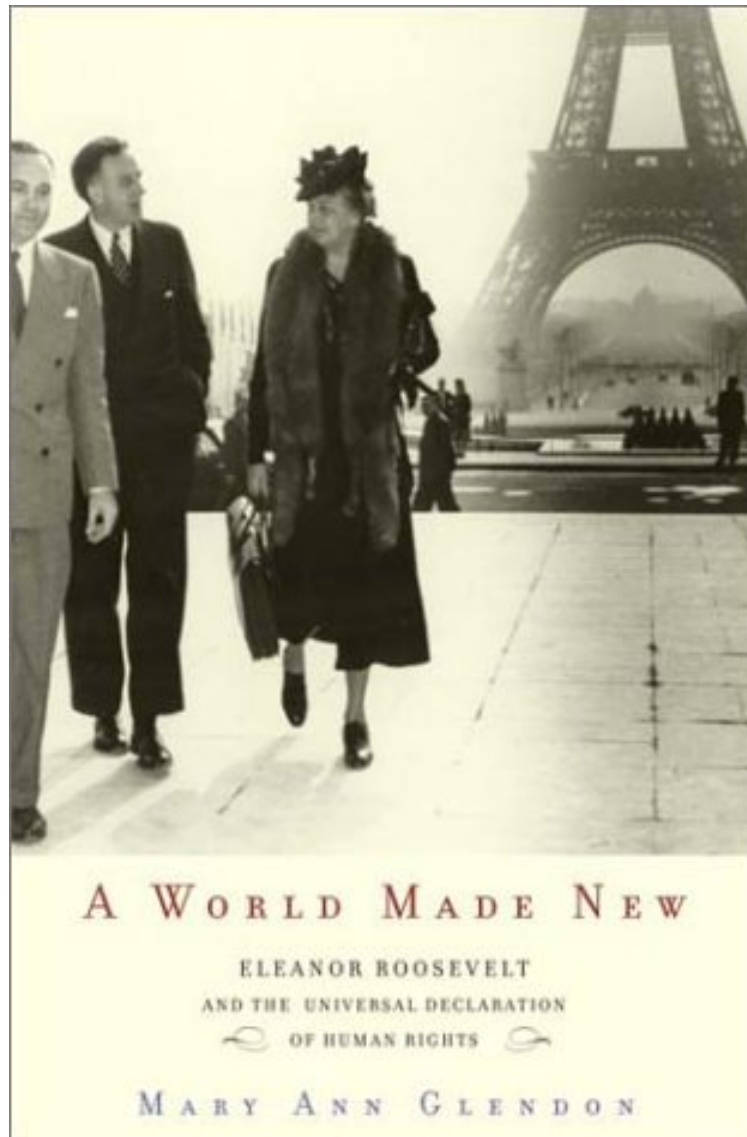


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A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Mary Ann Glendon

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Mary Ann Glendon : A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent BookBy A Reader"A World Made New" is an excellent

book about "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and the "birth process" of this important declaration, as well as Eleanor Roosevelt's important contributions in this process. It seems to be a must to read for everyone interested in "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights", its development processes and/or the key people and contributors towards this declaration. Highly Recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative read
By CP
The title is a bit of a misnomer as the book is primarily about the drafting of the Declaration, and much less about Ms. Roosevelt. That said, the work provides great insights into the background of that seminal document and the "perfect storm" of events that allowed it to come to fruition. The sketches of the principals involved give it a welcome dimension of "human interest" value. It is fascinating to consider how the process was buffeted and ways in which the document could have ended up--such as providing rights of the unborn. The book is an easy read, though wonks will appreciate the various drafts of the Declaration in the appendices. The author presents the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an accomplishment of the first order, and she is right. We are all well advised to hone our appreciation of it. Reading this book is an excellent way to do so. I give it 4 stars because the last chapter is a little weak, and because of the book's misleading premise regarding Eleanor. Don't let that stop you from reading it. It's a rewarding pick. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is not a light read, but it is ...
By S Dunkin
This is not a light read, but it is well worth the time and effort. You just take it chapter by chapter, as there is a lot to digest. Sometimes you might double back to recall details and dates of developments. It puts a human face to the major Human Rights developments in modern history. It showcases how the civilized world came about - via highly-talented, highly-motivated people who had vision. Their vision has not always been followed in the manner they envisaged.

A World Made New tells the dramatic story of the struggle to build, out of the trauma and wreckage of World War II, a document that would ensure it would never happen again. There was an almost religious intensity to the project, championed by Eleanor Roosevelt under the aegis of the newly formed United Nations and brought into being by an extraordinary group of men and women who knew, like the framers of the Declaration of Independence, that they were making history. They worked against the clock, the brief window between the end of World War II and the deep freeze of the cold war, to forget the founding document of the modern rights movement. A distinguished professor of international law, Mary Ann Glendon was given exclusive access to personal diaries and unpublished memoirs of key participants. An outstanding work of narrative history, A World Made New is the first book devoted to this crucial moment in Eleanor Roosevelt's life and in world history.

From Publishers Weekly
In 1947, in a world recently ripped apart by the Holocaust, a devastating war and mass displacement, the very idea of a Universal Declaration of Human Rights seemed both impossible and supremely necessary. As the specter of the Cold War loomed, a U.N. delegation, chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt, began writing what would become the world's first standard statement of human rights. Glendon, a professor of law at Harvard University, has written a compelling, at times thrilling account of how Roosevelt and her cohorts argued and cajoled one another through a series of intellectual, political and moral positions, finally hammering out a statement that was acceptable across national, religious and philosophical lines. While Glendon successfully traces the evolution of the document which was ratified on December 10, 1948, after six drafts and much debate by the U.N. General Assembly, she also presents a richly textured portrait of a woman driven to public service while simultaneously grieving for her late husband. Roosevelt's politics were also at issue: at one point, she resigned from the U.N. over the U.S. government's initial disapproval of the creation of Israel. Glendon concludes with a legal analysis of the declaration and a lengthy discussion of its applicability today, when many non-Western nations (such as China) claim that the concept of "universal" human rights precludes an acceptance of cultural differences. Glendon's work is a welcome addition to the realm of international law and to the growing body of literature on Eleanor Roosevelt's role in modern politics. Agents, Lynn Chu and Glen Hartley, Writer's Representatives. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
When it was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the first formal statement of what the phrase human rights actually entailed. Glendon (law, Harvard) has written a legislative history of the Declaration covering both the negotiation process and the ratification debates and process during the years 1946-52. The book is based on extensive access to the diaries and unpublished memoirs of many of the participants as they worked with the horrors of World War II fresh in their minds and against the backdrop of the rapidly chilling Cold War. While the content and phrasing of the Declaration are the product of the many fine minds and strong personalities who worked on it, Eleanor Roosevelt is here given full credit for facilitating the process and steering the group to a final agreement that incorporated the best from many cultural and religious traditions. Recommended for academic libraries and broad Roosevelt collections.
DMarcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., New York
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From The New Yorker
After the Second World War, the fledgling United Nations called for what would become the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Never before had an international body attempted to comprehensively define such rights, and the drafting committee, which was chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt, struggled

over content and language to reflect the diversity of its members' traditions while expressing the commonality of the human race. Mrs. Roosevelt's formidable diplomacy produced agreement, and the document was ratified in 1948. With access to both private and public sources, Glendon, a noted legal scholar, has written a fascinating account of the noble and vexed history of this document, which remains almost as radical now as it was half a century ago. Copyright 2005
The New Yorker