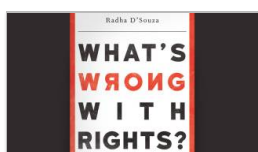


What's wrong with rights? Social movements, law and liberal imaginations

Imaginations

D'Souza, R. 2018. *What's Wrong With Rights? Social Movements, Law and Liberal Imaginations*. London, UK Pluto Press.



TITLE

What's Wrong With Rights? Social Movements, Law and Liberal Imaginations

AUTHORS

[D'Souza, R.](#)

ABSTRACT

Through mapping the rights discourse and the transformations in transnational finance capitalism since the world wars, and interrogating the connections between the two, Radha D'Souza examines contemporary rights in theory and practice through the lens of the struggles of the people of the Third World, their experiences of national liberation and socialism and their aspirations for emancipation and freedom.

Social movements demand rights to remedy wrongs and injustices in society. But why do organisations like the World Bank and IMF, the G7 states and the World Economic Forum want to promote rights? Activists and activist scholars are critical of human rights in their diagnosis of problems. But in their prognosis, they reinstate human rights and bring back through the backdoor what they dismiss through the front.

Why are activists and activist scholars unable to 'let go' of human rights? Why do indigenous peoples find the need to invoke the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People to make their claims sound reasonable? Are rights in the 20th and 21st centuries the same as rights in the 17th and 18th centuries?

This book examines what is entailed in reducing rights to 'human' rights and in the argument 'our understandings of rights are better than theirs' that is popular within social movements and in critical scholarship.

KEYWORDS

Rights; liberalism; transnational monopoly finance capitalism; global governance; international organisations; new property rights; international election monitoring; international criminal justice; IMF; World Bank; social movements; good governance programmes.

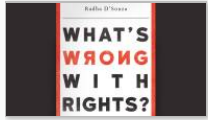
YEAR

2018

PUBLISHER

Pluto Press

FILE



[whats-wrong-with-rights.jpg](#)

PUBLICATION DATES

PUBLISHED

Feb 2018

PLACE OF PUBLICATION

London, UK

ISBN

9780745335414

9780745335407

WEB ADDRESS (URL)

<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/W/bo22361732.html>

Related outputs

[The Surveillance State: A Composition in Four Movements](#)

D'Souza, R. 2019. The Surveillance State: A Composition in Four Movements. in: Choudry, A. (ed.) *Activists And The Surveillance State* London Pluto. pp. 23-52

[The October Revolution and Anti-Colonial Movements in South Asia](#)

D'Souza, R. 2018. The October Revolution and Anti-Colonial Movements in South Asia. *Economic and Political Weekly*. LIII (43), pp. 46-58.

[The Ghadar Movement: Why socialists should learn about it](#)

D'Souza, R. and Tirmizey, K.A. 2018. The Ghadar Movement: Why socialists should learn about it. *Socialist Studies: Journal of the Society for Socialist Studies*. 13 (2), pp. 2-14. doi:10.18740/ss27269

[The Conceptual World of the Ghadarites](#)

D'Souza, R. 2018. The Conceptual World of the Ghadarites. *Socialist Studies: Journal of the Society for Socialist Studies*. 13 (2), pp. 15-37. doi:10.18740/ss27241

[My Tryst With The Kurdish Freedom Movement](#)

D'Souza, R. 2018. My Tryst With The Kurdish Freedom Movement. in: Miley, Thomas Jeffrey and Venturini, Federico (ed.) *Your Freedom and Mine: Abdulla Öcalan and the Kurdish Question* Montreal; Chicago; London Black Rose Books. pp. 276-279

[Listening to the Elders as Keepers of the Water \(expanded version\)](#)

D'Souza, R. 2017. Listening to the Elders as Keepers of the Water (expanded version). in: Giri, Ananta Kumar (ed.) *Cultivating Pathways of Creative Research: New Horizons of Transformative Practice and Collaborative Imagination* Delhi Primus Books. pp. 351-362

[Listening to the Elders at the Keepers of the Water Gathering](#)

D'Souza, R. 2017. Listening to the Elders at the Keepers of the Water Gathering. in: Christian, Dorothy and Wong, Rita (ed.) *Downstream: Reimagining Water* Waterloo, Ontario Wilfred Laurier University Press. pp. 197-206

[Victor's Law?: colonial peoples, World War II and international law](#)

D'Souza, R. 2017. Victor's Law?: colonial peoples, World War II and international law. *International Comparative Jurisprudence*. 3 (1), pp. 67-84. doi:10.13165/j.icj.2017.03.006

