

Question: Using the following documents, evaluate continuities and changes in global conceptions of human rights in the period from 1750 to the present (Periods 3 and 4, Modern and Contemporary Periods).

Document 1

“Every man having been born free and master of himself, no one else may under any pretext whatever subject him without his consent...”

-Jean Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, 1762

Document 2

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights...
2. The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.
- 3...all sovereignty resides essentially in the nation. No body nor individual may exercise any authority which does not proceed directly from the nation

-*Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen*, 1789

Document 3

Amendment XIII

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude...shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction...

Amendment XV

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

-*Constitution of the United States of America*, 1865

Document 4

“People have said that women could never vote, never share in the government...government rests upon the consent of the governed; and the weakest woman, the very poorest woman, if she withholds her consent cannot be governed.”

-Emmeline Pankhurst, *Why We Are Militant*, 1913

Document 5

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,
Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind...

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations...

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms...

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples...

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

-Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

Document 6

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the determination proclaimed by the peoples of the world in the charter of the United Nations to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person...solemnly proclaims the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms...And to this end Declared that:

1. The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination, and exploitation...is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and cooperation.

2. All peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development.

-"Declaration Against Colonialism", resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, 1960

Document 7

"During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African People. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and achieve. But, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

-Nelson Mandela, 1994

