**Burnell, Randall & Rakner: Politics in the Developing World 4e**

**Study questions**

**Chapter 18**

1. Why have developing world governments that signed various international human rights conventions often consistently failed to live up to all the obligations contained in the conventions in practice?
2. Should the ideas of universal human rights and universal enforcement of human rights be controversial?
3. Can governments both honour equal human rights and respect any deeply-held, widely-practised cultural traditions that discriminate between different peoples in society such as men and women?
4. How convincing are the claims that 'Asian values' require a distinctive approach to political and civil liberties for Asian peoples?
5. How can truly Islamic societies practise liberal democracy?
6. Why have human rights become a more prominent political issue in developing countries in recent years?
7. With reference to the developing world, discuss the view that respect for human rights within a country improves its prospects for political stability and reduces the likelihood of political conflict.
8. Can one person's human rights clash with another's? Discuss, with reference to politics in developing countries.
9. What are the main difficulties in the way of assessing and comparing respect for human rights across different developing countries?
10. In what ways can domestic political actors make use of international measures and organizational resources to promote human rights in their own country?
11. Should all human rights be valued equally or are some rights more valuable than others, especially in the developing world?
12. Why is the debate on so-called 'Asian values' less prominent now than it used to be?
13. Is the language of human rights an example of western cultural imperialism?
14. Why does the international response to the claims of genocide and other human rights abuse of the sort alleged against Rwanda in 1994 and more recently in Sudan appear to be so weak?
15. Do authoritarian governments in developing countries now have a new ally in China?
16. Is there any evidence that highly publicised incidents of rights abuse by the governments of OECD states influences attitudes towards human rights in the developing world?
17. How does the national security agenda of western states post-9/11 impact on the way developing country governments like Egypt behave towards their own citizens?
18. Are the ideas of human rights and human security connected?
19. With particular reference to developing countries, are there any circumstances in which group rights should take precedence over individual human rights?
20. To the extent that the concept of human rights implies that the state should be active in promoting and defending them, how realistic is this in a developing country context?