

# The U.S. Human Rights Movement

What caused its  
growth?

By Erin Mannella

---

# Questions

- Does growth of the human rights movement at the international level promote growth at the national level?
- What could be other factors encouraging the growth of the Human Rights Movement?
  - New York Times Coverage of Human Rights?
  - Congressional Hearings of Human Rights?

# Variables

- Dependent
  - National Human Rights Movement
- Measures
  - Organization Density
  - Found using Associations Unlimited Online from 2003
  - 74 National U.S. Human Rights Organizations Located

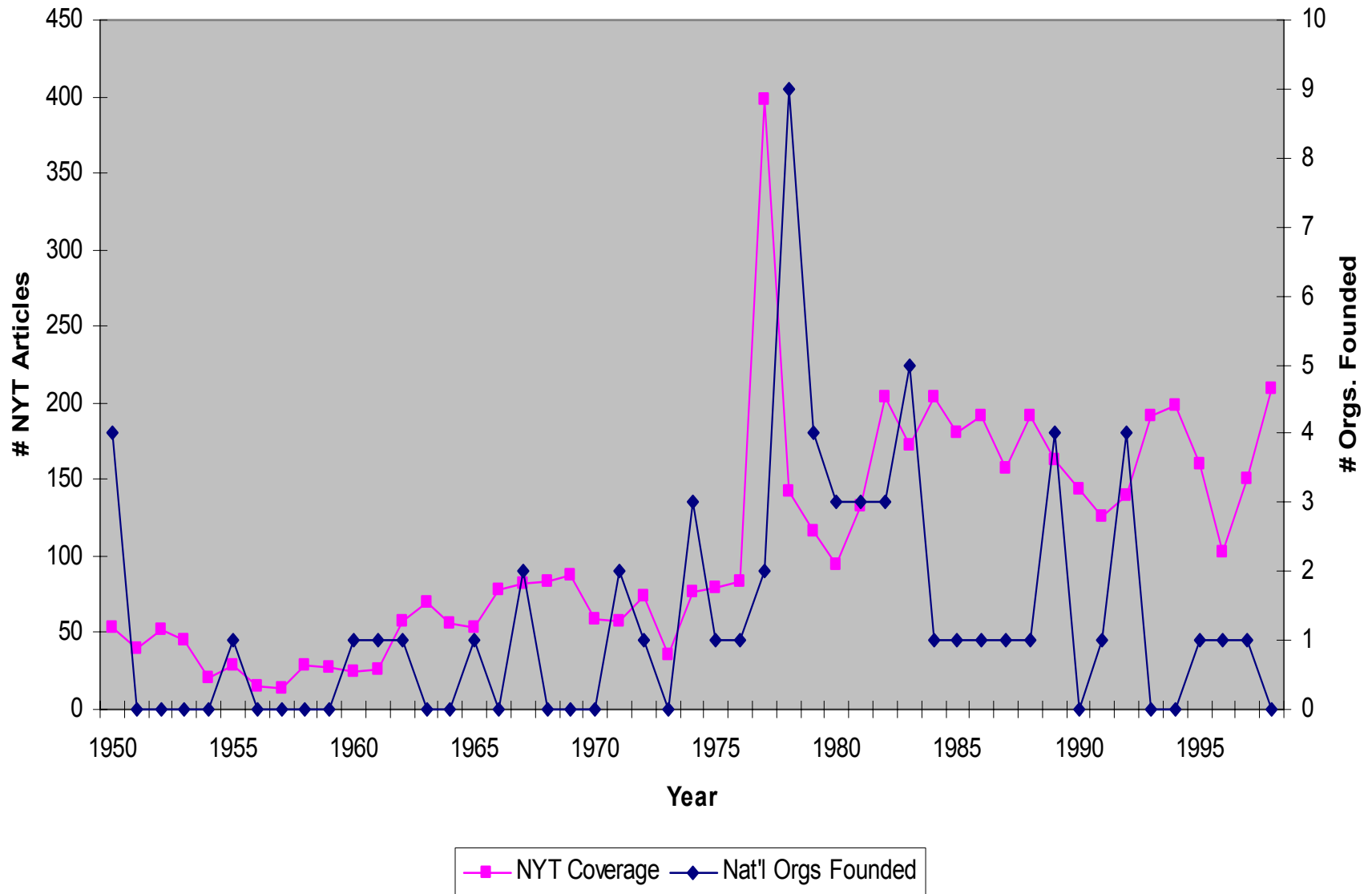
# Variables

- Independent
  - International Human Rights Movement
  - New York Times Coverage
  - Congressional Attention
- Measures
  - International Human Rights Organizational Density found using Jackie Smith's 2000 Data set.
  - Found using New York times Historical Index searching Human Rights from 1950 to 1999
  - Found using Policy Agenda's Project online. Congressional Hearings on subtopic 1925: Human Rights

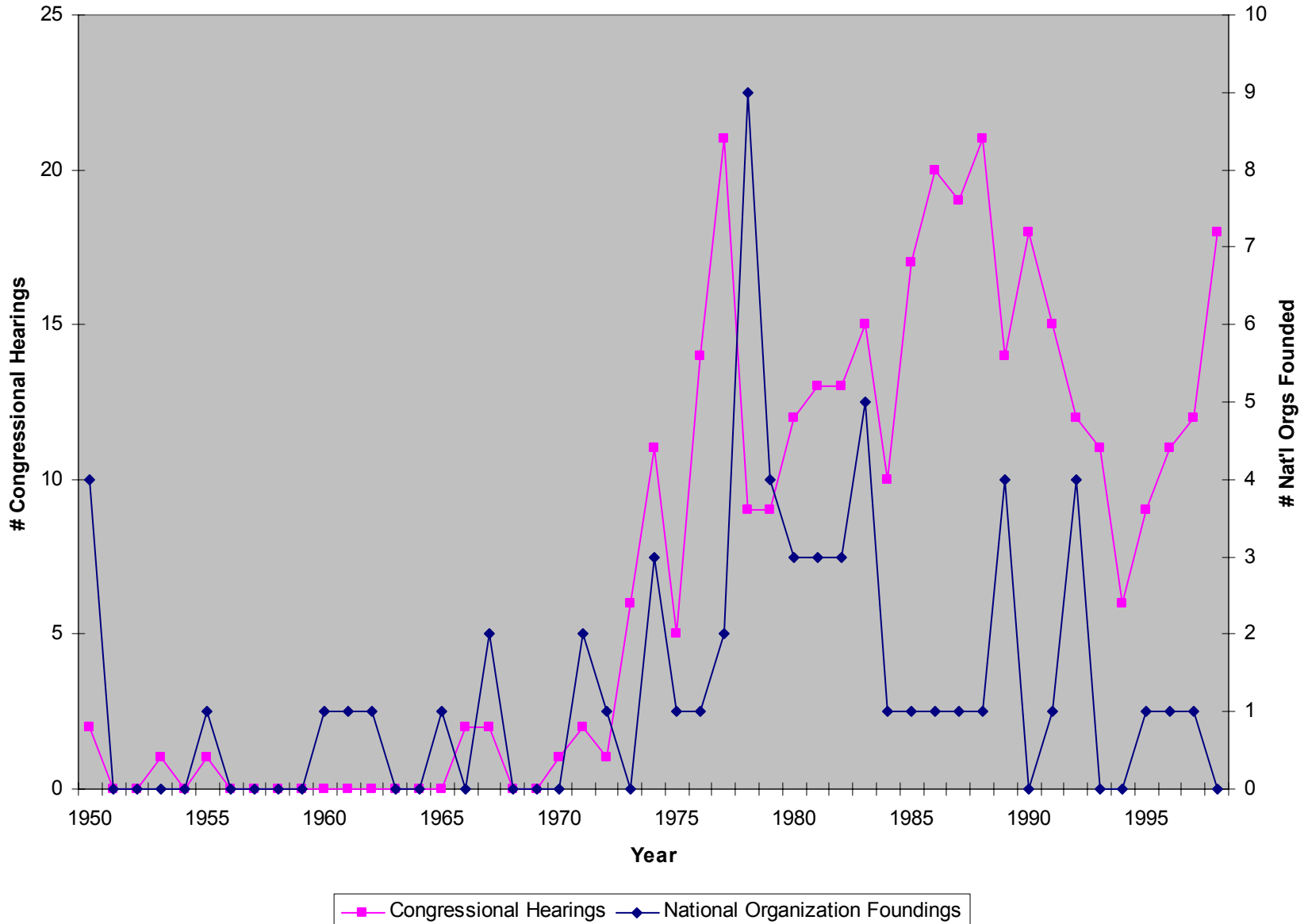
# Cumulative National Human Rights Organizations