[Três Atores, Duas Geografias, Uma Filosofia: A Camisa De Força Dos Movimentos Sociais](#)

D'Souza, R. 2014. Três Atores, Duas Geografias, Uma Filosofia: A Camisa De Força Dos Movimentos Sociais. in: Cintra Martins, Maria Sílvia (ed.) *Ensaio sobre o Multiculturalismo: Literatura, Cultura e Direitos de indígenas em época de globalização* Campinas Mercado de Letras. pp. 23-52

[Chinese Translation of "Imperialism and Self Determination: Revisiting the Nexus in Lenin"](#)

D'Souza, R. 2014. Chinese Translation of "Imperialism and Self Determination: Revisiting the Nexus in Lenin". in: He Ping (ed.) *Lenin Thought In The Twenty-first*

D'Souza, R. 2014. Chinese translation of imperialism and self-determination: revisiting the nexus in Lenin. In: He Ping (ed.) Lenin thought in the twenty-first Century: Interpretation And Value Beijing People's Publishing House. pp. 104-121

What can activist scholars learn from Rumi?

D'Souza, R. 2014. What can activist scholars learn from Rumi? *Philosophy East and West: a quarterly of comparative philosophy*. 64 (1), pp. 1-24.

Is there a legal right to development?

D'Souza, R. 2014. Is there a legal right to development? in: Desai, V. and Potter, R.B. (ed.) The companion to development studies (3rd edition) London and New York Routledge. pp. 583-586

Revolt and reform in South Asia: Ghadar movement to 9/11 and after

D'Souza, R. 2014. Revolt and reform in South Asia: Ghadar movement to 9/11 and after. *Economic and Political Weekly*. 49 (7), pp. 59-73.

Reflections on Fanon's legacy

Austin, D., Choudry, A., D'Souza, R. and Thobani, S. 2013. Reflections on Fanon's legacy. *Interface: a journal for and about social movements*. 5 (1), pp. 128-150.

Imperialism and self determination: revisiting the nexus in Lenin

D'Souza, R. 2013. Imperialism and self determination: revisiting the nexus in Lenin. *Economic and Political Weekly*. 48 (15), pp. 60-69.

Third world and international law (interview)

D'Souza, R. 2013. Third world and international law (interview). *Revista Critica Do Direito (Critical Review of Law)*. 46 (2).

Who encounters what here? Comment on Kevin Cox 'Marxism and critical realism: a brief encounter'

D'Souza, R. 2013. Who encounters what here? Comment on Kevin Cox 'Marxism and critical realism: a brief encounter'. *Dialogues in Human Geography*. 3 (1), pp. 34-39. doi:10.1177/2043820613485045

Review essay: Justice and governance in dystopia

D'Souza, R. 2013. Review essay: Justice and governance in dystopia. *Journal of Critical Realism*. 12 (4), pp. 518-537.

Listening to the elders as keepers of the water

D'Souza, R. 2013. Listening to the elders as keepers of the water. in: Kumar, C. (ed.) Asking, we walk: south as new political imaginary Bangalore Streelekha Publications. pp. 138-147

A fleeting moment in times of cognitive dissonance: foreword and introductory essay

D'Souza, R. 2012. A fleeting moment in times of cognitive dissonance: foreword and introductory essay. in: Malathy, N. (ed.) A fleeting moment in my country: the last years of the LTTE de facto state Atlanta, GA Clarity Press. pp. 13-23

Rights, action, change: organize for what?

D'Souza, R. 2012. Rights, action, change: organize for what? in: Choudry, A., Hanley, J. and Shragge, E. (ed.) Organize: building from the local for global justice Montreal, Canada PM Press. pp. 71-81

Imperial agendas, global solidarities, and third world socio-legal studies: methodological reflections

D'Souza, R. 2012. Imperial agendas, global solidarities, and third world socio-legal studies: methodological reflections. *Osgoode Hall Law Journal*. 49 (3), pp. 409-444.

When unreason masquerades as reason: can law regulate networked communication ethically?

