

## Multimedia Study Environment: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu/projects/mmt/udhr>

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) Multimedia Study Environment (MMSE), developed in partnership with Peter Danchin, professor at the School for International and Public Affairs, elucidates this important international treatise through carefully chosen references, readings, images and video. Fundamental to teaching human rights, this digital representation of the UDHR features interpretations of the eight preamble clauses and the first five articles prepared by major scholars in the field (with plans to expand the study environment by fall 2002).

When read in isolation from its historical context, the UDHR lacks the power and significance of this crucial 20th century artifact. Presented with comprehensive background information and personal insights of the drafters, the MMSE gives students an appreciation for the enormous impact the document has had on shaping the modern world. Owing to the kind of treatment the text receives in CCNMTL's multimedia environment, users have a dynamic study environment in which to investigate the work.

Opening with the document text, the MMSE allows the user to study each article in detail by focusing on each one's central concepts, history, cases and applications, meanings and related documents. Each article also has its own selection of readings and discussion topics, and several include video interviews with scholars such as Reed Brody, Louis Henkin, J. Paul Martin and Michael Ratner, and historical film clips. The MMSE offers a comprehensive list of relevant organizations, with links to their Web sites, as well as biographies of key figures.

This resource is available to all students and faculty at Columbia, for use in class, as well as for independent study and research.



Complete text of Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Video interview with Louis Henkin



Historical film clip