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AB - This paper addresses the social forces, such as cultural traditions, economic structures, & legal systems, affecting animal (human & nonhuman) rights. Also considered are the cross-cultural degrees of societal advancement on rights, as illustrated by cultures that are stagnant on rights, progressive on rights, & regressive on rights. The definition of "advanced" vs "primitive" cultures is somewhat complicated with the argument being that technologically & materially advanced cultures can be primitive on rights issues, as found in the present-day US. The right-wing Bush administration, greatly aided by the "war on terrorism," has devolved human rights by reducing civil liberties, freedom of assembly, educational opportunities, & economic equality. This repression of human rights has repercussions for environmental protection & nonhuman rights, as demonstrated herein. 37 References. Adapted from the source document.

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