D'Souza, R. 2011. When unreason masquerades as reason: can law regulate networked communication ethically? in: Cheney, G., May, S. and Munshi, D. (ed.) The handbook of communication ethics Abingdon Routledge. pp. 475-493

Three actors, two geographies, one philosophy: the straightjacket of social movements

D'Souza, R. 2011. Three actors, two geographies, one philosophy: the straightjacket of social movements. in: Motta, S.C. and Nilsen, A.G. (ed.) Social movements in the global south: dispossession, development and resistance Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 227-249

The 'rights' conundrum: poverty of philosophy amongst poverty

D'Souza, R. 2010. The 'rights' conundrum: poverty of philosophy amongst poverty. in: Banakar, R. (ed.) Rights in context: law and justice in late modern society Farnham Ashgate. pp. 55-69

Law and 'development' discourses about water: understanding agency in regime changes

D'Souza, R. 2010. Law and 'development' discourses about water: understanding agency in regime changes. in: Cullet, P., Gowlland-Gualtieri, A., Madhav, R. and Ramanathan, U. (ed.) Water governance in motion: towards socially and environmentally sustainable water laws New Delhi Cambridge University Press. pp. 491-522

Editorial: introduction to the special issue: postcolonialism, realism, and critical realism

D'Souza, R. 2010. Editorial: introduction to the special issue: postcolonialism, realism, and critical realism. *Journal of Critical Realism*. 9 (3), pp. 263-275. doi:10.1558/jcr.v9i3.263

Nation vs peoples: inter-state water disputes in India's Supreme Court

D'Souza, R. 2009. Nation vs peoples: inter-state water disputes in India's Supreme Court. in: Iyer, R.R. (ed.) Water and the laws in India Sage.

The prison houses of knowledge: activist scholarship and revolution in the era of "globalisation"

D'Souza, R. 2009. The prison houses of knowledge: activist scholarship and revolution in the era of "globalisation". *McGill Journal of Education*. 44 (1). pp. 1-20.

The prison houses of knowledge: activist scholarship and revolution in the era of "globalisation"

D'Souza, R. 2009. The prison houses of knowledge: activist scholarship and revolution in the era of "globalisation". *McGill Journal of Education*. 44 (1), pp. 19-38.

Water resources development and water conflicts in two Indian Ocean states

D'Souza, R. 2008. Water resources development and water conflicts in two Indian Ocean states. in: Doyle, T. and Risely, M. (ed.) *Crucible for survival: environmental security and justice in the Indian Ocean region* New Brunswick, N.J. Rutgers University Press. pp. 157-170

Liberal theory, human rights and water-justice: back to square one?

D'Souza, R. 2008. Liberal theory, human rights and water-justice: back to square one? *Law, Social Justice & Global Development Journal*. 2008 (1), pp. 1-15.

What's wrong with "rights"?

D'Souza, R. 2007. What's wrong with "rights"? *Seedling*.

Living at the cutting edge. Women's experiences of protection orders: volume 2: what's to be done? a critical analysis of statutory and practice approaches to domestic violence

Robertson, N., Busch, R., D'Souza, R., Sheung, F.L., Anand, R., Balzer, R., Simpson, A. and Paina, D. 2007. *Living at the cutting edge. Women's experiences of protection orders: volume 2: what's to be done? a critical analysis of statutory and practice approaches to domestic violence*. Hamilton, New Zealand Commissioned by the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Living at the cutting edge. Women's experiences of protection orders: volume 1: the women's stories

Robertson, N., Busch, R., D'Souza, R., Sheung, F.L., Anand, R., Balzer, R., Simpson, A. and Paina, D. 2007. *Living at the cutting edge. Women's experiences of protection orders: volume 1: the women's stories*. Hamilton, New Zealand Commissioned by the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Three actors, two geographies, one philosophy: the straightjacket of 'social movements'

D'Souza, R. 2007. Three actors, two geographies, one philosophy: the straightjacket of 'social movements'. *Fifth International Conference of Critical Geography*. Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India 03 - 07 Dec 2007

Imperial agendas, global solidarities and socio-legal scholarship in the 'third world'

D'Souza, R. 2007. Imperial agendas, global solidarities and socio-legal scholarship in the 'third world'. *Berlin 2007 International Conference, Law and Society in the 21st Century: the joint Annual Meetings of the Law and Society Association and Research Committee on Sociology of Law (ISA)*. Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany 25 - 28 Jul 2007

Emancipatory movements

D'Souza, R. 2007. Emancipatory movements. in: Hartwig, M. (ed.) *Dictionary of critical realism* London Routledge. pp. 164-166

Ein Blick in die Kristallkugel: >>Zivilgesellschaft<< und >>Humanitat<<im 21. Jahrhundert (A look into the crystal ball, "civil society" and "humanity" in the 21st Century)

D'Souza, R. 2007. Ein Blick in die Kristallkugel: >>Zivilgesellschaft<< und >>Humanitat<<im 21. Jahrhundert (A look into the crystal ball, "civil society" and "humanity" in the 21st Century). *Polylog - Forum for Intercultural Philosophizing*. 18, pp. 55-62.

