

# **The idea of human rights – western culture heritage or universal value?<sup>1</sup>**

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In both the Charter of United Nations (San Francisco, 1945) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Paris, 1948) the view of the universality of human rights can be found. However one can ask if these documents written in the ring of western culture's values can be accepted in societies, which traditionally choose a social and economic system restricting civil rights in politics, economics, culture etc. The second question we like to pose asks whether the preservation of human rights is independent or connected to the implementation of a social and economic system in the society. In this connection the economic system either assumes or not human rights as a condition of participation in economic processes.

We show the philosophical foundations of human rights universalism. We also show historical examples of modern societies (Western and Eastern), which are characterized by the presence of human rights as well as a correlation between economic growth of the society and political, social and economic freedom of the individuum.

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