



Rights & rights

by Joe Escobar - Tuesday, 19 May 2009, 12:57 PM

Rights, rights, rights. Every human being today believes they are entitled to an ever growing list of "rights". Historically, the Declaration of Independence of 1776 states that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The Constitution contains the Bill of Rights, ratified in 1788. After the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, the idea of "separate but equal" was challenged and defeated by using the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1868. African Americans received the "right" to an equal education. Equality has also become a modern day rallying cry, along with human rights. Read, listen, and watch these documents on rights and discuss, prioritize, and scrutinize them.

Read the materials in order, numbered 1 through 10. They are found in the HTD Materials link.

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Re: Rights & rights

by Michael Courtney - Tuesday, 19 May 2009, 11:09 PM

The statement of rights is nothing more than fancy writing on an old piece of paper. Those rights that we should be concerned with are those that come from our hearts. I really do not care what is written on a piece of paper or spoken by some self-imposed talking head; what I care and concern myself with are those rights that fall within what is Right and WRONG.

I personally have tried to live by a few very simple rules:

1. I mind my own business.
2. I do not put my hands on someone else.
3. I respect the fact that others will not always agree with me.
4. If it is too big to go over, around or through, I leave it alone.

I can not understand why people want to throw away their lives on a promise of something better, when it can not be proved. To hurt or kill the most innocent of any, the children, because they are of something different is beyond my comprehension. And by doing this act of cowardliness you get 72 virgins? Can this be the low of low self esteem?

The American people are "benders". We will bend in all kinds of ways to avoid a conflict. It may not seem that way, but we get ourselves in more trouble helping others than we do in direct conflict. If the time should come when the people of the United States say, "go forth and kick their butt", there will not be much left and that includes anything that resembles individual rights. Being a war veteran, I pray that day never comes.

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Re: Rights & rights

by Chance Crocker - Wednesday, 20 May 2009, 10:34 PM

Evaluating the materials in this discussion I really had to think about what rights people have. The legal rights set down by the constitution stating the legal right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness just don't hold up, those rights are easily taken away by other people and are subject to frequent change. Like said above the Constitution is really just a piece of paper it's the people who make it what it is. France is on its fifth constitution but is still known associated as a beacon of freedom in the world, so legal rights might not mean much but natural rights mean everything. John Locke's principals of life, liberty, and property encompass all of what natural rights are for people which is what I believe our "rights" actually are.

PS: Plants don't have rights.

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Re: Rights & rights

by Katie D'Orazio - Sunday, 24 May 2009, 11:53 AM

I completely agree with Chance. I have thought about this topic on many occasions, and I have come to the conclusion that there will never be a perfect list of rights for all people. Like Chance states "rights are easily taken away by other people and are subject to frequent change". Morals, religion and background all change our rights and a piece of paper that states all of American rights, clearly is not in black and white, circumstances change everything.

On a different note, I believe that many Americans have taken advantage of this wonderful free country. It may upset people to say this but for example the people that oppose war wouldn't have the freedom to freely state they oppose war, without past wars. Freedom is a great thing, but some people think they are entitled to it, instead of remembering that others before us had to fight for that right. Rights are constantly changing and time itself changes rights as our country matures and grows.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Dudley](#) - Wednesday, 27 May 2009, 12:49 PM

Yes, i agree with both of you.

I don't think it will matter how many rights we have people will always find a loop hole in them and abuse them. I think this happens because we really don't have a clear understanding of what rights are. After reading the Wikipedia definition of rights i realized that most people don't actually know the difference between equal rights and natural rights, and many people, including myself, have never even heard of children's rights. I think it is this lack of understanding that causes disputes among people. One person might think the right to arms means you can have a gun and use it whenever where ever you want, while others might think it means you can only own a gun not use it. not only are these rights confused but they are abused. Like in the video clip we saw in class of Emmett Till. The men who killed him were voted not guilty and they later had interviews and told even bragged about how they killed him because they knew they couldn't be tried twice.