Colonialism, neo-colonialism, post-colonialism

D'Souza, R. 2007. Colonialism, neo-colonialism, post-colonialism. in: Hartwig, M. (ed.) *Dictionary of critical realism* London Routledge. pp. 68-70

Codification, cartography and the making and remaking of empires

D'Souza, R. 2007. Codification, cartography and the making and remaking of empires. *Critical Legal Conference 2007*. Birkbeck University of London 14 - 16 Sep 2007

Interstate disputes over Krishna waters: law, science and imperialism

D'Souza, R. 2006. *Interstate disputes over Krishna waters: law, science and imperialism*. Hyderabad, India Orient Longman.

The 'third world' and socio-legal studies: neo-liberalism and lessons from India's legal innovations

D'Souza, R. 2005. The 'third world' and socio-legal studies: neo-liberalism and lessons from India's legal innovations. *Social & Legal Studies*. 141 (4), pp. 487-513.
doi:10.1177/0964663905057592

Colonial law and the Tungabhadra disputes: lifting the veil over the agreement of 1892

D'Souza, R. 2005. Colonial law and the Tungabhadra disputes: lifting the veil over the agreement of 1892. *Natural Resources Journal*. 45 (2), pp. 311-344.

The democracy-development tension in dam projects: the long hand of the law

D'Souza, R. 2004. The democracy-development tension in dam projects: the long hand of the law. *Political Geography*. 23 (6), pp. 701-730.
doi:10.1016/j.polgeo.2004.03.003

Re-envisioning transboundary water disputes as development conflicts

D'Souza, R. 2004. Re-envisioning transboundary water disputes as development conflicts. in: Rumley, D. and Chaturvedi, S. (ed.) *Geopolitical orientations, regionalism and security in the Indian Ocean* New Delhi South Asian Publishers. pp. 172-193

Global commons: but where is the community

D'Souza, R. 2004. Global commons: but where is the community. in: Yagelski, R.P. and Miller, R. (ed.) *The informed argument*. 6th edition Thomson/Wadsworth Publishers. pp. 370-373

Re-territorialising and re-centering empires: the connivance of law and geography

D'Souza, R. 2003. Re-territorialising and re-centering empires: the connivance of law and geography. in: Gao, J., Le Heron, R. and Logie, J. (ed.) *Windows on a changing world: proceedings of the 22nd New Zealand Geographical Society Conference*, University of Auckland, 6-11 July Auckland New Zealand Geographical Society.

At the confluence of law and geography: inter-state water disputes in India

D'Souza, R. 2002. At the confluence of law and geography: inter-state water disputes in India. *Geoforum*. 33 (2), pp. 255-269. doi:10.1016/S0016-7185(01)00031-8

Sustainable development or self-determination? Asking the hard questions about the WSSD

D'Souza, R. 2002. Sustainable development or self-determination? Asking the hard questions about the WSSD. *Social Policy*. 32 (4), pp. 23-26.

Sustainable development or self-determination? Asking the hard questions about the WSSD

D'Souza, R. 2001. Sustainable development or self-determination? Asking the hard questions about the WSSD. in: Kirkby, D. and Colborne, C. (ed.) *Law, history, colonialism: the reach of empire* Manchester Manchester University Press.

Trade unions in South Asia

D'Souza, R. 1997. *Trade unions in South Asia*. Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (HIVOS).

Reversing on the fast lane: prison industries in Aotearoa/New Zealand

D'Souza, R. 1997. *Reversing on the fast lane: prison industries in Aotearoa/New Zealand*. Wellington, N.Z. New Zealand Trade Union Federation.

Prison labour: human rights v profits: prison work - prison reform or wage slavery?

D'Souza, R. 1996. Prison labour: human rights v profits: prison work - prison reform or wage slavery? *Butterworth's Employment Law Bulletin*. 8, pp. 139-141.

The changing role of transnational corporations: workers in the new world order

D'Souza, R. 1996. *The changing role of transnational corporations: workers in the new world order*. Report commissioned by Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (HIVOS) and published by Asia-Pacific Workers Solidarity Links.

