

Glacier, Osire. Universal rights, systemic violations, and cultural relativism in Morocco, tr. by Valerie Martin. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. 184p bibl index afp ISBN 9781137339607, \$90.00

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This superb study builds on Glacier's long-term scholarship. She focuses first on Morocco's roles in drafting and implementing the UN Convention against Torture. After delineating the Convention's drafting, Glacier (Bishop's Univ., Canada) applies a multidisciplinary approach utilizing discourse analysis and feminist theory. Morocco has ratified essentially all major human rights treaties. Two long-standing schools of thought--that human rights are universally defined and accepted or that they fall within the cultural specificities of individual societies--receive thoughtful analysis. Meaningful implementation, however, has repeatedly run afoul of the "sacred" nature of the king, entrenched patriarchal norms, and outside interference, starting centuries before independence, in which Moroccan interests were subordinated to French or American ones. Torture has long been an integral part of Morocco's state policy, through the "parallel state" based on coercion. Popular contestation against the king has been suppressed or co-opted. Even the Facebook-driven February 20th Movement brought little change in 2011. Glacier could have mentioned NGOs such as Human Rights Watch and Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture because they exemplify the universalist view she discusses. This point must not obscure Glacier's outstanding research, persuasive argument, and clear writing based on Arabic, French, and English sources. Summing Up: Highly recommended.

*** Upper-division undergraduate, graduate, and research collections.--C. E. Welch, University at Buffalo, SUNY

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