People forgot that we weren't just given these rights we earned them, and we should continue to earn the right to have them.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 02:02 PM

I agree with you that we have these rights and sometimes abuse them. Our world is changing and so is our rights because people think they need to be updated. I also have to admit that i really didn't understand the difference between equal rights and natural rights till i read the information and did some research on them . Rights are confusing. They change them so much in our society because technology keeps progressing and people get lost in time. I also watched the video and felt it was inconsiderate. In today society (i hope) if someone did that they would either be thrown in jail for actually admitting it or given another trial. Something because that was disturbing.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Todd Sulkoff](#) - Thursday, 28 May 2009, 07:01 AM

It wouldn't upset me to hear your statement that the freedom to oppose war was secured by past wars, if that was only true. We have seen in this class how people who opposed WWI, WWII, Vietnam, and Iraq have not had the freedom to oppose those wars, without suffering unjust consequences. They have been jailed, and worse countless times.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Todd Sulkoff](#) - Saturday, 23 May 2009, 04:45 PM

I think the concept of natural rights has existed in humanities consciousness for a very long time, going back to various "Do unto others. . ." philosophies that arose in cultures throughout the world. Of course, this idea is always a threat to those that view the masses as a resource to be manipulated by the few in power. That is where the need for enemy images/demonization and propaganda to fuel support for wars usually comes from. Legal rights are the vital component in insuring these rights. I think the plant's rights parody video is an example of how people with more rights than others attempt to belittle universal human rights, and especially animal rights by suggesting that there is actually a significant "Plant's Rights" movement. It seems obvious to me that universal human rights, and animal rights go hand in hand, simply from a pragmatic point of view. Did you know that it takes 16

pounds of grain to produce 1 pound of beef? To sustain the average meateaters lifestyle it takes 3.25 acres of land per day, versus a vegetarian using only 0.33 acres of land per day. In a tribal hunter-gatherer society a person spends 2,500 calories a day. That includes wood for burning, etc., yet the average modern person spends 31,000 calories a day. The average American spends 186,000 calories a day! Many people say the next shortage crisis is going to be water, in the US the average meateater uses 4,200 gallons of water per day to fuel their lifestyle, yet the average vegetarian uses only 1,200 gallons per day. My point is this, if we are to walk the walk regarding universal human rights, there are steps we could take to help reach that state. I am not saying you must be a vegetarian to be a responsible world citizen, but maybe if you are a meateater then maybe you should at least one time make the animal kill yourself. Most people are so detached from the pain and suffering, both human and animal, that fuels their lifestyles. We do not need to make a radical changes, simply eating less meat, especially beef, would allow for all people to have better lives. The macro level of revisionist history reminds me of the micro level of personal responsibility. How many of us would eat all the meat we do, if we took part in the slaughters? Not thinking about it is like forgetting war atrocities because we just don't like to think about it.

	Herbivore	Carnivore	Omnivore	Human
Facial Muscles	Well-developed	Reduced to allow wide mouth gape	Reduced	Well developed
Jaw Type	Expanded angle	Angle not expanded	Angle not expanded	Expanded angle
Jaw Joint Location	Above the plane of the molars	On same plane as molar teeth	On same plane as molar teeth	Above the plane of the molars
Jaw motion	No shear, good side-to-side, front-to-back	Shearing, minimal side-to-side	Shearing, minimal side-to-side	No shear, good side-to-side, front-to-back
Major Jaw Muscles	Masseter and pterygoids	Temporalis	Temporalis	Masseter and pterygoids
Mouth Opening vs Head Size	Small	Large	Large	Small
Teeth (Incisors)	Broad, flattened and spade shaped	Short and pointed	Short and pointed	Broad, flattened and spade shaped
Teeth (Canines)	Dull and short or long (for defense) or none	Long, sharp and curved	Long, sharp and curved	Short and blunted
Teeth (Molars)	Flattened with cusps vs complex surface	Sharp, jagged and blade shaped	Sharp blades and/or flattened	Flattened with nodular cusps
Chewing	Extensive chewing necessary	None; swallows food whole	Swallows food whole and/or simple crushing	Extensive chewing necessary
Saliva	Carbohydrate digesting enzymes	No digestive enzymes	No digestive enzymes	Carbohydrate digesting enzymes
Stomach Type	Simple or multiple chambers	Simple	Simple	Simple
Stomach Acidity	pH 4 to 5 with food in stomach	Less than or equal to pH 1 with food in stomach	Less than or equal to pH 1 with food in stomach	pH 4 to 5 with food in stomach
Stomach Capacity	Less than 30% of total volume of digestive tract	60% to 70% of total volume of digestive tract	60% to 70% of total volume of digestive tract	21% to 27% of total volume of digestive tract
Length of Small Intestine	10 to more than 12 times body length	3 to 6 times body length	4 to 6 times body length	10 to 11 times body length
Colon	Long, complex; may be sacculated	Simple, short and smooth	Simple, short and smooth	Long, sacculated
Liver	Cannot detoxify vitamin A	Can detoxify vitamin A	Can detoxify vitamin A	Cannot detoxify vitamin A
Kidney	Moderately concentrated urine	Extremely concentrated urine	Extremely concentrated urine	Moderately concentrated urine
Nails	Flattened nails or blunt hooves	Sharp claws	Sharp claws	Flattened nails

