

Decolonization, Self-Determination, and the Rise of Global Human Rights Politics

This volume presents the first global history of human rights politics in the age of decolonization. The conflict between independence movements and colonial powers shaped the global human rights order that emerged after World War II. It was also critical to the genesis of contemporary human rights organizations and humanitarian movements. Anti-colonial forces mobilized human rights and other rights language in their campaigns for self-determination. In response, European empires harnessed the new international politics of human rights for their own ends, claiming that their rule, with its promise of “development,” was the authentic vehicle for realizing them. Ranging from the postwar partitions and the wars of independence to indigenous rights activism and postcolonial memory, this volume offers new insights into the history and legacies of human rights, self-determination, and empire to the present day.

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