

HUMAN RIGHTS

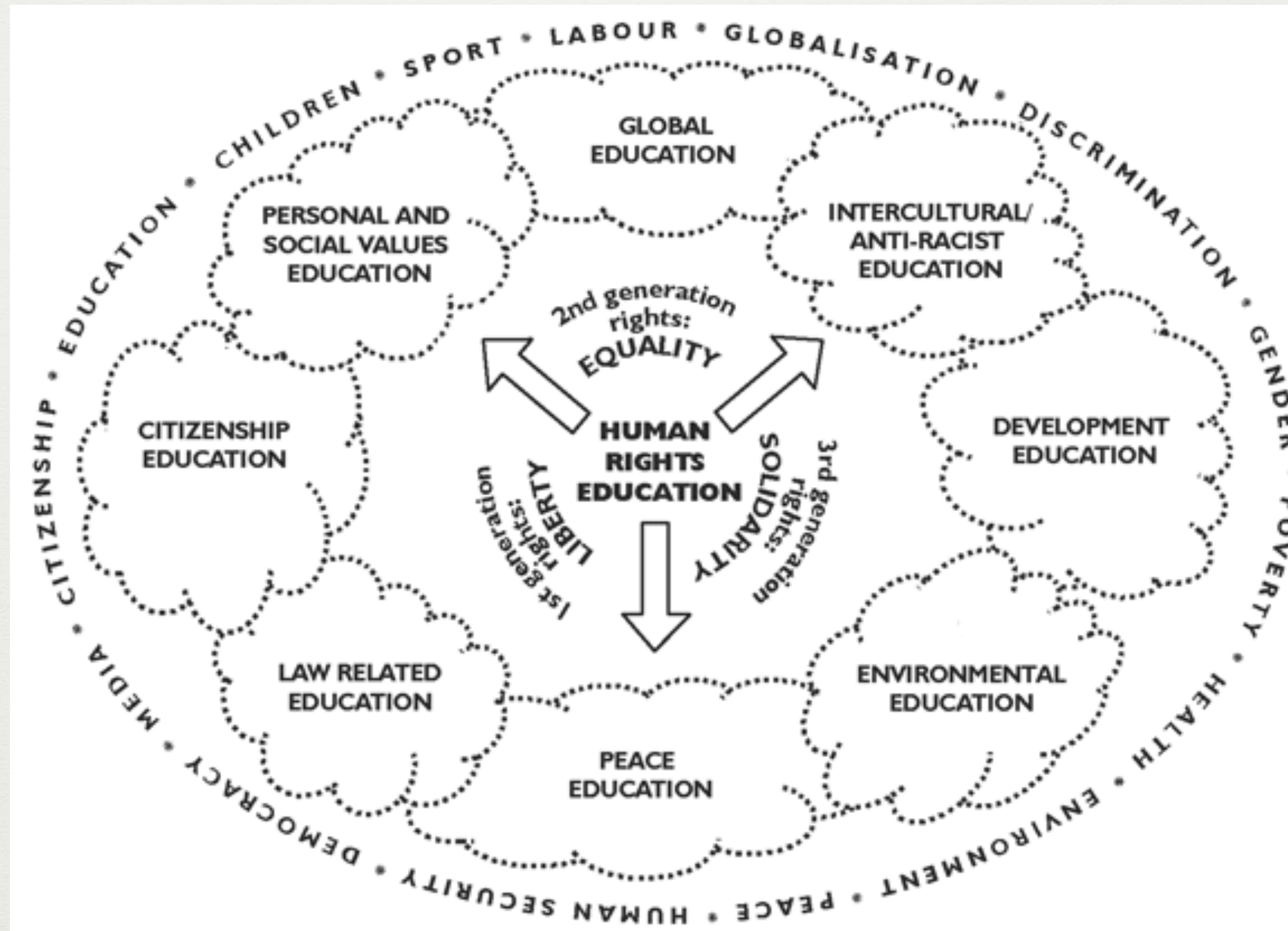
Peer Discussion

- What is a human right?

Human Rights

- Once the purview of domestic legal systems, not an international issue
- Modern conception originates in Europe

Human rights



Human Rights

- Three types of rights
 - Claim rights
 - Liberty rights
 - Immunity rights

Human Rights

- Liberal (Western?) account of human rights
 - Humans possess rights to life, liberty, and the secure possession of property, the exercise of freedom of speech, and these rights are inalienable and unconditional
 - Primary function of government is to protect these rights. Political institutions are to be judged on their performance of this function.

Human Rights

- Critique:
 - Too rigid
 - Too Western
 - They haven't worked

Human Rights

- How has international community sought to protect human rights?

Human Rights

- NGOs



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Human Rights

- Criminal Prosecutions
 - Nuremberg Trials
 - International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
 - International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
 - International Criminal Court

Human Rights

- Intergovernmental Organizations
 - UN Human Rights Council
 - UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR)

Human Rights

- International Law
 - International Bill of Human Rights
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
 - International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Case Study: Armenians in 1915

- Human rights judgements are legal, political, and social—and they have power. Intersects and informs considerations regarding R2P and humanitarian intervention.
- Large scale human rights violations (crimes against humanity -> Humanitarian Intervention
- Were deaths of Armenians under Ottoman rule genocide?

Case Study: Armenians in 1915

- Historian estimates vary wildly, with some indicating 1.5 million ethnic Armenians died in 1915.
- Of the roughly 2 million Armenians living in the country in 1914, 90 percent were gone by 1918.
- Turkey: Thousands of Turks and Armenians were killed in WWI as the Ottoman Empire fought Russia over Eastern Anatolia, Armenians who dies were fighting for Russians

Case Study: Armenians in 1915

- “The Armenian diaspora is trying to instill hatred against Turkey through a worldwide campaign on genocide claims ahead of the centennial anniversary of 1915...If we examine what our nation had to go through over the past 100 to 150 years, we would find far more suffering than what the Armenians went through.”-Erdogan

Case Study: Armenians in 1915

- US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau to Ottoman Empire wrote in a 1915 telegram:
 - “Deportations of an excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing...it appears a campaign of race extermination is in progress under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion.
- In 1918:
 - "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact ..."

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17.41 Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2018

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