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Zhijun Mao](#) - Saturday, 23 May 2009, 05:32 PM

Rights are not born, because they are given by people. American are proud of Bill of Rights, especially First Amendment, which is **Freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, to petition, and to assemble**.

However, they are taken during wartime. For example, in Massachusetts prisons, a new legal mail policy was just established, "due to recent national events." Previously and based on court rulings, all legal mail was only opened in front of the prisoner, checked for contraband but not read. Now under the new policy, all legal mail is delivered to us already opened and censored, along with our regular mail. Various government agencies are jumping on the bandwagon to enact measures not even remotely related to 9/11. (Human Rights During Wartime)

Actually, I still do not know how many rights I have, so I strongly agree sentence "It is not generally considered necessary that a right should be understood by the holder of that right; thus rights may be recognized on behalf of another." Rights is impalpable to me.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Chance Crocker](#) - Tuesday, 26 May 2009, 08:25 PM

I don't know of any government agencies stepping in to censor regular law abiding citizens mail, more information would be appreciated. However legally convicted criminals in prison have reduced rights while in prison, while on parole, and for the rest of their lives. Increased censorship in prison while we're at war with a Muslim country is obviously a concern of government agencies because of the large Muslim population in prison with grievances, who can find support and resources while in prison to do damage outside of prison. That is probably the "recent national events" the officials are so worried about.

I also have a question since you state that you believe your rights are still entitled to you even though you may not recognize them does that mean you believe animals and plants have rights even though they don't have the capacity to understand either?

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 02:08 PM

I have to admit i heard about the government censoring regular mail to citizens, and i heard it on the news but i couldn't find an article of it. sorry

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Wednesday, 27 May 2009, 07:38 PM

I agree with you when you said "Rights are not born, because they are given by people." Then you go on to say that rights are taken away during war time, (which i agree with you) but don't you think they are taken away all the time. Especially with the freedom of speech. For starters you can't talk on your phone without knowing someone or computer is listening or tracking your words. Now don't get me wrong, i feel in some ways that is good but do you only think our freedom is taken away during war time?

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Zhijun Mao](#) - Wednesday, 27 May 2009, 11:42 PM

Maybe you are right. However, I just want to say what freedom of speech is. Freedom of speech is the freedom to speak freely without censorship or limitation. Rights should be held by citizen's hands; they are not just written in the paper. (In the first amendment, all Americans are given the right of freedom of speech.) Please ask yourself, "Did you really get the right of freedom to speak freely without censorship or limitation?" I also want to say Rights are not always given from government; all legal citizens get these rights from laws. I am not absolutely sure all citizens' rights taken by government during wartime; however, I am sure you cannot get fully rights whatever, wherever. Do you know your emails checked by government whatever they want? I am so scared after I watched the movie "The Bourne Identity". I am not sure it really happened in the United States. I just make sense what rights are. They are not free because they go with duties. Maybe I am wrong, but these are what I want to say.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 09:45 AM

I never thought you were wrong. I thought you made total sense but i was just asking if you thought rights were taken away all the time. About the government checking our emails, i consider that a loss of my own privacy. I just feel that these laws are made but not always played to the rules of the laws. I agree with you that you can't get fully rights whenever and that's why i think your rights are taken away a lot of the time.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Dudley](#) - Thursday, 28 May 2009, 11:12 AM

I think rights were a good idea, its just putting that idea into action that we stumble on. The world is always changing, therefore the rights we have are always having to conform to a new society so they can stay relevant. So freedom of speech in the 1950's is a little different then the freedom of speech we have today. We carry around freedom of speech in our pockets coming through and ipod. There are so many more outlets for speech to reach people now days then before. The government can't monitor it all. Or can they?...

