Synopsis

This book explores the range of predominantly theological and religious, civil and political, social and cultural rationales for contemporary repression, contending that in the modern age at least freedom of expression issues are deeply affected not only by national law but that factors of a transnational (ideological or theological) nature. Through a review of key inter-governmental and non-governmental (NGO) agencies, the book examines current geo-political trends in the denial of freedom of expression, highlighting post-Cold War and post-September 11 shifts in political and religious repression, a movement in the locale of freedom of expression issues (especially towards electronic forms and Internet) and a heightening of global and transnational dimensions in freedom of expression. The book provides also a substantial series of appendices for scholars, researchers and activists interested in furthering investigation of issues in writing and human rights.

Table of Contents

General introduction: one hundred years of censorship 1
1901-2001: from the Nobel Prize to the Twin Towers

Pt. I Classic texts on writing and dissent: political, literary and historical contexts in freedom of expression
1 Plato: The republic 17
2 Saint Augustine: Confessions 29
3 Martin Luther: Ninety-five theses 39
4 Thomas Paine: Rights of man 54
5 Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: Manifesto of the Communist Party 65
6 John Stuart Mill: On liberty 78
7 Adolf Hitler: Mein Kampf 89
8 Chairman Mao: Little red book 103
9 The United Nations universal declaration of human rights 115

Pt. II Freedom of expression and human rights: contemporary historical, literary and political contexts
10 The state control of freedom: the UN and its intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) 129

11 Writing and human rights: towards a typology for the interrogation of dissent 142

Pt. III Appendices
I  Charter of the United Nations (1945)
   Freedom of expression in international law: The United Nations and related regional inter-governmental instruments

II  UNESCO convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage (1972)

III UNESCO world heritage sites list (results by country)

IV United Nations special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression: the mandate

V United Nations special rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief: the mandate

VI United Nations declaration on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief (1981)

VII Freedom of expression: inter-government and non-governmental organisations: interest sources

VIII The Nobel Prize in literature: awards 1901-2004

IX Typology of dissent and a typology for interrogation of dissent
Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people, Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. Article 20.
