



THE
GOVERNANCE
GROUP

What are Human Rights?

Historical Origins and Contemporary Issues

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“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

Human Rights are:

Universal

Inalienable

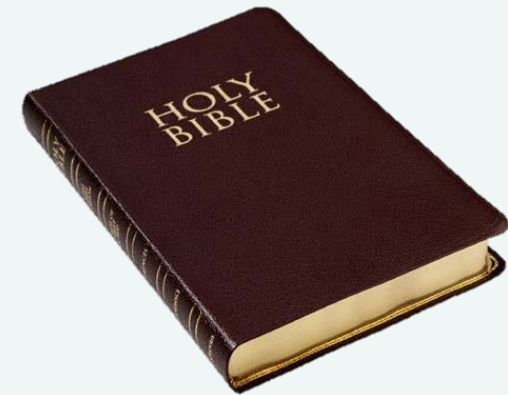
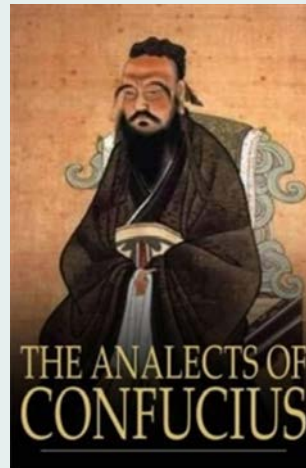
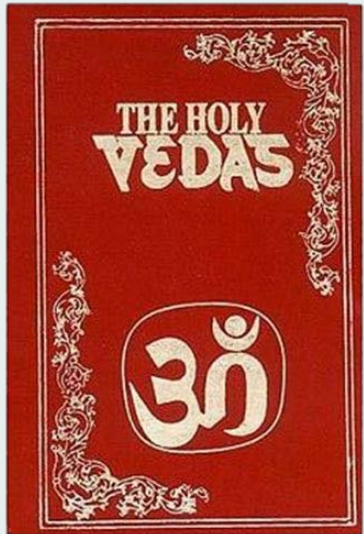
Indivisible

Interdependent



Philosophical and religious background to human rights

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

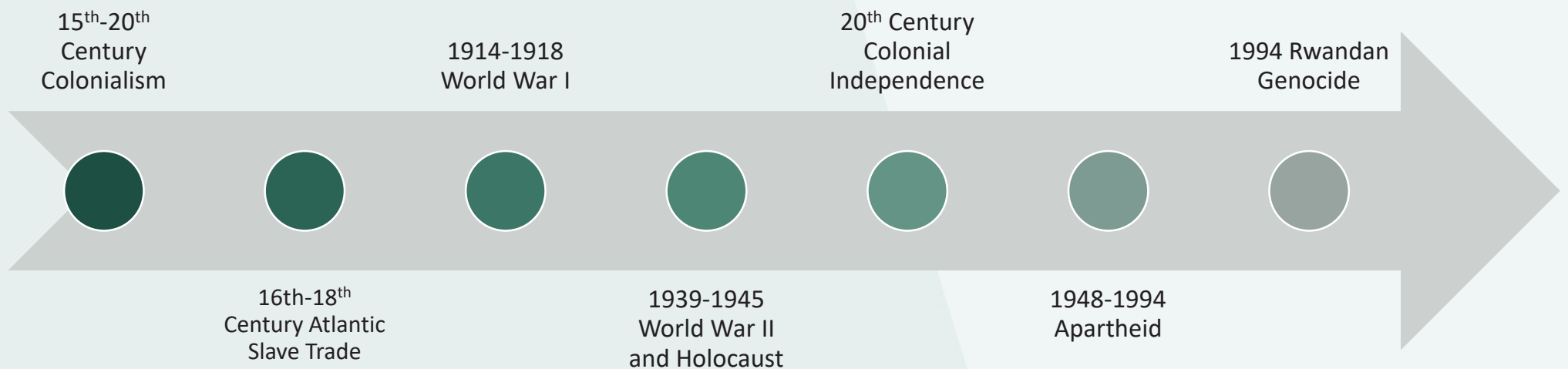


Code of Hammurabi

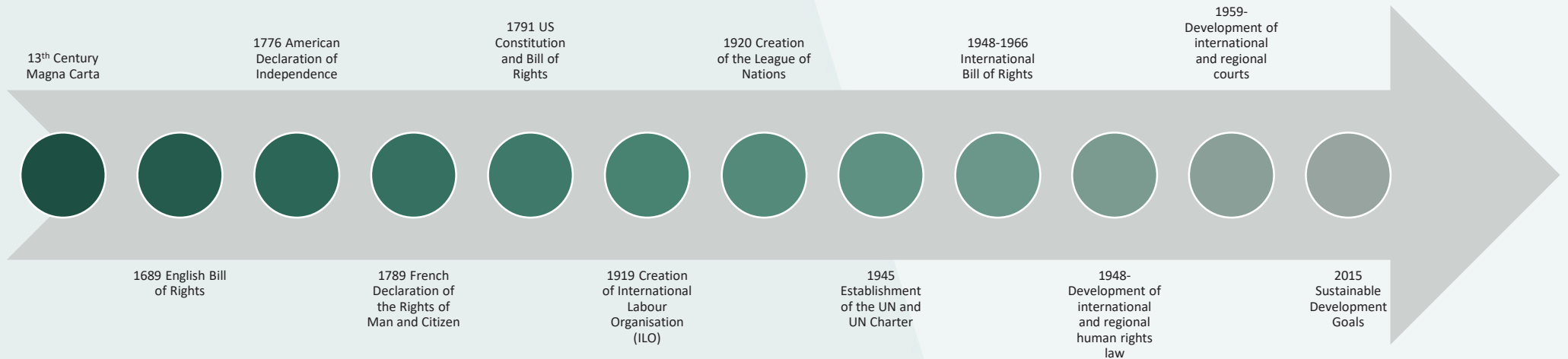
- Hammurabi (King of Babylonian Empire from 1792 to 1750 B.C.) maintained control of empire by a code of law
- Claimed the gods had chosen him "to promote the welfare of the people,... to cause justice to prevail in the land, to destroy the wicked and evil, [so] that the strong might not oppress the weak, to rise like the sun over the people, and to light up the land."



Historical events across the globe which ushered in human rights



Political & philosophical chronology



Three generations of human rights

1. Civil and Political
2. Economic, Social and Cultural
3. Collective/Solidarity rights



African Contribution

- Colonialism and apartheid
- Right to self-determination
- African Union
- African Charter
- African Court
- African sub-regional human rights protection
- Collective/solidarity rights



East African Community
One People, One Destiny



Contemporary issues and challenges

- Human rights, security and terrorism
- Asylum and refugee laws under pressure
- Social media and new technology: threat or opportunity for human rights?

