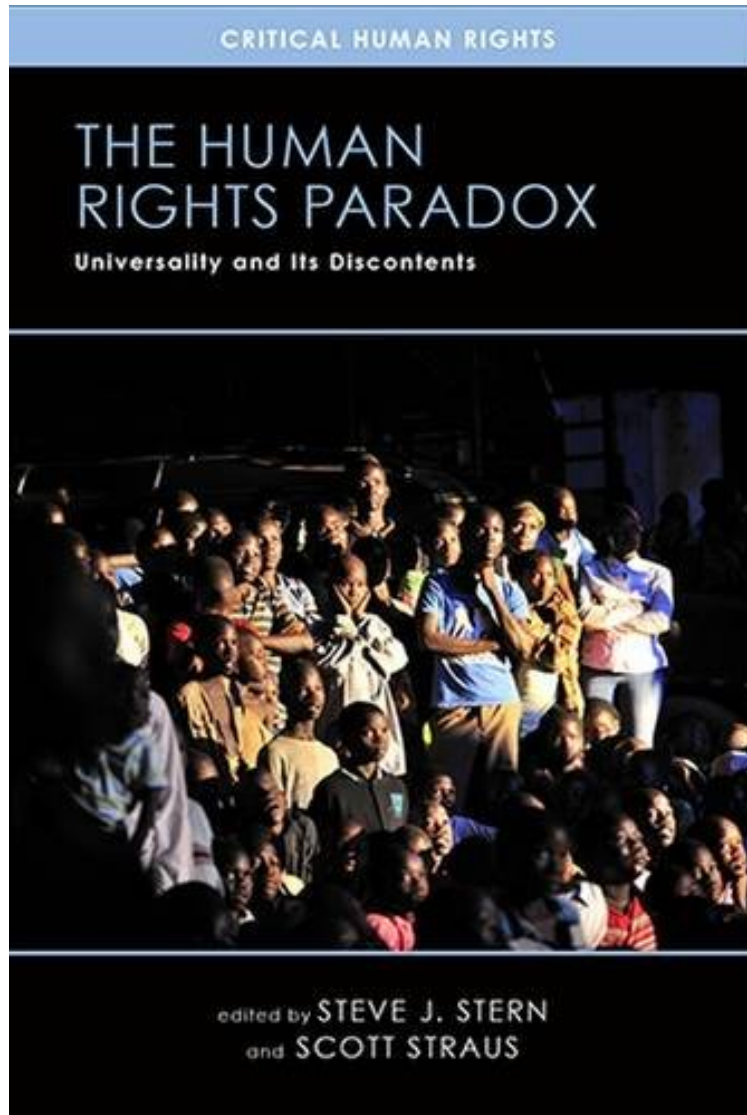


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The Human Rights Paradox: Universality and Its Discontents (Critical Human Rights)

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Human rights are paradoxical. Advocates across the world invoke the idea that such rights belong to all people, no matter who or where they are. But since humans can only realize their rights in particular places, human rights are both always and never universal. *The Human Rights Paradox* is the first book to fully embrace this contradiction and reframe human rights as history, contemporary social advocacy, and future prospect. In case studies that span Africa, Latin America, South and Southeast Asia, and the United States, contributors carefully illuminate how social actors create the imperative of human rights through relationships whose entanglements of the global and the local are so profound that one cannot exist apart from the other. These chapters provocatively analyze emerging twenty-first-century horizons of human rights on one hand, the simultaneous promise and peril of global rights activism through social media, and on the other, the force of intergenerational rights linked to environmental concerns that are both local and global. Taken together, they demonstrate how local struggles and realities transform classic human rights concepts, including victim, truth, and justice. Edited by Steve J. Stern and Scott Straus, *The Human Rights Paradox* enables us to consider the consequences for history, social analysis, politics, and advocacy of understanding that human rights belong both to humanity as abstraction as well as to specific people rooted in particular locales.