

Protecting the human rights of prisoners has become an issue of paramount interest over the last several years, and rightfully so. In the wake of political and cultural upheaval throughout the Balkan States, and with the current trend towards fighting terrorism, prisoners, and the information they possess, have become increasingly important. Just as important as obtaining this crucial information, however, is ensuring that means of interrogation do not evolve into greater injustices than the crimes themselves. Historically, international bodies have been established and reformed following periods of severe human rights atrocities. Genocide and ethnic cleansing, for example, have served as such incidents severe enough to raise international action. Through their broad definitions and policies, these international mechanisms set forth to protect human rights on a global level, but only through regional cooperation can this tremendous goal ever be achieved. It will be the purpose of this research to examine, in detail, international cooperation from two of the world's most major regional players, Europe and the United States. Because these two regional powers share so many similarities, including, among many others, common cultural roots, comparable economic function, and similar legal systems, one would expect that their respective adherence to international mandate would also have close resemblance, especially since both powers were instrumental in the creation of these international controls. On the contrary though, the US has increasingly broken away from the strict detainee treatment policies, set forth by the Geneva Convention, that the rest of the world has found so necessary in preventing atrocious abuses of power, including torture. Europe, on the other hand, has increased efforts at enforcing safe detainment practices, and has even extended prison access to non-EU nationals in need of sanctuary from the dangers of domestic imprisonment. Once clear definitions of what detainee abuse, pertinent human rights violations, and torture during interrogation have been established, this research will delve into separate regional functions. Close examination of these functions will discover the root of deviation between

Europe, where the example of history has possibly created stronger social concern, and the US, where the political structure allows politicians to override constitutional rights.