

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70: Time to De-Colonize Human Rights!

"While notice in MSM and elsewhere this week of the 70th anniversary of "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (and the corresponding Human Rights Day, December 10th) has been conspicuous by its absence; and even more so, where it was noticed, the failure to note that (as with many other international agreements) the 1948 UDHR has never been ratified by the US (which was, via Eleanor Roosevelt, a principal force in its conception and international acceptance); we need to remember as well that for all its progressive intent and positive results worldwide the UDHR was, as Ajamu Baraka states in the article linked here, a product of western neo-colonialists; and that:

"to realize the full range of the still developing human rights idea requires: 1) an epistemological break with a human rights orthodoxy grounded in Euro-centric liberalism; 2) a reconceptualization of human rights from the standpoint of oppressed groups; 3) a restructuring of prevailing social relationships that perpetuate oppression; and 4) the acquiring of power on the part of the oppressed to bring about that restructuring.

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