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Cover image: Thousands of file cards with personal information and fingerprints piled in a corridor of the recently-found police archive, Guatemala City 2005. Photo © Daniel Hernandez / The New York Times / Redux / Eyevine.

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Human Rights: An Anthropological Reader is a groundbreaking collection on the understanding and practice of human rights over the past 60 years. For decades, anthropologists have drawn on a range of intellectual and methodological approaches in order to reveal both the ambiguities and tremendous potential of the postwar human rights project. This volume synthesizes these different approaches and demonstrates how anthropologists have engaged with human rights as committed activists, empirical researchers, and cultural critics. By examining and drawing out the broader implications of this continuing legacy for the twenty-first century, this text serves as an essential resource for researchers, practitioners, and students of human rights.

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24/2010



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Contents

	Acknowledgments	vii
	Introduction: Human Rights and Anthropology Mark Goodale	1
Pa	rt I Conceptual and Historical Foundations	21
1	Statement on Human Rights (1947) and Commentaries American Anthropological Association, Julian H. Steward, and H. G. Barnett	23
2	The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man Hannah Arendt	32
3	The Good, the Bad, and the Intolerable: Minority Group Rights Will Kymlicka	58
4	Toward a Cross-Cultural Approach to Defining International Standards of Human Rights: The Meaning of Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im	68
5	Human Rights and Capabilities Amartya Sen	86
Pa	rt II Anthropology and Human Rights Activism	99
6	Declaration on Anthropology and Human Rights (1999) Committee for Human Rights, American Anthropological Association	101
7	Anthropology, Human Rights, and Social Transformation Ellen Messer	103
8	Excavations of the Heart: Healing Fragmented Communities Victoria Sanford	135

9	Rethinking Health and Human Rights: Time for a Paradigm Shift Paul Farmer and Nicole Gastineau	148
10	Rotten Trade: Millennial Capitalism, Human Values and Global Justice in Organs Trafficking Nancy Scheper-Hughes	167
11	Anthropology and Human Rights: Do Anthropologists Have an Ethical Obligation to Promote Human Rights? An Open Exchange Terry Turner, Laura R. Graham, Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, and Jane K. Cowan	198
Par	t III The Ethnography of Human Rights Practices	207
12	Representing Human Rights Violations: Social Contexts and Subjectivities Richard A. Wilson	209
13	Gendered Intersections: Collective and Individual Rights in Indigenous Women's Experience Shannon Speed	229
14	Human Rights and Moral Panics: Listening to Popular Grievances Harri Englund	246
15	Legal Transplants and Cultural Translation: Making Human Rights in the Vernacular Sally Engle Merry	265
Par	t IV Critical Anthropologies of Human Rights	303
16	Culture and Rights after Culture and Rights Jane K. Cowan	305
17	Human Rights as Cultural Practice: An Anthropological Critique Ann-Belinda S. Preis	332
18	Between Universalism and Relativism: A Critique of the UNESCO Concept of Culture Thomas Hylland Eriksen	356
19	Toward a Critical Anthropology of Human Rights Mark Goodale	372
	Appendix: Websites on Human Rights	395
	Index Index	399