



FOCUS ON ASIA:

HUMAN RIGHTS



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Focus on Asia: Human Rights

Despite the shift from authoritarian to democratic or semi-democratic forms of government in Asia, human rights abuses are rife. Although Asian states have ratified a large number of international human rights conventions, the violation of human rights and unequal application of and access to the law are common across the region. Citizens and migrants face arbitrary detention, torture, disappearance and death at the hands of state, para-state, and other actors. One must bear in mind that all human beings are susceptible to this because simplification and evaluative judgment are part of the categorization process that is essential to intellectual functions. It is equally important, however, to not relinquish judgment entirely by reasserting the universal nature of human dignity and of the rights that protect it. This is the crucial aim of the philosophy of human rights. Frequently, what is perceived as a cultural trait is nothing more than concealed domination. Human rights are a means of contesting the idea that inequalities are the natural state of things.

In this book, we will study the types of human rights prevalent in Asia today and what institutional, political and social structures permit for their perseverance. We will know what types of abuses occur despite the efforts of governments to eliminate them and what types are encouraged through government inaction, or tacit or explicit encouragement or abuse. We will also study new the new strategies of redress that have emerged, including the growth of human rights organisations and transitional justice processes and the development of links between international and local organisations. Topics and countries emphasized will vary from year to year, but will include East, Central, Northeast, and Southeast Asia.

The topic of Human Rights in Asia is one that includes a vast number of states, international governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. All these institutions contribute a range of services and perspectives towards human rights, covering topics including the enforcement, monitoring, and criticisms of human rights in Asia. There is no single body that covers all of human rights in Asia; as such a diverse and widespread region requires a number of institutions to properly monitor the multitude of elements that fall under the scope of human rights.

This book also discovers the political drivers behind both recent regional and country-based changes to the recognition, promotion and protection of rights.



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