

Chapter 6 New Findings on the Causes and Effects of Human Rights Violations

Abstract

The security exigency during the West and East rivalry stifled the promotion of human rights. But, the post-Cold War environment has encouraged national leaders to reconsider the foundational tenet of human rights: each person in any nation-state is a moral and rational being who deserves to be treated with dignity. Accordingly, researchers have gained momentum in producing a plethora of research projects on the subject, while recognizing some key limitations of their data on human rights conditions. This means that the empirical findings reported in existing studies may not be as credible as they should be, which hampers the ability for these studies to inform policy makers and other researchers. By relying on inaccurate human rights data, researchers may have drawn their inferences and conclusions too hastily in the past three decades. If so, reexamining previous findings with more accurate measures of human rights violations should be the first step to facilitating further research and improving our understanding of this important issue. As an attempt to remedy the potential bias of the previously reported empirical patterns, Chapter 6 reevaluates 18 existing studies utilizing new human rights data and offers novel findings on the causes and effects of human rights violations.