

# On America's Double Standard Written by Harold Hongju Koh

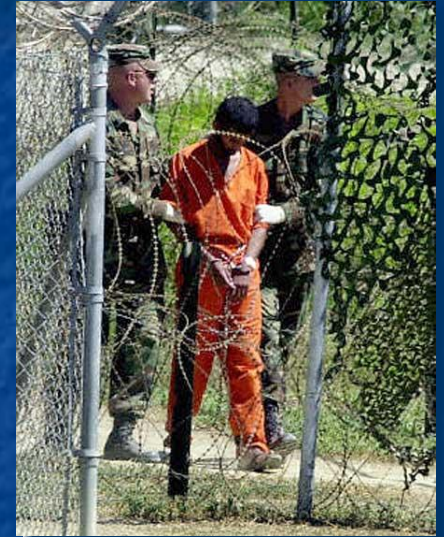
From "American Government"

Article 10

Presented by Kimberly Barnhart

# America's Long History of Double Standards

- Prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

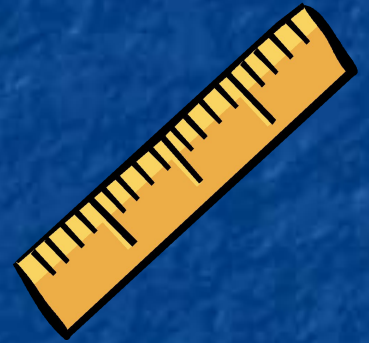


- Un-signing the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- Ignoring International adjudications

# It's okay...not always harmful

## Three reasons

1. First Amendment
2. Feet/inches vs. metric system
3. Penchant for non-ratification



# Double Standards give US bad image. However:

- US is exceptional in international affairs—global leadership and activism
- When US leads, other countries follow.
- When US does not get involved, often nothing happens (Rwanda/Bosnia)



# US Power

## Strong Military, Weak Diplomacy Efforts?

- Afganistan...went in strong, then what?

- Iraq...went in strong, then what?



# Bush Administration

- Opted for legal strategy
- Double standards are becoming the “rule”
- Imposed democracy oxymoron
- Human rights, universal values harmed
- Hostile course of action



# What Do We Do About It?

- Transnational legal process to improve image
- Promote human rights and rule of law
- Turn the tide...
- America no longer isolated...  
like it or not
- Power-based internationalism or  
norm-based?



# Conclusion

- America is founded in liberty and inalienable rights
- Strong impulses to respond to crisis with power AND principle
- What will America's role be?
- Better Angels