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 09:52 AM

When i took cultural anthropolgy my teacher made it sound like you are very likely to have any privacy of yourself anymore. However i don't know where he got his information or if there are some aspects of our lives that the government cant monitor, i just know they can monitor alot of it. Like were we live (given), phone, computer, mail, tv, trips (passports), ect. I agree with you that this world is changing and the laws are changing with it, and that rights are a good thing as long as we still obtain some of our privacy.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Avtar Khalsa](#) - Monday, 25 May 2009, 01:41 AM

We as intelligent beings have manifested "rights" as a base of right and wrong, what a human is entitled to and likewise forbidden from. When rights are defined by one, and applied to many they surpass common rights and become restrictions. We as intelligent beings have manifested "rights" as a base of right and wrong, what a human is entitled to and likewise forbidden from. When rights are defined by one, and applied to many they surpass common rights and become restrictions. For example the "unalienable" rights that we have come to recognize in America through the passion of civil activists [Who wrote the Declaration of independence, fought for desegregation, fought for womens suffrage, who had a dream...] are for the progression[not the restriction] of society. Where as the "right" to violate civilian's basic freedoms from a point of power is the exact opposite of progress. In the same breath the concept of rights which, because of faith, allows a person to kill innocent women, children, and civilians, inspiring fear and terror, is simply and disgustingly wrong. Of course, as we are only human, rights can be thrown to the wind in times of conflict. The ideals of our concept of rights as individuals can be blurred and lost in situations involving the governing of a populous. Personally I believe that, as i am now, i can only hold by my principals and do what i can to keep my rights while standing for those who's rights are violated.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Michael Courtney](#) - Monday, 25 May 2009, 11:47 AM

Allow me to propose a question?

If I could assure you that you and your family would never have to worry about terrorism, your family would have food and fuel at your finger tips, you would be able to live at a quality of life higher then what you currently experience or could even imagine, all the wrongs done to you would be righted and you could express pride in the accomplishments of your country, how many rights would you be willing to forgo?

Think about my proposal, and how it would feel to live in a world such as I have presented.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Chance Crocker](#) - Tuesday, 26 May 2009, 08:02 PM

We live in the world your proposing in a lot of ways. Most people only think they want freedom when the only freedom they really want is to be comfortable. Those who are complacent having security, food, fuel, personal fulfillment, justice, and pride provided for them are nothing more than sheep because the shepard(s) have the power to take it away faster than the wolves ever could.

Thats why I think it's important that this country should not become complacent but actively participate and educate ourselves in securing our rights and stepping up to what it takes to keep those rights. If it means realizing that a military prescence in the Middle East is the price we pay to fill up our gas tanks then people need to realize the cost of their "right to be comfortable."

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Michael Courtney](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 11:28 AM

Chance,

I believe the scare of communism is no way as high as the scare of some over righteous know-it-all, that believes his way is the only way and if I do not submit to his way of thinking, then I should be dead. The attack of 9/11 put everyone on notice that this fact is out there and it is real. Our rights were circumvented to assure our safety and way of life, and not many of us said no.

We concern ourselves with our rights, but what about the rights of our enemies? We have go nature d American citizens going out of their way to remove any hint of basic rights for those individuals incarcerated because they may pose a threat to security. Why would we remove these rights, from a person, that we say is the cornerstone of our society?

I would rather see the Middle East swim in their oil, and let me drive my electric car. I personally have no desire to put my freedom of movement in their hands, and really do not want to see some young man or woman put themselves in harms way so I can scoot about town. Eliminate oil dependence.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Todd Sulkoff](#) - Thursday, 28 May 2009, 07:17 AM

Michael, what are you proposing? It sounds like an ultra- nationalist Utopia, shall we set the Reichstag ablaze?



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Re: Rights & rights

by [Michael Courtney](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 11:09 AM

Todd,

Close! Real close. When the light at the end of the tunnel is barely visible any source of light looks good..... Even if it is a freight train.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Judd Buley](#) - Tuesday, 26 May 2009, 05:34 PM

In the article "The Silent Scream of the Asparagus Get ready for 'plant rights'", it discusses that plants should have true ownership over their lives. They technically should have the right to choose if they want to live or not. Same concept goes with animals as well. Because they don't have a voice we automatically assume that it's ok. But morally it's wrong and we know it. Also we as humans get stripped from our rights based on ethnicity, age, and even gender.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Max Nunnelee](#) - Wednesday, 27 May 2009, 12:30 AM

