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978-1-108-49563-9 — Reagan, Congress, and Human Rights
Rasmus Sinding Søndergaard
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Reagan, Congress, and Human Rights

This book traces the role of human rights concerns in US foreign policy during the 1980s, focusing on the struggle between the Reagan administration and members of Congress. It demonstrates how congressional pressure led the administration to reconsider its approach to human rights and craft a conservative human rights policy centered on democracy promotion and anti-communism – a decision that would have profound implications for American attention to human rights. Based on extensive archival research and interviews, Rasmus Sinding Søndergaard combines a comprehensive overview of human rights in American foreign relations with in-depth case studies of how human rights shaped US foreign policy toward Soviet Jewry, South African apartheid, and Nicaragua. Tracing the motivations behind human rights activism, this book demonstrates how liberals, moderates, and conservatives selectively invoked human rights to further their agendas, ultimately contributing to the establishment of human rights as a core moral language in US foreign policy.

RASMUS SINDING SØNDERGAARD is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow in the Department of History at Lund University. He is a recipient of the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science's Elite Research Travel Grant and fellowships from the Carlsberg Foundation, the American-Scandinavian Foundation, and the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.

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Contesting Morality in US Foreign Policy

Rasmus Sinding Søndergaard
Lund University

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Acknowledgments

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Abbreviations

ACOA	American Committee on Africa
AIUSA	Amnesty International USA
ANC	African National Congress
CAAA	Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986
CBC	Congressional Black Caucus
CFHRM	Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitors
CFW	Committee for the Free World
CHRC	Congressional Human Rights Caucus
CHRF	Congressional Human Rights Foundation
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CMO	Congressional Membership Organization
CPD	Committee on the Present Danger
CSCE	Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
FDN	Fuerza Democrática Nicaragüense
FSAM	Free South Africa Movement
FSLN	Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
ICJ	International Court of Justice
INF	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty
IPG	International Parliamentary Group for Human Rights in the Soviet Union
MAD	Mutually Assured Destruction
NCSJ	National Conference on Soviet Jewry
NED	National Endowment for Democracy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSA	National Security Advisor
NSDD 17	National Security Decision Directive 17
NSDD 187	National Security Decision Directive 187
NSDD 75	National Security Decision Directive 75
SALT I	Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty I

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SALT II	Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty II
SDI	Strategic Defense Initiative
S/LPD	Office of Public Diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean
TLHRC	Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission
UCSJ	Union of Councils for Soviet Jews
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USIA	United States Information Agency
WOLA	Washington Office on Latin America

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