## NYT Coverage vs. National Human Rights Organization Foundings



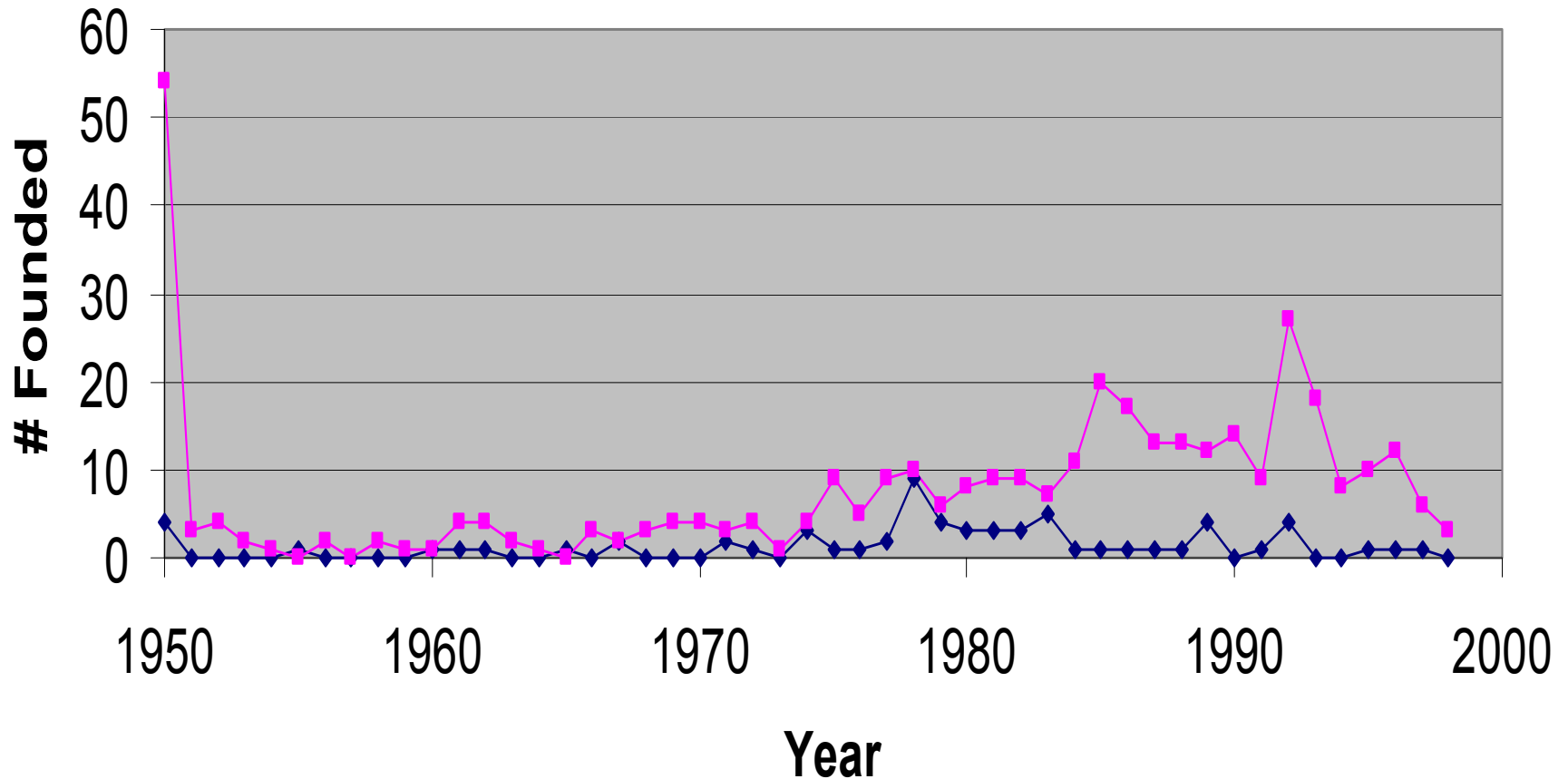
# Congressional Hearings vs. National Foundings



