

A Discussion of the Universality of Human Rights.

An Abstract of the Thesis By
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This study aimed at validating or invalidating the proposition that human rights are not universal but rather culturally relative. In order to achieve this objective, the study qualitatively conducted an analysis of the available literature to help draw an informed conclusion. The results from various sources indicated that although there are evident tensions and misconceptions between cultural ideologies and human rights, there is as well an undeniable strong interdependence between the two. For human rights to be effective, for instance, they must rely on cultural practices of the community in question. The study established that human rights must prove wrong the existing misapprehensions and antagonisms that the Universal Declaration of human Rights (UDHR) of 1948 was founded on Western world's ideologies, as the indigenous communities were under, and some not, represented in the formulation of this document. Incorporating the evidence for and against this proposition, the study established that human rights are both universal and culturally relative. As such, the universality of human rights is powered by various factors and cultural practices are one of them, thereby neither endorsing nor nullifying this theory.

Keywords: human rights, universality, cultural relativism.