Acknowledgments

I’m deeply indebted to Professor Joseph Betz for the role he played in the publication of this study. He is Emeritus Professor at Villanova University (Pennsylvania), where the Center for Peace and Justice Education recently renamed its ‘Solidarity Award’ the ‘Joseph M. Betz Solidarity Award’. In addition to his very generous and stimulating appraisal of this manuscript, he provided comments and suggestions that greatly contributed to its improvement. Moreover, he recommended the manuscript for linguistic revision by two doctoral students, Daniel Wood and Yong Dou (Michael) Kim. Daniel and Michael not only have provided competent and careful editing work, but also added valued commentaries as learned readers. I express to them my great appreciation and gratitude for their generosity. I wish also to thank Neil Olivier, Senior Publishing Editor, for his helpful mediating role. Diana Nijenhuijzen, Senior Editorial Assistant, was a kind interlocutor too.

The elaboration of this essay has benefited from research stays at the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights (ECI), in Helsinki, and at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Menschenrechte (BIM), in Vienna. I’m grateful to Dr. Sanna Villikka (Executive Director of ECI) and to Prof. Dr. Hannes Tretter (Administrative Director of BIM) for their welcome and assistance. The research stays were supported by a sabbatical grant from the Foundation for Science and Technology (Portugal).
Preliminary Observations

1. There is a great diversity among languages and authors concerning the use of capital or lower case letters (as some quotations in this book by themselves document). Some are minimalist, other are maximalist. This writing takes the following criterion: to respect, as a rule, the options of the quoted authors but to use capital letters for highlighting certain concepts (Ethics of Human Rights, Rule of Law, for example), to distinguish between different semantic uses of a term (such as ‘state’ and State, ‘law’ and Law), or to designate disciplines of knowledge.

2. As the form of the bibliographical references is concerned, they are manifold and may be confusing, especially when quotations include quotations. This writing follows basically the Chicago Manual of Style, but no standard style is a bible and adaptations may be needed. Notes inside quotations are suppressed, as usual, and inside double quotation marks may be changed into single quotation marks. When an author is cited for the first time, his or her first name is referred to in full.

3. Nowadays, the Internet serves as an increasingly valuable, easily accessible and frequently unavoidable documental source1. In this writing, when an exclusively electronic source is quoted, it is, as a rule, referred to only as footnote: without access date, if originated from an electronic site institutionally stable; indicating month and year of access, if the presumption of stability is uncertain. Anyway, there are no immortal links... their volatility is great (but it is always possible to try to find the documents elsewhere, if they remain available on the WEB). When a document included in the references is available electronically too, its source is mentioned.

4. The use of acronyms is rather pragmatic. A list of frequent acronyms in writings on human rights is included, but only the most frequent are used in this study, following a context criterion, as no uniform criterion would be advisable. Their first appearance is accompanied, as usual, by the full denomination.

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5. While the manuscript strives to use gender inclusive language, historical expressions such ‘rights of man’ are retained, without attempting to amend history, and the options of the quoted authors are respected.
6. Each chapter begins with an abstract and includes its own references.
Ethics of Human Rights
Reis Monteiro, A.
2014, XVIII, 540 p., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-03565-9