First off I don't think plants have any rights because plants are food and food is meant to be eaten not have equal rights. The rights of humans have change over the history of time. African Americans were once slaves and now the people of the United States elected their first African American president. But it takes time for people to treat everyone with equal rights. Laws and legislation can't turn people into believers right away the people themselves have to be believers in order for equal rights to work. Religion seems to be one of the most common causes for discrimination. As the former Speaker of the House said we as Americans don't understand how much people are brain washed by religion in these middle eastern countries. They are so brain washed they are willing to give their lives for a cause they might not fully understand. The bombers think they are going to heaven and all the people they kill are going to hell. War time is another thing that causes unequal rights and discrimination. Our government makes it seem okay to discriminate when we are at war, an example is when we went to war with Japan we put all the Japanese into camps during the war. Since we were at war with Japan Americans felt that every Japanese person in America was a spy of some kind when most of them could care less. Also in Germany during WWII Hitler killed over 6 million Jews in concentration camps but it's not like he personally killed all those Jews he had soldiers that support him help him kill so many. Discrimination at it's highest level, holocaust, and yet still no German soldier decides that killing these ancient people is wrong. It takes people as a group to believe in equal rights for equal rights to work. But as President Obama showed it is possible.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Wednesday, 27 May 2009, 12:28 PM

After reading through and watching all the materials given for this discussion, I have to ask myself do we really have rights. Yes they are written down on paper and signed by congress, the president, ect, but Do we really have rights? Last term I took anthropology and my teacher spent a day on how we don't technically have rights. Yes we have them and they are there for our benefit but do they always play out right. We have the freedom of speech. However can we just walk up to police man or store clerk or anyone and say what we want. No we have boundaries. If you say something that could offend a police officer then you might have the chance of being thrown in jail. What about phones? Technically we feel like we can have a private conversation with someone over the phone, but really there is a computer watching for certain words that we might say. However I feel to some benefit it is ok because they are looking for words that could signal an attack or something horrible but where is our privacy?

In the article [Rights_Defined.html](#), I enjoyed how they said "Property rights provide a good example: society recognizes that individuals have title to particular property as defined by the transaction by which they acquired the property granting the individual free use and possession of the property." WRONG, I don't feel at all like this is a good example. In Lane County, if you want to build on your property, the property you bought with your money, pay taxes on and built your home on with your money, you have to go ask the county clerk or county commissioner if you can build. So how can our specific county justify this statement, when we technically (when it comes to building) don't have the "individual free use and possession of the property?"

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Chance Crocker](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 08:55 PM

I'm glad your anthropology teacher made the distinction that the "rights" we enjoy in America so much are rights that protect us from "agents of the government" not the people. Some one can say something offensive to some one and they might just get assaulted, like wise they can legally set the American flag on fire as a protest and exercise of their First Amendment right of freedom of speech but don't be surprised if I set them on fire. "Rights" in America are not protections from individual citizens that's the job of the executive body. It's also important to realize that during times of war rights are limited legally in accordance with the Constitution.

As for your example of property rights in reference to property rights and buildings issues. From experience the county inspectors are more concerned that it's up to code and won't catch on fire or collapse on you, which is a reasonable restriction if you ask me. Personally I don't want you to get killed by something as simple as an unsafe building.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 01:38 PM

About the property rights i'm talking about actually building a structure on my property not how the structure was built. I have no problem with inspectors coming and making sure the building is up to code, but i have a problem with the county clercks denying you the chance to build. My mother in law went to the county clerck with her plans to build a shop on her 30 acre plot and they denied her because it was to big for her 30 acre plot. How do you explain that? Then she went to them again years later to divide her 30 acre into 20 acre and 10 acre and she was denied again. But yet the property boardering her was allowed to dived there property in to 10 acre and 1 acre plots. So, where is the rights for one person to be allowed but the neighbor not?

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Todd Sulkoff](#) - Thursday, 28 May 2009, 07:57 AM

I think that basic human rights are the foundation of the idea of America. We can make a mockery of the concept of human rights, like the plant rights people do, we can selectively grant them as often happens, or we can take them seriously as our founding fathers did. The right to truly unfettered free speech, short of "yelling fire in a crowded theater, should be vigilantly upheld even in times of war. The right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" should certainly be reflected in truly universal health care, and affordable college education for example. I think debating the nuanced applications of how these rights are reflected in trivial ways serves only as a distraction from the fact that we have yet to embody core rights that our country originally aspired to.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Chance Crocker](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 09:14 PM

To respond to your universal health care comment do you think if health care was government mandated and sponsored it would decrease the quality of care? Universal health care sounds good but if Sacred Heart in Eugene was run like Amtrak I don't see potential for quality service. If health care was made universal I would support legislation to prohibit smoking, drinking, eating unhealthy food, and any illicit drug use and make physical education mandatory while they're at it because that be the only way I'd be willing to pay for it.

