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## **PREFACE**

This book is appearing at a critical time for Britain – and for your human rights as a law-abiding member of society. The winning slogan of the “Leave” campaign to take Britain out of the EU was “Take Back Control” – supposedly including taking back control of human rights law from the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, which was blamed for expanding the scope of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in a “politically correct” direction. However, it turns out that Brexit is not going to free the UK from the toils of Strasbourg or the ECHR after all. Not that that makes any difference, because the UK domestic courts are not obliged to follow Strasbourg decisions slavishly in any event but only to take them “into account”. The fact that UK domestic judges – with some notable exceptions – tend to follow the Strasbourg line is their own choice. This is not going to change after Brexit–unless the Government takes corrective action by passing legislation through Parliament to curb judicial activism, which is not at all likely.

Your human rights will therefore continue to be eroded -- unless you happen to belong to one of the categories favoured by “political correctness” (PC). On the other hand, if you belong to the non-PC “forgotten people” who gave out a great roar by voting “Leave” in the UK’s Brexit referendum on 23 June 2016 or for Donald Trump as US President, or if you are a supporter of the growing populist movement sweeping mainland Europe, then you may one day – not without great difficulty – manage to roll back the PC tide that has already

engulfed the “chattering classes” of the West, and in so doing you may be able to reclaim the genuine human rights to which you are entitled.

I owe a debt of gratitude to more people than I can mention, and not least to my friends Jack Ward, Rosie Craig , Shola Awaoderu and Brian Abramson, and also to my publisher, Roger Sproston, who has performed yeoman service in preparing the book for publication.

This is my nineteenth published book to date. Two previous titles were also on human rights:

*The Handbook of Human Rights Law*, Kogan Page, London, 2004; and

*The Problem with Human Rights Law*, Civitas, London , 2015.

Some of my *Huffington Post* blogs also deal with human rights:

[www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/author/dr-michael-arnheim](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/author/dr-michael-arnheim)

You will find my Wikipedia biography here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_Arnheim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Arnheim)

Dr Michael Arnheim

London

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