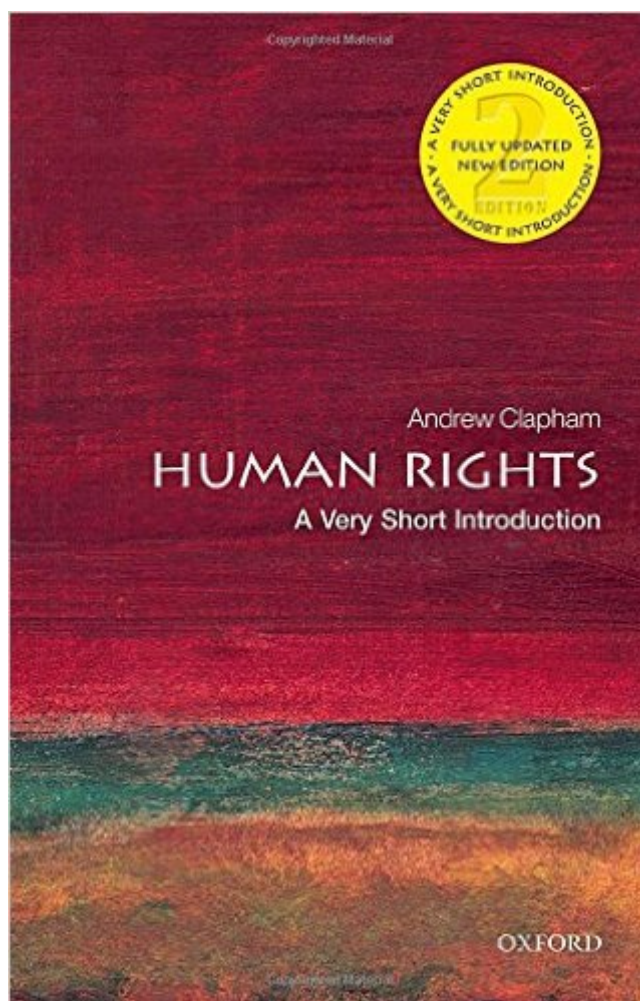


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# Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



## Synopsis

Today it is usually not long before a problem gets expressed as a human rights issue. Indeed, human rights law continues to gain increasing attention internationally, and must move quickly in order to keep up with a social world that changes so rapidly. This Very Short Introduction, in its second edition, brings the issue of human rights up to date, considering the current controversies surrounding the movement. Discussing torture and arbitrary detention in the context of counter terrorism, Andrew Clapham also considers new challenges to human rights in the context of privacy, equality and the right to health. Looking at the philosophical justification for rights, the historical origins of human rights and how they are formed in law, Clapham explains what our human rights actually are, what they might be, and where the human rights movement is heading. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

## Book Information

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"This short book covers one main area of current interest very well: how the human rights movement has gained increasing attention internationally... 'Clapham on Human Rights' can be summed up as one of the best titles we have read yet from OUP." -Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth

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Andrew Clapham is Professor of Public International Law at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva. Before he joined the Graduate Institute of International Studies Institute in 1997, he was the Representative of Amnesty International to the United Nations in New York. He was the Director of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights from 2006 until 2014. His publications include *The 1949 Geneva Conventions: A Commentary*, co-edited with Paola Gaeta and Marco Sassoli, (OUP 2015) and *The Oxford Handbook of International Law in Armed Conflict*, co-edited with Paola Gaeta (OUP 2014).

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HUMAN RIGHTS: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE: AN EXCELLENT PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION (PLE) TOOL - ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IN LESS THAN 200 PAGES

An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers

Andrew Clapham brings together the differing contemporary strands of human rights issues we face today and does a great service to us with the launch of the concept of Public Legal Education (PLE) in austerity-hit Britain. He does so brilliantly with human rights, explaining the subject-matter in a very matter-of-fact way for the second edition. He 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. The author explains the scope of

human rights today, and how they are used in both national and international law. The work is completely up-to-date. Human rights remain a most topical and controversial issue for all of us and recent national and world events mean that they have been regularly invoked and analysed. Clapham looks at the past, the present, and the future of human rights, especially relevant in a general election year in the UK. Questions of whether human rights are under threat as they come to be seen by some as obstacles to peace, development and security are also well covered. In the wider community, ties in law, philosophy, and politics, reveal the role played by human rights in the contemporary world and has a special significance for Clapham as he was, for six years, the Representative of Amnesty International at the United Nations in New York. Today it's usually not long before a problem gets expressed as a human rights issue even with the threat of major reform of the law under way! Taking this into account, an appeal to human rights in the face of injustice can be a heartfelt and morally justified demand for some, while for others it remains merely an empty slogan. Such a balance is well presented here in a most succinct manner! These Very Short Introductions books form a series from OUP which present themselves as excellent primers for undergraduates. The series contains hundreds of titles in almost every conceivable subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. OUP has brought together expert authors who combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable. We feel they are highly suitable starting points for students of law, moral and ethical philosophy, history and politics. And, of course, activists in civil society movements or those who seek an accessible introduction to human rights and their relevance to current events. So Clapham on Human Rights can be summed up as one of the best titles we have read yet from OUP in this series, but we would say that because we are lawyers! The publication date for the second edition is 2015.

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