

- *Giving people a stake in the law*: involving them in planning new institutions and codes, and linking rule of law programs to development and anti-poverty efforts.
- *Including marginalized groups*: engaging and empowering women, youth, and minorities.
- *Being creative*: using media, pop culture, and culturally resonant narratives and forms of communication to encourage positive reforms.

Such approaches mesh with the conscientious attention to culture change and empowerment that Cao and others advocate.

To sum up, Lan Cao's learned and insightful book has much wisdom to impart on tackling cultural barriers to greater equality, freedom, and human dignity—offering examples and some innovative ideas of potential applicability across diverse cultures. Furthermore, although her book primarily focuses on culture change in developing countries, it is also highly relevant to our current moment here at home as Americans struggle with deep-seated cultural obstacles to women's full equality, continuing patterns of racial discrimination, failure to support vulnerable populations, and many other urgent problems. The #MeToo movement has powerfully exposed longstanding patterns of abuse and cover-up and the crucial need for cultural change in attitudes and practices if women and other vulnerable groups are to enjoy the promise of equality and “liberty and justice for all.”

In looking forward, Cao is right to highlight the tremendous importance of young people in driving culture change: for they have the energy and potential, communication skills, and timeframe to galvanize progressive change in their respective societies. We can also learn from Eleanor Roosevelt, who stressed years ago that character is shaped and the nurturing of human dignity and human rights begins in “small places”¹²—in homes, families, schools,

workplaces, neighborhoods, and local communities—where each of us can be a change agent and send forth a “ripple of hope.”¹³

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¹³ See Robert F. Kennedy's magnificent speech at the University of Cape Town, South Africa on June 6, 1966, available at <http://www.rfksafilm.org/html/speeches/unicape.php> (“It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man [or woman!] stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he [or she] sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”).

¹² Quote is from Eleanor Roosevelt, in GLENDON, A WORLD MADE NEW, at 239–40.

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