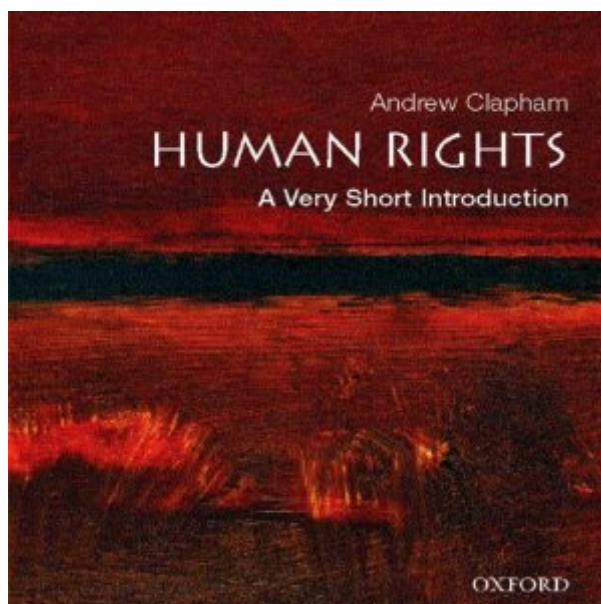


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# Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction



## Synopsis

From the controversial incarceration of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, to the brutal ethnic cleansing being practiced in Darfur, to the widespread denial of equal rights to women in many areas of the world, human rights violations are a constant presence in the news and in our lives. Taking an international perspective, and focusing on highly topical issues such as torture, arbitrary detention, privacy, health, and discrimination, this Very Short Introduction will help readers to understand for themselves, the controversies and complexities behind this vitally relevant issue. Looking at the philosophical justification for rights, the historical origins of human rights and how they are formed in law, Andrew Clapham explains what our human rights actually are, what they might be, and where the human rights movement is heading.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This brief survey educates one about human rights while advocating a very liberal interpretation of them. In truth, I was torn between assigning this book four stars or three. The book itself is quite good, but I found myself getting impatient with it by the end, and I wasn't sure whether it was because of the presentation, or because I found I didn't agree with Mr. Clapham's eagerness to stretch the concept of human rights to cover the widest possible set of circumstances. This is the only volume of the "Very Short Introduction" series I've read so far, and I find this publishing idea very attractive. I bought the book because I was drawn to the idea of a high-level "briefing document" approach. What I was hoping for and expecting was a completely balanced treatment, and this is what I feel I did not get. I really appreciated the short potted history of human rights early

in the book, and learned many interesting things, such as the role H. G. Wells played in formulating and popularizing the idea of human rights. But as the book goes on to treat various social-justice issues, such as food, education, housing, work, and discrimination, I felt that I was really reading a progress report on how the human-rights movement has helped to promote a left-wing social agenda worldwide. While there's nothing wrong with being politically progressive, I sense danger in the idea of having "human rights" overtaken by any one political point of view. For my part, I'm a passionate believer in human rights, but in a much more restricted set of rights than what is envisaged in this book and, apparently, in the human-rights movement generally. But Mr.

**HUMAN RIGHTS: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE - ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IN LESS THAN 200 PAGES** An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers Professor Andrew Clapham brings together the differing contemporary strands of human rights issues we face today. He does so in a very matter-of-fact way and makes the introduction just for the individual interested reader with his excellent 'very short'™ book format from OUP which is set out in a quick and readable fashion. He covers such fascinating issues as the controversial incarceration of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, to the brutal ethnic cleansing being practiced in Darfur, to the widespread denial of equal rights to women in many areas of the world, and human rights violations which remain a constant presence in rolling news items and in our everyday lives at home and at work. Clapham gives an international perspective to the task facing him, and focusing on highly topical issues such as torture, arbitrary detention, privacy, health, and discrimination topics relevant to all. This 'Very Short Introduction on Human Rights' does assist readers to understand for themselves the controversies and complexities behind this vitally relevant issue. The author looks at the philosophical justification for rights, the historical origins of human rights and how they are formed in law. He also explains what our human rights actually are, what they might be, and where the human rights movement is heading at the moment which will benefit a wide range of his readership. This short book covers one main area of current interest very well: how the human rights movement has gained increasing attention internationally.

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