However I've always liked the idea of running hospitals like schools, if they can't meet a certain standard of care for all they lose funding which while expensive and would mean higher taxes I don't believe any one deserves to bleed to death internally waiting for care in ER like recently occurred at Sacred Heart. I may be just discussing the nuances you described but I believe every thing has a price, and universal health coverage is a price I'm not willing to pay. TANSTAAFL.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [David Kroesen](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 09:09 AM

There some articles in there i liked an did not like. One thing i liked was the blind people and money thing, i ha never really thought about that all. That would really suck and I think it is a great idea to not make paper money uniform. Coins already are not, don't see bills can't be either. The plat rights thing has got to be a joke, i know the video was but the article seemed serious, which startles me. People who are seriously worried about plant rights need to wake the *&%\$ up and look around. Worrying about infringing on "plants rights" should not even be a priority to anyone given the state of the world presently. Animal Welfare is something i believe in though. The way massive factory farms treat the animals is not only terrible but it messes with the meat which makes it less healthy for human consumption, plus it tastes worse. I used to think that how the animal was raised didnt really make a whole lot of difference in the quality of the meat, but ive been working at a grocery store meat dept. that only sales All Natural meat (no chemicals used, no anti-biotics, no growth hormones, vegetarian fed, free range) and now i cant go to back to other stuff. The quality is soooo much better it is ridiculous, i wish more people would choose to by at least all natural or orgnic meat and fish, its good for people and animals and all that stuff.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 09:34 AM

I agree with you on everything you said. Plants shouldn't have rights because that would be pointless. I agree with you about the blind and money. I never really thought about the money issue and it kind of makes me feel like the United States is selfish in the way they treat humans. I think our money status should change so that it is helpful for all humans, and not just some. Especially in our economy now, when the article was talking about how the blind man had to trust his customers, how could he trust them now. That is just an easy way for a human to get away with something.

I also agree with you about the Animal Welfare issue and that animals shouldn't be our test subjects. I have lived on a farm all my life and we raise our own cattle that just live on well water, grass hay and grass and that's where our meat comes from. Then if occasionally I buy meat from the store I am disgusted by how it tastes and how you pay more for the fat than the meat. I feel that humans really need to understand where their meat is coming from.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [David Kroesen](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 09:15 AM

All the rights we enjoy should be extended to our animal friends! We must pass international laws protecting animals. They are our equals and must be treated so! We also must protect other animals from each other as well. Cats who decide to kill mice only to bat the lifeless corpse around should be tried for first degree murder and torture, and deserve to be imprisoned for life if not put to death for such a heinous crime. Groups of monkeys that attack other monkey groups unprovoked for territory or breeding rights should be tried for war crimes and hanged. And how about those pesky birds stealing the farmers crops, is that not theft? Arrest them! It is our duty to end the brutal practice of the "Alpha Male" in animal packs who harm other animals to assert dominance for the petty reason of attempting to keep their gene pool relatively clean. How barbaric!

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 09:25 AM

I honestly feel that plants don't have rights. How can plants have rights in the eyes of animals? I agree that animals should have rights because it's horrible to torture an animal that can look back at you with those sad sad eyes. However a plant is a piece of food grown on this earth for animals and humans to eat. So why should plants have rights? What rights would they have?

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Katie D'Orazio](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 10:47 PM

I don't think plants have rights either...what are we going to ask them? Yes, it's a living organism, but really I feel that humans are higher than plants and as far as animals go what would they eat if we protected all the plants? It all comes down to the food chain, it may be sad but we all have to live.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 01:43 PM

I agree. Yeah like you said they may be a living organism but how would animals live? It's common sense that plants don't need rights if they are here for animals and humans to eat. Yes it can be sad but plants have a higher growing rate than animals. You have a weed in your garden, etc growing every other day, while a lot of animals reproduce once, twice, etc. times a year.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Max Nunnelee](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 03:41 PM

