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prisoners"; "What is a political prisoner?"; "A brief history of political prisoners"; "Political policing"; "Political prisoners and just punishment"; "Exile and house arrest"; "'Disappearances' and extra-judicial executions"; "The state, political prisoners and human rights"; "Essay questions"; "Notes"; "Chapter Five Torture"; "What is torture?"

"A brief history of torture"; "Torture methods"; "The theoretical discourse on torture"; "Understanding torturers"; "Medical involvement in torture"; "The trade in torture equipment"; "The state, torture and human rights"; "Essay questions"; "Notes"; "Further information"; "Chapter Six The death penalty"; "What is the death penalty?"; "A brief history of the death penalty"; "Execution methods"; "Understanding the death penalty"; "The theoretical discourse on the death penalty"; "'Race', class and the death penalty"; "The experience of Death Row"

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"The experience of enslavement"

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## Sommario/riassunto

Human Rights: An Introduction is an important and particularly timely text that provides a comprehensive overview of human rights and related issues from a social science perspective. First, this book does more than discuss theory, it uses case studies and personal testimonies in the debate. Human rights as an area of academic interest cannot be easily divorced from human rights struggles and the reality of contemporary conditions. Second, the book is aimed at what is an emerging and growing cross-disciplinary field of study. Human rights issues are increasingly coming to the fore in a number of

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