Occupational health, safety and work environment in the Asian region

D'Souza, R. 1996. *Occupational health, safety and work environment in the Asian region*. Report commissioned by Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (HIVOS) and published by Asia-Pacific Workers Solidarity Links.

Industrialization, labour policies, and their impact on the labour movement: a historical overview

D'Souza, R. 1996. Industrialization, labour policies, and their impact on the labour movement: a historical overview. in: Sathyamurthy, T.V. (ed.) *Class formation and political transformation in post-colonial India* New Delhi, India Oxford University Press. pp. 105-126

Workers' rights in a global world

D'Souza, R. 1995. *Workers' rights in a global world*. Commissioned by Asia Pacific Workers Solidarity Links (APWSL) and International Commission on Human Rights and Democratic Development, Canada (ICHRDD).

The legal process and limits of environmental legislation in India

D'Souza, R. 1995. *The legal process and limits of environmental legislation in India*. Norway University of Oslo. doi:F.I.L.WorkingPapersSeriesNo.7

The chemical industry in India and some facts about Gujarat

D'Souza, R. 1995. *The chemical industry in India and some facts about Gujarat*. Norway University of Oslo. doi:F.I.L.WorkingPapersSeriesNo.4

Occupational health safety and working conditions and the legal process in India

D'Souza, R. 1995. *Occupational health safety and working conditions and the legal process in India*. Norway University of Oslo. doi:F.I.L.WorkingPapersSeriesNo.9

Law and informalisation of work In India

D'Souza, R. 1995. Law and informalisation of work In India. in: Dhavala, S. (ed.) *Unprotected labour in India: issues and concerns* New Delhi, India Fredrick Erbert Stiftung. pp. 139-168

Introduction of microelectronic technology and its impact on collective bargaining in the Bombay region

D'Souza, R. 1995. Introduction of microelectronic technology and its impact on collective bargaining in the Bombay region. in: Kumar Bagchi, A. and Samaddar, R. (ed.) *New technology and the workers' response: microelectronics, labour and society* New Delhi, India Sage. pp. 283-300

Understanding labour-management relations: case of Siemens

D'Souza, R. 1991. Understanding labour-management relations: case of Siemens. *Economic and Political Weekly*. 26 (35), pp. M101-M110.



Tweet



Email

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

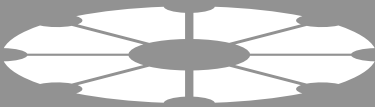
309 Regent Street
London W1B 2HW

Switchboard: +44 (0)20 7911 5000

[View full contact details](#)

[View maps and directions](#)

POWERED BY



Haplo

University of Westminster is a charity and a company limited by guarantee. Reg no. 977818 England

[Accessibility](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Terms of use](#)

Social Movements, Law and Liberal Imaginations or any other file from Books category. HTTP download also available at fast speeds. Social movements demand rights to remedy wrongs and injustices in society. But why do organisations like the World Bank and IMF, the G7 states and the World Economic Forum want to promote rights? Activists and activist scholars are critical of human rights in their diagnosis of problems. But in their prognosis, they reinstate human rights and bring back through the backdoor what they dismiss through the front. Why are activists and activist scholars unable to 'let go' of human rights? Why do indigenous peoples find the need to invoke the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People Social Movements, Law and Liberal Imaginations. by Radha D'Souza. Add to my bookshelf. Rights occupy a strange position in global politics. On the one hand, they're used by business and governments as a justification for globalization—if the spread of corporate capitalism also helps lead to improvements in human rights, then globalization must be good, right? At the same time, though, even those on the left who are skeptical of that discourse tend to hew to a belief in rights themselves, like the right to food, medicine, housing, free speech, assembly, and religion. How can these conflicting attitudes towards rights be reconciled?

Social movements demand rights to remedy wrongs and injustices in society. But why do organisations like the World Bank and IMF, the G7 states and the World Economic Forum want to promote rights? Activists and activist scholars are critical of human rights in their diagnosis of problems. What's wrong with rights? Rn. "The book many of us have been waiting for" brilliant Social movements demand rights to remedy wrongs and injustices in society. But why do organisations like the World Bank and IMF, the G7 states and the World Economic Forum want to promote rights? Activists and activist scholars are critical of human rights in their diagnosis of problems. But in their prognosis, they reinstate human rights and bring back through the backdoor what they dismiss through the front. Why are activists and activist scholars unable to 'let go' of human rights? 2 What's Wrong With Rights? (pp. 23-44). DOI: 10.2307/j.ctt1zk0mmx.7.