<b>Years Founded</b>	<b>Number National</b>	<b>Percent National</b>	<b>Number International</b>	<b>Percent International</b>
<b>1950 and Earlier</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6.15%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>14.36%</b>
<b>1951-1955</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.54%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2.66%</b>
<b>1956-1960</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.54%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1.60%</b>
<b>1961-1965</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.62%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2.93%</b>
<b>1966-1970</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.08%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4.26%</b>
<b>1971-1975</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10.77%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5.59%</b>
<b>1976-1980</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>29.23%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10.11%</b>
<b>1981-1985</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20.00%</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>14.89%</b>
<b>1986-1990</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10.77%</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>18.35%</b>
<b>1991-1995</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9.23%</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>19.15%</b>
<b>1995-2000</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.08%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6.12%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

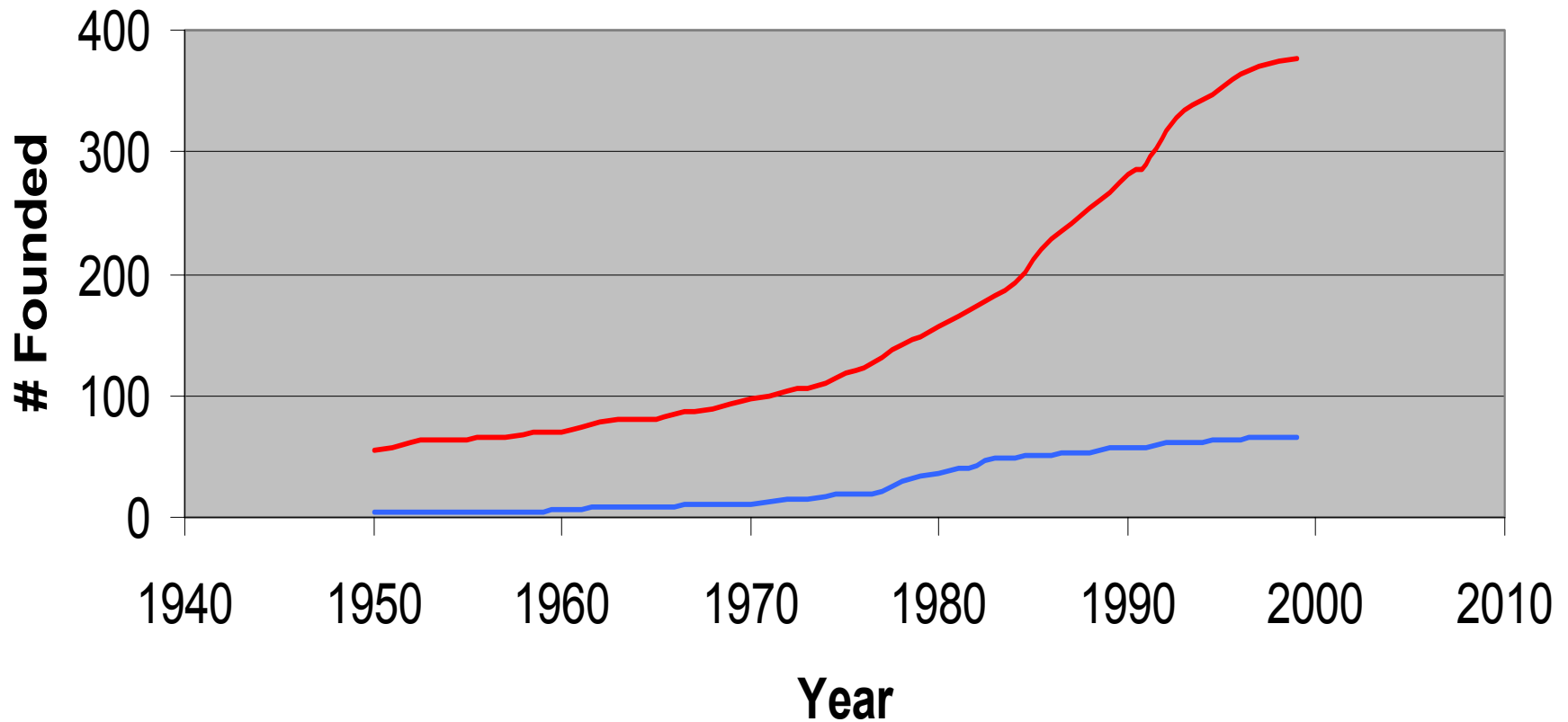


# International vs. National Foundings of Human Rights Organizations



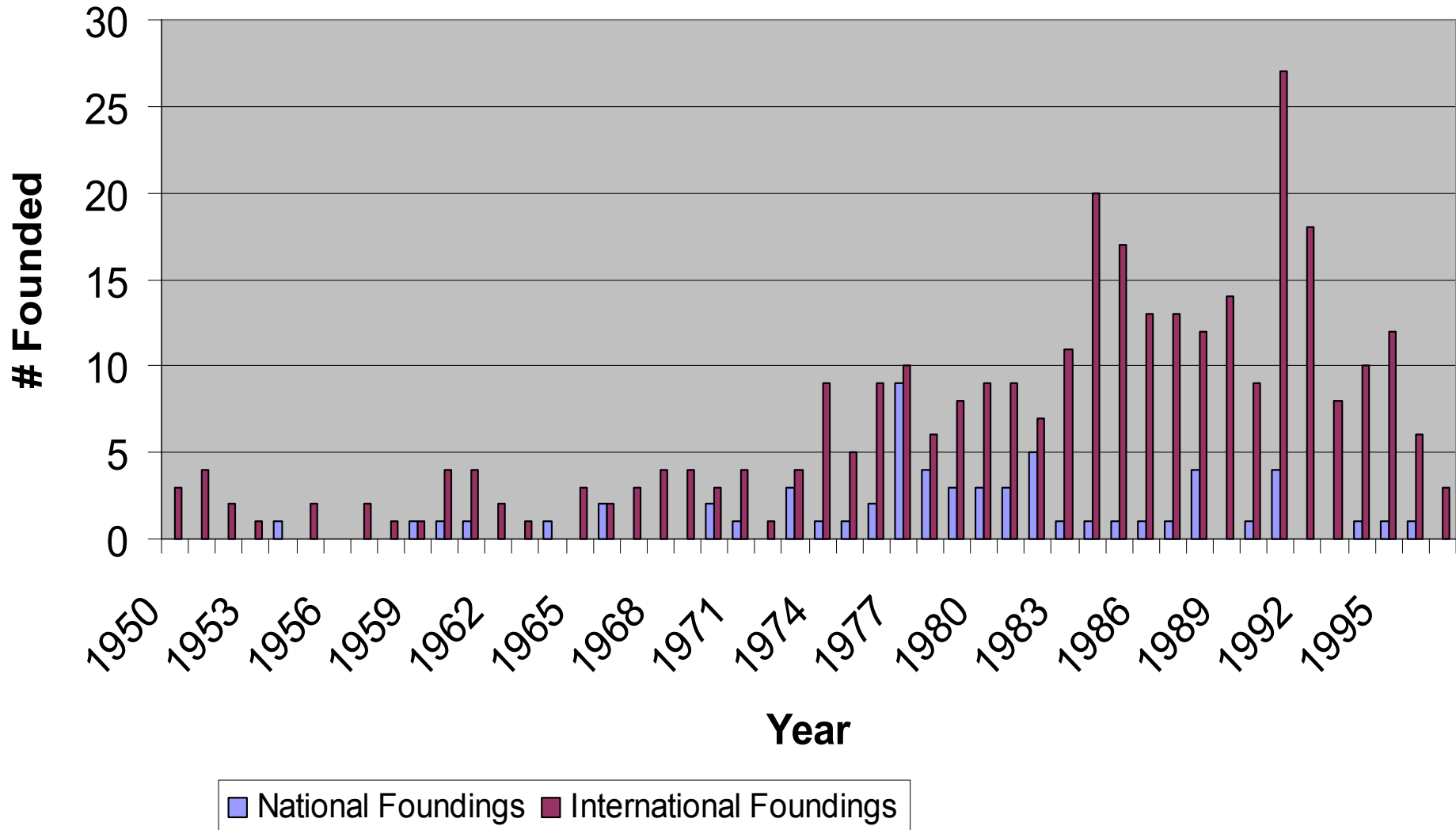
◆ National Foundings    ■ International Foundings

