

**Human Rights and the Onset of the Cold War**

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Directions:

Answer the following questions from material you can find in the links (you can also find these links on RosenWorld). You will need about a paragraph each to answer. A paragraph is defined as 3-5 well-written sentences.

Write neatly in pencil or dark blue/black ink. Do not type. The questions **MUST** be written out before each answer and underline/highlighted. Please try to write on one side of the paper only.

This is **NOT** a collaborative effort; do not copy work you yourself did not do.

Introduction:

The Preamble to the UN Charter proclaims that one of the organization's main goals is to "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small." The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the UN on December 10, 1948, expands upon and clarifies this goal. Two people in particular played key roles in the creation of the Declaration: former U.S. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who chaired the UN's Commission on Human Rights; and Canadian John Humphrey, director of the Secretariat's Division of Human Rights. Though no countries voted against adoption of the Declaration, the USSR and some of its Eastern European allies had problems with the document. In many ways, the debate over the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proved to be one of the first symbolic battles of the Cold War.

All Web links for this lesson can be found at: www.socialstudies.com/worldlinks.html

Directions:

[Eleanor Roosevelt: The Struggle for Human Rights](#)

www.edchange.org/multicultural/speeches/eleanor_roosevelt_rights.html

Scroll down to the paragraph that begins, "The Declaration has come from the Human Rights Commission..." Answer the following questions:

1. What four countries had abstained from accepting the Declaration? What does Roosevelt claim was the reason for their abstentions?
2. What does Roosevelt mean when she says, "We must not be deluded by the efforts of the forces of reaction to prostitute the great words of our free tradition and thereby to confuse the struggle"?
3. How does Roosevelt use examples of trade unions, the press, and the "right to work" to highlight differences between the U.S. and USSR?

4. What is it that Roosevelt claims "especially stirs up antagonism against the Soviet Government"? What reasoning does she use to support this assertion?

Scroll down to the paragraph that begins, "The U.S.S.R. claims it has reached a point... "

5. According to Roosevelt, what "aspects of the development of freedom" are "lacking" in the Soviet Union?

Scroll down to the paragraph that begins, 'The field of human rights... "

6. Why does Roosevelt reject compromise regarding human rights?

[UN General Assembly, 183rd Plenary Meeting, December 10, 1948](#)

www.un.org/Depts/dhl/landmark/pdf/a-pv183.pdf

(Note: This is a pdf file, which requires Adobe Acrobat to read.)

Scroll down to the section that begins, "The Yugoslav representative considered that..."

7. What objection did the Yugoslav delegation have to the "principles of human rights set out in the declaration"?

Read the paragraph that begins, "The text before the Assembly ... "

8. According to the Yugoslavs, the Declaration of Human Rights was based on "individualistic concepts." What problem did the Yugoslavs have with "individualist doctrine"?
9. Read the next paragraph. What did the Yugoslavs mean when they said that the Declaration "did not pay sufficient attention to the new requirements of modern society or to the recognition of social rights"?
10. Why did the Yugoslavs characterize the Declaration as "an instrument of international codification rather than an instrument which opened a new and brighter future for the individual in the vast field of social rights"?

Read the paragraph that begins, "The historical development... "

11. This paragraph essentially sums up the problems the Yugoslav delegation had with the declaration. Briefly restate the Yugoslav position in your own words.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

www.un.org/Overview/rights.html

12. Browse the articles of the Declaration. In your opinion, are these articles more in line with a capitalist society, a communist society, or neither? Use at least three examples to support your position.