

demand for higher standards of production (whether it be of trainers or burgers) must be driven by consumers.

Rebecca Lewis



Human Rights and International Intervention

DAVID CHANDLER



FROM KOSOVO TO KABUL: Human Rights and Intervention.

David Chandler

(Pluto Press; London, 2002;
ISBN 0 7453 1684 3)

Can the implementation of Human Rights ever damage democracy? David Chandler argues that the current international promotion of such universal ethics does not further the democratic cause. The author systematically outlines the development of the human rights discourse: from the founding principles of neutrality and independence, still embodied in the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross; to the interventionist stance promoting human rights at the expense of national sovereignty, the authority of the UN and the international legal system. Chandler argues that not only does indiscriminate advocating of human rights corrupt the democratic and egalitarian conceptions of political decision-making, it is also symptomatic of a lack of real commitment to the very causes it claims to defend. In his view, as human rights activists focus on

the individual victim of human atrocities, they eschew the capacity of collective humanity to achieve real betterment, which can only be achieved through political action and not human rights.

Caroline Holmquist



By the author of *Altered State*

THIS IS SERBIA CALLING

Matthew Collin

(Serpent's Tail; 2001;
ISBN 1 8524 2682 9)

RUSSIAN DISCO

Wladimir Kamirer

(Paperback; 1 August 2002;
ISBN: 019 1030504)

It's not all-together unsurprising that popular publishing has made little of the break-up of the former Soviet Union. However both these books – the latter printed this summer, the former last year – draw on very different social consequences of the Gorbachov era; both are written by magazine journalists and both concern, to varying degrees, lifestyle changes brought about by the break-up of the USSR in the early 1990s.

This is Serbia Calling details counter-cultural resistance in Milosevic's Belgrade, through the ten year biography of B-92, the only Serbian radio station to broadcast both independent news bulletins and an