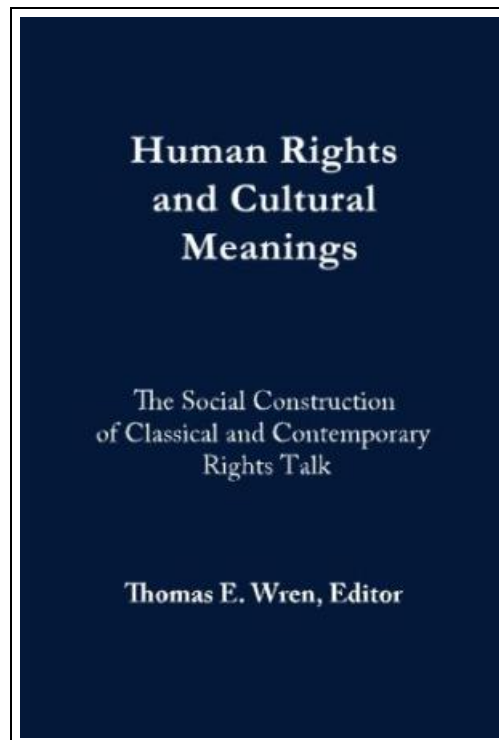


## Human Rights and Cultural Meanings: The Social Construction of Classical and Contemporary Rights Talk



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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 rights, skepticism about whether it can be effectively practiced in their own country, and a sense of empowerment. In contrast, *David Ozars Human rights and the rest of us* uses the surgical tools of contemporary analytical philosophy to reconstruct the claim that human rights claims are only manifestos addressed to everyone in principle and no one in particular. He demonstrates that the human rights claims of distant others are addressed to all of us, albeit in many different ways. The final chapter, *Wrens The birth of rights talk*, traces the transition from the ancient notion of objective rightness to the...



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