# Cumulative Foundings of International and National Human Rights Organizations

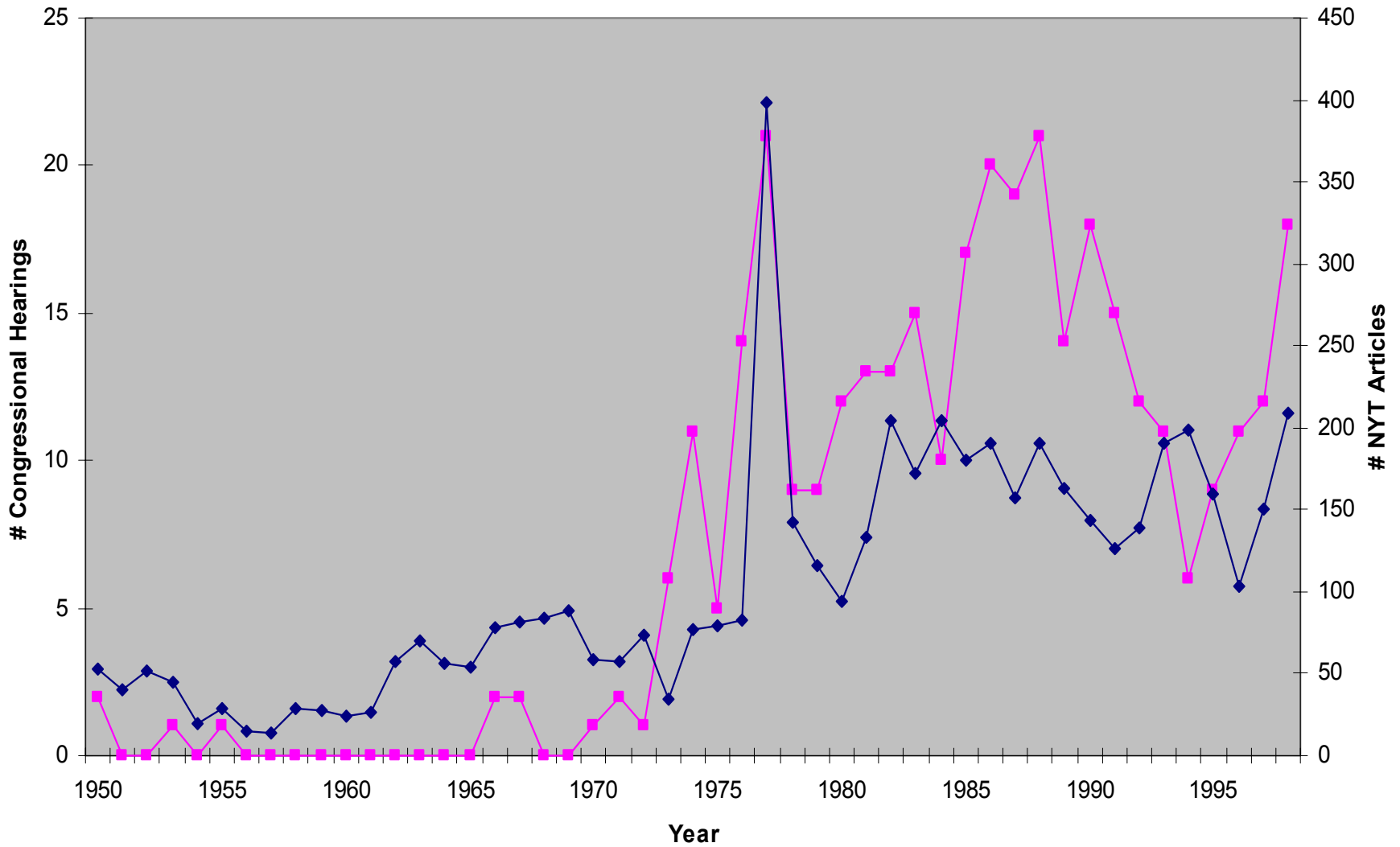


— Cumulative Nat'l Founded — Cum. Int'Nat. Founded

# International vs. National Foundings of Human Rights Organizations



# Congressional Hearings vs. NYT Attention



—■— Congressional Hearings —◆— NYT Attention

# Conclusions

- It appears if the International Human Rights Movement did indeed spark the national human rights movement because according to founding dates it grew first.
- There seems to be no relation between NYT Coverage or Congressional Attention to the human rights movement and organizational density.
- There is a relationship between congressional attention and NYT coverage which makes sense because either the media is paying attention to an issue because Congress is, or Congress is paying attention to an issue because the media and therefore general public are.

# Problems

- The Encyclopedia of Associations Online
  - Under representative
  - Only includes those organizations categorized as primarily Human Rights in focus
  - How organizations are categorized in the Encyclopedia
- Jackie Smiths Data/International Yearbook of Associations
  - Who responds and is therefore included in the Encyclopedia
  - How Smith judged the primary concern of an I.NGO.
  - No orgs w/ membership in industry or government were included
  - Smith included women's groups as Human Rights Groups

# Problems

- New York Times Attention
  - I searched the New York Times Historic Archive from 1950 until 1999. I searched each year independently and looked for “Human Rights” in the citation or abstract.
  - This may have resulted in too many articles because the articles may not really be about Human Rights or human rights violations. Reading a small subset suggested not, however.
- Congressional Attention
