

Domestic Implications of International Issues & Events

Lesson Plan: Law 11; Law12; Challenge and Change in Society 12

Key themes: 'war on terror' and social change; human rights

Estimated Time: 60 minutes

Lesson Steps

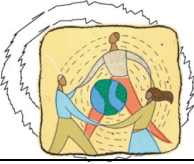
- Discuss Pre-viewing Question with students
- View the four clips (total running time 10:00 minutes)
- Conduct one or more of the post-viewing activities
- In small groups, have students research a Canadian human rights issue, as outlined below.
- Assign the Research Assignment as a homework assignment

Pre-Viewing Discussion Questions

- 1) How does Canada fit in to the international community with respect to our human rights history and policy?
- 2) How has the "war on terror" affected us with respect to human rights, domestic law, and hatred?

Post-Viewing Activity

- 1) Have students discuss the following concepts:
 - collective security
 - state sovereignty
 - international human rights
 - "Responsibility to Protect"
- 2) Ask students to identify key historical events that have altered or transformed Canada's approach to these issues on the international stage.
- 3) Discuss how are the concepts of hatred and identity linked. How are identity stripping and marginalization related to the problem of hatred in society?
- 4) Ms. Poirier concludes by quoting from the poem *Dover Beach*. Discuss the meaning of the following excerpt:



Combating Hatred in the 21st Century



And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight
Where ignorant armies clash by night

Activity

In small groups, have students complete one of the following activities:

- 1) Explore Amnesty International's *Report 2008* (<http://thereport.amnesty.org>). Look at the state of human rights in a variety of countries around the world. What relationships do we have with them? How should this impact our foreign policy? (a summary video clip of the report is available at: <http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/watch-and-listen/video-clips>). Report to the class on three aspects of the report that relate to the video clips viewed in class.
- 2) Explore the case of Maher Arar (<http://www.maherarar.ca/mahers%20story.php>). Consider what lessons can be learned about hatred and human rights from this example? Report to the class on three aspects of the report that relate to the video clips viewed in class.

Research Assignment

Have students (individually or in groups) research Canada's historical human rights record. Ask students to identify an event or period acknowledged as a breach of our human rights obligations (ie. Residential Schools, Japanese Canadian Internship; Chinese Head Tax; etc). In relation to this issue, have students prepare a short presentation or a poster that answers the following questions:

How was the human rights abuse based on hatred, marginalization, and lack of voice or representation? What steps have been taken to avoid such future injustices? What further steps need to be taken? Are these solutions or the efforts to make amends sufficient?

Related OJEN Resources (www.ojen.ca)

Chinese Head Tax: Classroom Package.