It seems rights are always implied for the smarter or more developed people. Look at when Christopher Columbus when he came to America he didn't give any rights to the Native Americans. He assumed that since they are not as smart then they can be slaves. Same goes with the black slaves in the south, most people believe that African-Americans weren't smart thus had to be slaves. Back then people felt that these African-Americans and Native Americans didn't deserve equal rights because they didn't eat with a spoon or because they didn't speak English. Earlier in the term we learned that the American people felt it was there

duty to bring the good religion and the good government to these savages in the Philippines. Not having equal rights comes down to one group of people thinking they are better than another and deserve different or better treatment.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Zhijun Mao](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 05:17 PM

What are rights? In Wikipedia defined, we know equal rights are granted to all people. Can we say equal rights are granted to all countries? Yeah, I think so. I have a question for rights. I know many American said they are crazy when they heard North Korea made second Nuclear Bomb testing. I want to ask why North Korea has not the equal rights to have their Nuclear Bomb. (Such as, U.S., China, Russia have Nuclear Bombs) Did rights shall be given to everybody, everycountry? Why did America make economic sanctions to North Korea? Just North Korea is a **communism** country? Why? Why? Why?

Is it right? What are rights? Who can tell me?

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Katie D'Orazio](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 10:45 PM

Zhijun I completly agree. I often ask myself why America thinks they get the right to have things like nuclear bombs and yet we say other countries cannot, when in reality we are the only ones who have ever used one!

Why is correct? What gives us that right?

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 09:07 PM

I agree with you but don't you think other countries feel the same way as the United States about nuclear weapons? If the U.S. has an extra threat against a foregin country shouldn't that country have the right to protect themselves. Now im not saying it is ok to develop these weapons all im saying is thats probably what is going through the other people mind about why they need these weapons.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Max Nunnelee](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 12:12 AM

Really its all fear. American leaders don't want the threat of another country being able to drop a nuclear weapon. The more countries with nuclear weapons the more likely a country could use one. We don't just want to take away North Korea's nuclear weapon because they are communist it is because they are a threat to the United States. Any country that says they will attack South Korea if their ships are searched is a threat. A country having a nuclear weapon isn't really an issue of rights it is an issue of peace. The U.S. wants to reduce the threat to peace. If only the U.S. had nuclear weapons then there would be no threat to peace. The U.S. being the more powerful nation keeps the peace and "tries" to protect the rights to other countries. If it was me I would rather have no nuclear weapons but it isn't a perfect world.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 09:05 PM

It isn't a perfect world and it never will be because there are to many people with different dreams, thoughts, ect. But i think other countries think they need nuclear weapons because we have them. I bet they feel the same way as we do. If you were living in another country outside the United States and felt the U.S. as a threat because they have nuclear weapons wouldn't you want some to feel equal and have some what as the same protection as the U.S? I agree it would be nice if we didn't have threats, nuclear weapons, ect but i believe that would be a world that wont exist on this earth.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Todd Miesen](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 05:17 PM

This quote stuck out to me the most from the materials.

"Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages."

Thomas Edison (inventor)

I hear people saying that it's not wrong to kill animals/plants. But what are they basing that off of? I think it's part upbringing and part philosophy/religion. Where does anyone get their moral beliefs from? Their religion, parents, caretakers, friends, relatives, experiences, etc. I could argue that religion has put human rights into people's mind as a solid undeniable thing...

I disagree. Where are these rights? Who decided them and why should they even exist? What has humanity done to deserve any rights at all? If anything we should be locked up due to all the harm we've done to the planet.

Words scribbled on a piece of paper don't give us rights. Just because we are able to kill everything else on the planet doesn't give us a right to rule it.

I'm not saying I would sit back and let birds take over the world. There comes a line to philosophy and practice in this case that it wouldn't make sense to cross.

People who say we have a right to kill other life because they are "lesser" or "inferior" are just lost. What makes a dog inferior to a human? Is it the intelligence? The physical ability? The looks? You have to understand that there is no right way to judge something like that.

Another argument is the idea of human morality. If we truly are "higher beings" and not savages, then shouldn't we restrain from killing because it is wrong. I've been raised to believe that taking a life is wrong. Why should that change with something not human?