  - These came from The Policy Agenda’s project, and include all hearings on Human Rights. These hearings may be over representative including some hearings not addressed primarily to human rights.

# Bibliography

- Boli, John, and George M. Thomas. 1999. *Constructing World Culture: International Nongovernmental Organizations Since 1875*. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.
- Brysk, Alison, editor. 2002. *Globalization and Human Rights*. Berkley, CA: University of California Press.
- Ball, Patrick. 2000. "State Terror, Constitutional Traditions, and National Human Rights Movements: A Cross-National Qualitative Comparison. Pp. 54-75 in *Globalizations and Social Movements: Culture, Power, and the Transnational Public Sphere*, edited by John A Guirdy et al. Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Press.
- Finnemore, Martha. 1996. " Norms, Culture, and World Politics: Insights from Sociology's Institutionalism." *International Organization* 50:325-347.
- Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Meyer, John W., David John Frank, Ann Hironaka, Evan Schofer, and Nancy Brandon Tuma. 1997. "The Structuring of the World Environmental Regime, 1870-1990." *International Organization* 51: 623-651.
- Meyer, John W. and Brian Rowan. 1977. "Institutionalized Organizations: Formal Structure as Myth and Ceremony." *American Journal of Sociology* 83: 340-363.
- Smith, Jackie, Charles Chatfield, and Ron Pagnucco, editors. 1997. *Transnational Social Movements and Global Politics*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.
- Smith, Jackie. 1995. "Transnational Political Processes and the Human Rights Movement." *Research in Social Movements, Conflict and Change* 18: 185-219.
- Smith, Jackie. 2000. Data Set on International Human Rights Organizations collected from the 2000 International Yearbook of Associations.