Contents

Background to the Book	
Introduction: Thinking Sociologically about Human Rights	
Fundamental Questions	4
An Invitation to Human Rights	6
A Dilemma in Human Rights	7
The Human Rights Community	
The Human Rights Canon	11
Human Rights, Social Policy, and Law	15
Special Features of the Book	
Chapter 1: Defining the Sociology of Human Rights	
The Sociological Perspective	23
What Are Human Rights?	26
Negative Rights/Civil and Political Rights	27
Positive Rights/Economic and Social Rights	
Cultural and Environmental Rights	
Rights Bundling	
What is the Sociology of Human Rights?	
Sociological Angles on Human Rights	
Major Concepts in the Sociology of Human Rights	
Science, Values, and Rights Bundles	
Globalization and Culture	
Summary	49
Chapter 2: Classifying Human Rights	51
Why Do We Need to Rethink the Categories of Human	dico
Rights?	53
Sociological Perspectives	55
Lumping and Splitting in the Domain of Human Rights	57

Two Ways of Classifying Human Rights	60
Social Movements, Policy, and Law	64
The Circulation of Human Rights	68
Summary	71
Chapter 3: Civil and Political Rights	74
Preliminary Questions about Civil and Political Rights The Legacy of the Enlightenment and the Three-Generations	74 78
Schema	81
Decolonization and Human Rights	83
The Bedrock of the Human Rights Canon?	85
The Role of the UN	87
Where Do Civil and Political Rights Fit? Summary	90
Chapter 4: Economic and Social Rights	93
Economy and Society	94
Preliminary Questions about Economic and Social Rights	97
Liberty, Equality, and the Legacy of the Enlightenment	99
Human Rights and the Political Chessboard	100
The Two Covenants	102
The Relational Character of Human Rights	103
Economic and Social Rights in the US Context	106
Summary	109
Chapter 5: Rights to Culture, the Environment, and	
Sustainable Development	
Solidarity or the Ties that Bind	111
Situating Collective Rights	
Culture, Environment, and Development	114
The Specificity of Third-Generation Rights	115
Versions of Sustainable Development	117
Origins of Third-Generation Rights	
Further Questions about Collective Rights	124
Summary	126
Chapter 6: Rights Bundles	128
Oxfam International, Amnesty International, and Rights	120
Bundling	128
Alternative Development	130
Angles on Human Rights	132

vii