



# Human Rights in Europe during the Cold War (Cold War History)

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**Human Rights in Europe during the Cold War (Cold War History)** From Routledge

This book provides an overview of the establishment, dispersion and effects of human rights in Europe during the Cold War.

The struggle for human rights did not begin at the end of the Second World War. For centuries, political associations, religious societies and individuals had been fighting for political freedom, religious tolerance, freedom of expression, freedom of thought and the right to participate in politics. However, the world was awakened by the atrocities of the Second World War and the idea that every person should have certain perpetual and inalienable rights was set out in *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)* from 1948, which contained an enumeration of international human rights standards.

Adopting an interpretative framework which pulls together universal ideas, values and principles of human rights, *Human Rights in Europe during the Cold War* demonstrates how conflicting interests collided when the exact meaning of human rights was established. It also discusses various approaches to the idea of imposing respect for human rights in countries where they were systematically violated and assesses the outcome of international accords on human rights, in particular the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. In conclusion, this volume proposes that human rights functioned as moral support to the opposition in repressive regimes and that this was subsequently used as a tool to further system changes.

Based on new archival research, this book will be of much interest to students of Cold War studies, human rights, European history, international law and IR in general.

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