

Dignity, Democracy, Diversity
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“Human Rights and Democracy in the 21st Century: Human Rights
Movements and its Impact on Democracy and Diversity”

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Paper Presentation Summary

Human rights and democracy are main values and principles in the 21st century. They are mutually reinforcing. In what way have the human rights movements at international and national/domestic levels developed over the years? How do they support the spread of democracy around the world? To what extent do they promote empowerment of civil society? Referring to these questions, this paper presentation will discuss human rights, transitional justice, the roles of UN and democracy from the field of political science/international relations.

This paper presentation has three parts. First, it will review historical backgrounds of human rights movements and democracy. In particular, Latin American countries cases such as Argentina and Chile will be examined. Second, it will discuss the roles of UN, post-conflict society and peace-building process in the post-Cold War period from the view points of human rights issues. Third, it will explore the evolution of the concept of transitional justice in the 21st century. This paper will also highlight some challenges in terms of empowering civil society and promoting diversity.

Keywords: Human Rights Movements, Transitional Justice, Democracy, UN, Civil Society

Introduction

I. Human Rights Movements in the Cold War Period

1) The Helsinki Accords in 1975

→the Moscow Helsinki Group and other Eastern European countries' Helsinki Committees

2) Human rights violations under the authoritarian regime in Latin America

e.g. •Chile: military government (1973-1990) → DINA's human rights violations (Operation Condor etc)

→[Comité Pro Paz](#), La Vicaría de la Solidaridad

→Amnesty International, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

e.g. •Argentina: military government (1976-1983) → the disappeared

→ Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, CELS

→AI, IACHR, Carter Administration's Human Rights Diplomacy

3) Democratic Transition, Truth, Justice and its limitation in Latin America

•The Third wave of Democratization/Democracy

•Argentine democratic transition in 1983 and truth and justice

•cf Brazil, Uruguay, and Chile

•Truth Commission and *Nunca Más*

4) Latin American experience and its Impact

•transnational network

- the concept of transitional justice
- truth commissions around the world

II. UN and transitional justice

1) The UN-led peace agreement and transitional justice in El Salvador and Guatemala

- El Salvador: Truth Commission
- Guatemala: Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH)
- cf. Guatemala's Interdiocesan Project for the Recovery of Historical Memory (REHMI)

2) The role of UN, peace and Accountability/impunity

- The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)
- International Criminal Court (ICC)

3. Transitional Justice and Human Rights in the 21st century

1) UN guidance note

- The rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies, report of the Secretary-General, 2004
- Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice, Secretary-General, 2010

2) Transitional Justice, Civil, Political, Economic, Social, Cultural Rights

3) International NGOs, Local groups and Civil Society

- e.g. • ICTJ: transitional justice (accountability, development etc)
- AI: human rights (political imprisonment: political and civil rights,

now economic, social issues)

4) Local NGOs and civil society

- minority groups, mass movement and institutionalization/organization of mass movement, civil society
- democracy, policy issues/policy outcomes

Conclusion

Selected References

Louise Arbour, "Economic and Social Justice for Societies in Transition"

New York University Journal of International Law and Politics 40-1, 2007

Jo-Marie Burt, *Transitional Justice in the Aftermath of Civil Conflict: Lessons from Peru, Guatemala, and El Salvador*, Due Process of Law Foundation, 2018

Stephen Hopgood, Jack Snyder, and Leslie Vinjamuri eds., *Human Rights Futures*, Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Dustin Sharp, "Interrogating the Peripheries; The Preoccupations of Fourth Generation Transitional Justice" *Harvard Human Rights Journal*, 26, 2013

Kathryn Sikkink, *Evidence For Hope: Making Human Rights Work in the 21st Century* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017

Elin Skaar, Jemina Garcia-Godos, and Cath Collins eds., *Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Uneven Road from Impunity toward Accountability*, London and New York: Routledge, 2016