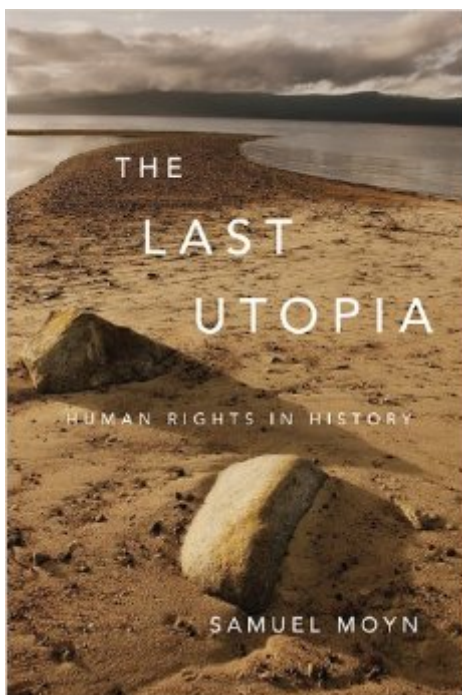


The book was found

The Last Utopia: Human Rights In History



Synopsis

Human rights offer a vision of international justice that today's idealistic millions hold dear. Yet the very concept on which the movement is based became familiar only a few decades ago when it profoundly reshaped our hopes for an improved humanity. In this pioneering book, Samuel Moyn elevates that extraordinary transformation to center stage and asks what it reveals about the ideal's troubled present and uncertain future. For some, human rights stretch back to the dawn of Western civilization, the age of the American and French Revolutions, or the post-World War II moment when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was framed. Revisiting these episodes in a dramatic tour of humanity's moral history, *The Last Utopia* shows that it was in the decade after 1968 that human rights began to make sense to broad communities of people as the proper cause of justice. Across eastern and western Europe, as well as throughout the United States and Latin America, human rights crystallized in a few short years as social activism and political rhetoric moved it from the hallways of the United Nations to the global forefront. It was on the ruins of earlier political utopias, Moyn argues, that human rights achieved contemporary prominence. The morality of individual rights substituted for the soiled political dreams of revolutionary communism and nationalism as international law became an alternative to popular struggle and bloody violence. But as the ideal of human rights enters into rival political agendas, it requires more vigilance and scrutiny than when it became the watchword of our hopes.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Belknap Press; Reprint edition (March 5, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674064348

ISBN-13: 978-0674064348

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #84,359 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in [Books > Law >](#)

[Constitutional Law > Human Rights](#) #102 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics &](#)

[Government > Specific Topics > Human Rights](#) #356 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences >](#)

[Philosophy > Ethics & Morality](#)

Customer Reviews

Samuel Moyn's argument in *The Last Utopia* suggests that the origins of human rights, as a "utopian program" to transcend national boundaries, is a contemporary idea (5). It is utopian because the movement's nature is politically neutral while implemented universally beyond ethical and national law standards. Through an explanation of classical Greek concepts, revolutions, and the Enlightenment, Moyn successfully discards previous scholarship that attempts to 'date' human rights. Rather, he claims the recent human rights movement only manifested in the 1970s during a time of failed utopias such as communism, fascism, and socialism (3-5). Moyn's reasons that the origin of human rights' importance is to assist scholars in realizing human rights as a last utopian ideal and movement (214). For, "if the past is read as preparation for a surprising recent event," then it is that both the past and the present notions concerning human rights that are "distorted" (11). Yet, Moyn's seeking to discard previous interpretations of philosophy and historiography to establish a contemporary origin for human rights impedes 'rights' work already established. In other words, all the world's revolutions and era of Enlightenment have facilitated in setting humanity upon the course toward recognizing human rights. Each step was a gradual shift toward realization. To discard that rhetoric simply for the sake of 'dating' human rights in the 1970s, and through an American perspective no less, seems a bit arbitrary as each historical era appears to have interpreted 'rights' differently. To emphasize his points each chapter is constructed to flow chronologically to provide crucial insight into his argument.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History Three Early Modern Utopias: Thomas More: Utopia / Francis Bacon: New Atlantis / Henry Neville: The Isle of Pines: Sir Thomas More's "Utopia", Francis Bacon's "New A (Oxford World's Classics) Child Migration and Human Rights in a Global Age (Human Rights and Crimes against Humanity) Women's Human Rights: The International and Comparative Law Casebook (Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights) Selected International Human Rights Instruments and Bibliography for Research on International Human Rights Law Freedom from Poverty: NGOs and Human Rights Praxis (Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights) Creative Child Support Strategies A Fathers Rights Approach: A Fathers Rights Approach (The Pro-Active Fathers Rights Series Book 2) History: Human History in 50 Events: From Ancient Civilizations to Modern Times (World History, History Books, People History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 1) The Environmental Rights Revolution: A Global Study of Constitutions, Human Rights, and the Environment (Law and Society (Paperback)) BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING - HOW TO RECLAIM PRIVACY & SECURITY TO PROTECT LIFE, FAMILY, HOME AND ASSETS 2016 EDITION (Natural law, Human Rights, Civil Rights) (HOW TO BOOK & GUIDE FOR SMART DUMMIES 12)

The Development of Disability Rights Under International Law: From Charity to Human Rights In the Light of Justice: The Rise of Human Rights in Native America and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Human Rights in World History (Themes in World History) The Human Rights Revolution: An International History (Reinterpreting History: How Historical Assessments Change over Time) Wollstonecraft: A Vindication of the Rights of Men and a Vindication of the Rights of Woman and Hints (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought) The Guardian of Every Other Right: A Constitutional History of Property Rights (Bicentennial Essays on the Bill of Rights) The Imagined Island: History, Identity, and Utopia in Hispaniola (Latin America in Translation/en Traducció n/em Traduŕŕo) History: British History in 50 Events: From First Immigration to Modern Empire (English History, History Books, British History Textbook) (History in 50 Events Series Book 11) Inventing Human Rights: A History The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History (Bedford Cultural Editions Series)

[Dmca](#)