My argument is my own questioning about the ways in which we decide how to judge our actions. I won't be changing my diet anytime soon, but it is important to understand that what you eat does have an impact. To forget that you are actually contributing to slaughtering a cow everytime you eat a hamburger is disrespectful.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Katie D'Orazio](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 10:43 PM

Todd, I think you bring an interesting point to the table, but I do disagree with you in many aspects. I do think that people are higher in a sense than an animal and a plant. I grew up in a religious house, so maybe I come to the table with the sense that animals were put on this earth to eat, and plants are made to grow and eat.

The idea of the "food chain" or "survival of the fittest" makes complete sense to me. Yes, humans don't have to eat animals to survive but since the beginning of time animals have been a main source of food.

We as humans have made our own rights and I agree with you in your questions as to "what gives us the right?", but on the other hand who is to say we don't have the right? The intelligent and strongest will always survive and in most aspects will create the rights for others.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 01:51 PM

Katie I agree with you the animal issue. I grew up in a religious house on a farm and I grew up eating animals we raised on our farm. I grew up believing that plants were put on this earth for animals and humans and that's how we survive. I understand your point about humans don't have to eat meat to survive but that would be a huge change in our society today. And if that change happened then the rights issue would go to the plants because that would be our main food source. So technically someone will always be complaining about the rights for what we eat.

And about what gives us the right. I agree with you, no one can tell me what I'm going to eat and what I can't eat.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Chance Crocker](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 09:35 PM

Just a little rant, our current president is probably making Ayn Rand roll in her grave. President Obama strikes me as a man who's never asked "who is John Galt?" If you don't know what I'm talking about don't just wiki it but read [Atlas Shrugged](#), because a summary of the book doesn't do it justice. Current executive policies regarding private property rights are setting an interesting precedent.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Therese Wible Wheeler](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 11:55 AM

I admit that I have been neglecting the historical topic discussion.

The subject of rights is a rather touchy one. I understand the rights of human beings and the individual rights of men and women. Those make sense.

But animal rights and vegetable rights? Come on, people.

Sure, animals are conscious beings. But they cannot discern right from wrong. They have not reached the same level of consciousness that we human beings have. I don't believe that there should be rights for animals. Fair treatment of an animal, sure. But rights is a little much.

And vegetables are living creatures, yes. But they do not feel a damn thing. They have no nerve endings. They have no consciousness. They soak in sunlight, photosynthesize, absorb CO2 and release oxygen. And they rot and they die. Or they are eaten. What kind of rights would a vegetable have?

Where has my beautiful country gone.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 01:55 PM

I agree with you about a lot of things but you mentioned "Fair treatment of an animal," I would consider that a right for animals. I feel that animals should have some rights to some degrees. I feel that they shouldn't be brutally abused by someone, they were put on this earth for a reason.

About the plants issue. I asked the same question about what rights would they have. It's ridiculous that plants should have rights it would be pointless.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Therese Wible Wheeler](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 02:50 PM

I do believe that animals should be treated fairly and I didn't say anything against it. But I guess you could say that is a right, but it seems more like common sense to me.

True, they were put on this planet for a reason, as we were. We all live our lives in the best way that we can. And so do they.

And plants are just plants.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 08:59 PM

I didn't mean to sound rude I was just asking if you thought that statement was a right, and yes it does seem like common sense.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Todd Sulkoff](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 07:23 PM

I don't pretend to have all the answers, but one thing that I am certain about is that extremes are almost always dangerous and wrong. Sometimes they are necessary to correct a polar extreme though. In America we have been fed the notion that the American dream is epitomized by the ability to make unlimited money. I think people should have the right to become rich. But I think it is extremist and nauseating how conservatives for so long have held up their right to make and inherit Billions of dollars while fellow Americans are destitute. We have a huge income gap in this country. Yes, there will always be poor and rich. I think the only way to ever grant rights to all Americans is to close that gap as much as possible. I think anyone making over about \$1,000,000 a year should be taxed at 100%. Isn't a million a year enough to be happy? Studies show that once someone makes over \$50,000 a year their happiness does not increase proportionally. But being poor creates so many burdens that result in a vicious circle that is often impossible to escape. We have a huge population that is working their butts off just to make ends meet. I am not suggesting handouts. People making under \$50,000 should be given free education and healthcare at the expense of the richest though. This is not even Socialism in my opinion, but the virtuous middle way that we all know deep down is the fair society that truly embodies the image of America that we claim. If we are a Christian country as these same conservative people say, I wonder what Jesus would say about the extreme rich controlling so much, while so many are living in poverty. Rights ultimately depend on economics like almost everything else.

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