



Human Rights and Cultural Meanings: The Social Construction of Classical and Contemporary Rights Talk

By Thomas E. Wren

New University Press LLC. Paperback. Condition: New. 176 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.4in. Each of the four contributors to Human Rights and Cultural Meanings is a scholar in the area of moral rights, especially its very complex subdomain of human rights. From their different perspectives they clarify the ongoing, socially constructed character of rights theory in general as well as its specific contemporary version, human rights. The first chapter, Human rights as social constructions by Patricia Werhane and Thomas Wren, focuses directly on the socially constructed character of the concept of rights, especially the contemporary notion of human rights. Abstract models of human rights are not eternal truths but rather historical phenomena that provide more or less useful conceptual schemes for generating general principles of fairness, liberty, mutual respect, and security. In the next chapter, Educating for human rights consciousness, education scholar Michelle Bellino demonstrates the inherently unfinished character of human rights discourse. She presents a remarkable ethnographic study of the reception by Guatemalan students of a human rights-based educational program established in the aftermath of their country's 36-year civil war. Her study includes a rich typology in which young people exhibit denial of the normative claims of human...



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