South was for their breakthrough. In stark contrast to other contemporary human rights historians who have focused almost exclusively on the 1940s and the 1970s – heavily privileging Western agency – Steven L. B. Jensen convincingly argues that it was in the 1960s that universal human rights had their breakthrough.

This is a groundbreaking work that places race and religion at the center of these developments and focuses on a core group of states that led the human rights breakthrough, namely Jamaica, Liberia, Ghana and the Philippines. They transformed the norms upon which the international community today is built. Their efforts in the 1960s postcolonial moment laid the foundation – in profound and surprising ways – for the so-called human rights revolution in the 1970s when Western activists and states began to embrace human rights.

Steven L. B. Jensen is a researcher at the Danish Institute for Human Rights. His current research, funded by the Danish Research Council (2015–2017), focuses on the history of economic and social rights after 1945. He has previously published on genocide, HIV/AIDS, global health and development, and 1960s politics and has held positions with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations. He is the winner of the 2015 Ester Boserup Thesis Prize and the 2015 Rene Cassin Thesis Prize (Special Mention).

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# The Making of International Human Rights

*The 1960s, Decolonization and the  
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STEVEN L. B. JENSEN

*The Danish Institute for Human Rights*



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## Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> ix
Negotiating universality – an introduction	I
1 “Power carries its own conviction”: the early rise and fall of human rights, 1945–1960	18
2 “The problem of freedom”: the United Nations and decolonization, 1960–1961	48
3 From Jamaica with law: the rekindling of international human rights, 1962–1967	69
4 The making of a precedent: racial discrimination and international human rights law, 1962–1966	102
5 “The hymn of hate”: the failed convention on elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, 1962–1967	138
6 “So bitter a year for human rights”: 1968 and the UN International Year for Human Rights	174
7 “To cope with the flux of the future”: human rights and the Helsinki Final Act, 1962–1975	209
8 The presence of the disappeared, 1968–1993	237
Conclusion	275
<i>Archives and references</i>	283
<i>Index</i>	301

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[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

### *Acknowledgments*

xi

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