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Readings are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Orlando Patterson's "Freedom, Slavery, and the Modern Construction of Rights"

WWII Holocaust sparked the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

- Subsequent related covenants that alongside the UDHR form the International Bill of Human Rights:
 - Covenant for Civil and Political Rights [plus two optional protocols]
 - Covenant for Social & Economic Rights
- once a nation ratified the Declaration, it was mandated to adhere to it
 - document would act as the means by which individuals would have recourse against the State
 - brings up issue of rights of the nation vs. external actors
 - how to address economic, social, and cultural rights within this framework?

structural violence – highlight structural inequalities

- these forms of inequality have a performer behind them
- e.g. economic equality that can dehumanize people
- the use of the word "violence" catches our attention

West vs. everyone else in the world – western values being imposed on others globally

Right vs. Freedom – a discussion from Patterson's point of view

difficult to conceptualize freedom without the presence of slavery

- positive freedom = freedom to act/do as you please
- negative freedom = freedom from oppression

Many ideas of Western freedom are so intrinsically tied to capitalism

The language of human rights discourse is based on historically specific issues of culture, race, power. Borders due to socioeconomic status readily parallel borders due to race.

How much is too much state power?

Economic struggle – welfare state vs. laissez-faire states

rational choice of individual to determine economic future

- market should regulate self and the government left out
- the individual as a rational actor who, in aggregate, will regular the market

An economic division exists in the international market of exchange – poorer, developing nations have weak markets and have become subject to the extraction of their resources and exploitation of their labor by more powerful, richer nations. These poorer nations end up forgoing the rights of their citizens in order to attract industry (so to stay economically afloat). Market/capitalism/industry are all linked to ideas of [western] freedom.

The issue of duties and obligations of the individual and the state – what obligations do individuals have to protect and promote their rights and what obligations do states have? Create an environment in which people will take the responsibility to defend rights of others.

Western tradition is evidence of how property is linked to the language of freedom. But this is only one standard from one perspective – must everyone align with our opinion, a highly individualistic one at that?