

September 8, 2004

Assortment of world issues dealing with course themes:

Notes from the documentary film: *Human Rights: Universal and Supreme?*:

March 1990 – air war against Yugoslavia in which the US and NATO took action against the sovereign nation which was persecuting ethnic Albanians in Kosovo

1975 – end of Cold War, by which time forces had been deployed 27 times

- guard against the Soviet threat and in order to defend/expand democracy
- NATO remained in the sidelines

1945 – United Nations (UN) created

1948 – Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Cambodian, African, and Latin dictators were supported by the USA

1989 – Berlin wall comes down

US and NATO curb Kosovo killings

- US leads 78 day bombing campaign without UN sanction
- give hope to the minority population

But was there a discrepancy with state borders?

Kosovo – (in SE Yugoslavia) 2 million ethnic Albanians make up >90% of population, and this had religious significance for the Serbs

- 1989 – dismissed Kosovar leadership
- 1990 – Kosovo declares independence via nonviolent approach
 - ∞ US involved with Bosnia
 - ∞ Kosovo Liberation Army

Russia and China use veto power to prevent bombing campaign against Kosovo
Should NATO go ahead anyway [with the indiscriminate killing of citizens]?

1975 – Indonesia annexed East Timor and 200,000 died

- May 1998 – Suvarto forced out of power
- Habibi called for East Timor in August 1999
- August 1998 – UN sponsors a referendum that leads to independence (200,000 people displaced)
- force was not used in East Timor (i.e. Indonesia was not ignored like Yugoslavia was)

Are the rights of the sovereign states to be respected in light of human rights violations?

Is there a reasonable chance that the government will “behave responsibly”?

Sometimes a military alliance with human rights is used as a pretense to defend the governments.

UN – the most important decisions are made in the Security Council in which the 5 nuclear-power nations have veto power

Basic issue: rights of the people vs. the sovereignty of the nation
Goal: protect individuals without jeopardizing rights of nations