



What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights

By John H. Evans

Download now

Read Online 

What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans

What is a human? Are humans those with human DNA, those in possession of traits like rationality, or those made in the image of God? The debate over what makes human beings unique has raged for centuries. Many think that if society accepts the wrong definition of what it is to be human, people will look at their neighbor as more of an animal, object, or machine-making maltreatment more likely. In the longest running claim, for over 150 years critics have claimed that taking a Darwinist definition results in people treating each other more like animals.

Despite their seriousness, these claims have never been empirically investigated. In this groundbreaking book John H. Evans shows that the definitions promoted by biologists and philosophers actually *are* associated with less support for human rights. Members of the public who agree with these definitions are less willing to sacrifice to stop genocides and are more supportive of buying organs from poor people, of experimenting on prisoners against their will, and of torturing people to potentially save lives. It appears that the critics are right.

However, Evans finds that few Americans agree with these academic definitions. Looking at how most of the public defines humanity, we see a much more nuanced picture. In a fascinating account, he shows that the dominant definitions are unlikely to lead to human rights abuses. He concludes that the critics are right about the definitions of a human promoted by academic biologists and philosophers, and are therefore justified in their vigilance. However, because at present few Americans agree with these definitions, the academic definitions would have to spread much more extensively before impacting how the general public acts. Evans' book is a major corrective to the more than century-long debate about the impact of definitions of a human.

 [Download What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Huma
...pdf](#)

What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights

By John H. Evans

What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans

What is a human? Are humans those with human DNA, those in possession of traits like rationality, or those made in the image of God? The debate over what makes human beings unique has raged for centuries. Many think that if society accepts the wrong definition of what it is to be human, people will look at their neighbor as more of an animal, object, or machine-making maltreatment more likely. In the longest running claim, for over 150 years critics have claimed that taking a Darwinist definition results in people treating each other more like animals.

Despite their seriousness, these claims have never been empirically investigated. In this groundbreaking book John H. Evans shows that the definitions promoted by biologists and philosophers actually *are* associated with less support for human rights. Members of the public who agree with these definitions are less willing to sacrifice to stop genocides and are more supportive of buying organs from poor people, of experimenting on prisoners against their will, and of torturing people to potentially save lives. It appears that the critics are right.

However, Evans finds that few Americans agree with these academic definitions. Looking at how most of the public defines humanity, we see a much more nuanced picture. In a fascinating account, he shows that the dominant definitions are unlikely to lead to human rights abuses. He concludes that the critics are right about the definitions of a human promoted by academic biologists and philosophers, and are therefore justified in their vigilance. However, because at present few Americans agree with these definitions, the academic definitions would have to spread much more extensively before impacting how the general public acts. Evans' book is a major corrective to the more than century-long debate about the impact of definitions of a human.

What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans Bibliography

- Rank: #837212 in Books
- Published on: 2016-08-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.40" h x 1.00" w x 9.30" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 272 pages

 [Download What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Huma ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans

Editorial Review

Review

"In this unusual, interesting exploration, Evans differentiates among four anthropologies of a what "human" is and what human rights and their sources are. The empirical foundation comes from 355 structured private surveys, carried out among PhD students in biology, PhD candidates in the humanities, and members of the general American populace." *CHOICE*

"Evans' most significant conclusion distinguishes two realms. Academics talk about "human beings" (the entity itself), while members of the general public focus on "being human" (the social interactions that make one a good human)."

--C. E. Welch, University at Buffalo, SUNY

About the Author

John H. Evans is professor of sociology at the University of California, San Diego. He is the author of two books that explain the origins of American public bioethical debate and one that examines religious people's views of reproductive genetics. He has also published many articles on religion and politics as well as science and religion.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mildred Duncan:

In other case, little individuals like to read book What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. So long as we know about how is important some sort of book What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world by just a book. Absolutely right, since from book you can realize everything! From your country until foreign or abroad you can be known. About simple matter until wonderful thing you could know that. In this era, we can easily open a book or perhaps searching by internet gadget. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's study.

Brenda Seddon:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be change about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is certainly always change and progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you

actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This **What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights** is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Cynthia Haynes:

Often the book **What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights** will bring you to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to learn, this book very suited to you. The book **What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights** is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Margaret Holt:

Precisely why? Because this **What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights** is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will shock you with the secret it inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book include such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking method. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Download and Read Online What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans #2YI1P9CAN8B

Read What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans for online ebook

What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans books to read online.

Online What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans ebook PDF download

What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans Doc

What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans Mobipocket

What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans EPub

2YI1P9CAN8B: What Is a Human?: What the Answers Mean for Human Rights By John H. Evans