

Human Rights: mere Western constructions with limited applicability?

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Abstract: In the last few decades, the reinforcement of human rights has been impaired by the multiplication of accusations of alleged Western partiality. Whilst it is true that these principles were conceived out of the necessity to avoid specific socio-political circumstances that had negatively affected Western Europe and the United States in particular, it is essential to remain aware of the dangers of rejecting the moral value of the doctrine on cultural relativist grounds. Rather, it would be advisable to accept its universal theoretical standing and limit constructive critical analysis to its current imperfect political and legal realisation. In this manner, the contemporary era could finally concentrate on the fair, pragmatic advancement of these rights, instead of questioning the universal validity of basic moral principles that enhance vulnerable individuals' empowerment.

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