

TEACHING RESOURCE

MAKING HONG KONG CHINA: THE ROLLBACK OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

BY MICHAEL C. DAVIS - ASIA SHORTS BOOK SERIES

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- Constitutionalism
- Human Rights

KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:

- Human rights
- Rule of law
- Hong Kong
- China
- Constitution
- Judicial review
- Liberal values
- Constitutional development

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:



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- 1. Does the Hong Kong Basic Law promise a liberal constitutional order?
- 2. Why does judicial independence matter?
- 3. Does the nomination process proposed by Beijing satisfy the requirements of universal suffrage?
- 4. Does the Hong Kong National Security Law conform to the ICCPR?
- 5. Do non-violent popular protests, with some violence on the margins pose a threat to national security or should this be viewed more as a matter of public order?

EXTERNAL LINKS & RESOURCES:

- "Hong Kong Basic Law" https://www.basiclaw.gov.hk/en/index/
- "ICCPR" https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-human-rightswork/monitoring-and-promoting-un-treaties/international-covenant-civiland#:~:text=ICCPR%20is%20an%20international%20human,fair%20trial%2 Orights
- "Johannesburg Principles" http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/instree/johannesburg.html
- "PRC Constitution" http://www.npc.gov.cn/zgrdw/englishnpc/Constitution/node_2825.htm

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCING HONG KONG

2. THE HONG KONG BASIC LAW: AN ENLIGHTENED COMMITMENT OR A RUSE?

3. ON THE ROAD TO THE CURRENT CRISIS

4. 2015-2019: THE GOVERNMENT TAKES REVENGE ON THE PROTESTERS

5. 2019 FURY: THE PEOPLE RESPOND

6. CRACKDOWN: THE NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

7. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG

8. CONCLUSION: THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

"The tragic loss of Hong Kong's freedom in 2020 was not a sudden coup, but the latest stage in a gradual extension of Chinese power through both legal and informal means. As a longtime Hong Kong resident, legal expert, and democracy activist, Davis expertly shows how it was done—and why it matters."

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"Anyone who wants to know how Britain's 1997 Hong Kong 'handover' under the innovative 'One Country, Two Systems' model became China's 'takeover' of a vibrant city's freedoms and rule of law must read this invaluable book. Davis, a dynamic scholar, Hong Kong law professor and public intellectual who has spent over three decades not only analyzing but also participating in this struggle between dictatorship and democracy, offers insights and perspectives that illuminate a major challenge to Beijing's relations with the world."

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