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The following review appeared in the June 2007 issue of CHOICE:

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Ibhawoh, Bonny. **Imperialism and human rights: colonial discourses of rights and liberties in African history.** State University of New York, 2007. 226p bibl index afp ISBN 0791469239, \$60.00

This path-breaking study in human rights history marks an auspicious beginning for the SUNY series in human rights. Using Nigeria under British colonial rule as a case study, Ibhawoh (history, McMaster University, Canada) has produced an insightful historical analysis of human rights discourse by both the colonizers and the colonized. The author's examination of the changing concepts, practices, and contexts of rights expression in various domains (e.g., legislation, the judicial system, government policy, the media, land and property rights, family matters, decolonization and independence) captures its range and richness. He carefully distinguishes and illuminates the subtle and particularly African, local, and universal characteristics of human rights language in these diverse areas. Ibhawoh's easy writing style and historical sensitivity make for an engaging reading experience. This carefully constructed and well-documented book opens a new chapter in the study of human rights and sets a high standard for others to emulate. A welcome addition for college, university, and larger public libraries, and collections specializing in Africana or international studies. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through practitioners. -- *J. P. Smaldone, Georgetown University*