

Committee/Council: Social , Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

Issue: Achieving the cultural and educational integration of refugees into new societies

Student Officer: Asterios Dougalis

Position: Co-Chair

Introduction

The refugee crisis and all the different issues that come with it have been a dark cloud hovering over Europe, the Middle East, the Americas, Asia as well as Africa for years now. With the constant flow of refugees ,originating from countries like Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia, Central Africa, and Myanmar seeking a better home in another country while making a fierce attempt to escape the dangers that exist in their home countries, the refugee crisis is indeed one of the biggest and most controversial issues our world is facing today. With hundreds of thousands of refugees entering small and financially developing nations like Greece in Europe or Jordan in the Middle East or Ecuador in South America their proper living conditions and well being as well as their cultural and educational integration are being put in jeopardy. The fact that the successful cultural and educational integration of refugees often fails in economically and sometimes socially unstable countries like Jordan Greece, and Ecuador revolved around the many cultural differences that exist, especially when refugees make it to countries that might be so far away from their own country, in both a geographical and cultural sense. It is very difficult for a refugee to be socially accepted in a country's whose customs, traditions, social classes, and unwritten laws are alien to the individual entering the country. Going deeper into the case of Europe, most refugees that go to countries like Italy and Greece are not looking to stay there long term, as their goal is to reach more economically developed countries like Germany however that does not usually happen since Germany for instance has very strict refugee accepting policies making the process of asylum seeking in the country very difficult especially when considering that many of the asylum seeking refugees lack basic and rather necessary documentation such as passports, identification cards etc. The same can be observed when refugees move from Colombia to Ecuador for instance or from

Myanmar to China. Although the biggest cultural differences are being observed when refugees from the Middle East immigrate to Europe.

When refugees are in their host country or even when those refugees make it to their final and desirable destination their integration into the society, the culture, and the educational system of the country is a very difficult and challenging task. The system of customs and the values of the Western World differ significantly from the ones the refugees have been experiencing and adopting in the Middle East and that makes a very arduous transition. Of course the same can be assumed in the transitions refugees make if they immigrate to region, being in Africa, Asia, America or any region or country for that matter, however once again it is easily observed that the cultural differences that are detected when immigrants from the Middle East move to Europe are the most evident. As far as the educational system is concerned there are two main problems that are obstacles to the integration of refugees in a country's educational system, being a European country or one in the Middle East or any other region. The first main problem is the language barrier and the difference in curriculum with the first one being the most prominent one. If it is difficult to learn a language in perfect learning conditions, imagine how difficult it would be for refugees to learn the country's language while achieving in school, it is without question a very hard task. The curriculum differences, being a secondary and less impacting problem, also make the integration process in the country's educational system difficult. The second main obstacle to the integration of refugees in education is the fact that many refugees have missed many years of schooling due to the lack of infrastructure and the constant presence of armed conflict in their home countries. Their absence from proper schooling makes their integration especially difficult since their placement in a class that would fit their academic ability is challenging particularly due to the differences in curriculums and the language barrier.

The cultural integration of the refugees can be an even more challenging task for multiple reasons. For instance, unless refugees are taught the values and unwritten laws of the country that they are living on the chances of the wider community fully accepting them are very low. In addition, many countries especially the ones that have very small religious populations that fit to the religion of the refugees that are immigrating to that country do not have the proper infrastructure to support the faith of the hundreds of thousands of refugees whose faith might not match the faith of the majority of the country's population. Take Greece as an example, despite the fact that Greece has a very big number of refugees living in it,

Greece has not approved the building of any type of Mosque causing the faith of the Muslim refugees to be undermined. In addition, refugees will never be able to be fully integrated into a society without having the freedom to comfortably practise their faiths.

It is important that when talking about integration we do not want refugees to let go of their own traditions, religion and customs but instead encourage a healthy mix of the traditions and customs of both parties resulting into an even stronger and more open homogeneous society.

Definition of Key-Terms

Refugee

“A refugee is someone who has left his or her country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion and is unable or owing to such fear is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution” *Council of Europe*

Keep in my mind that people that have committed crimes in their countries or have been participating in military actions are not included in the definition.

Integration

“Active participation in society; on the basis of minimum standards of income, education and accommodation; freedom of choice of religious and political beliefs, cultural and sexual affiliation, within the framework of basic democratic rights and liberties.” *Council of Europe*

Asylum

“The protection granted by a state to someone who has left their home country as a political refugee.” *Oxford Dictionaries*

Migrant

“A person who moves from one place to another, especially in order to find work or better living conditions.” *Oxford Dictionaries*

Keep in mind that in contrast to a refugee a migrant voluntarily leave their countries while remaining free to return to it at any point. Not confusing the two is very important.

Stateless

“A person not recognized as a citizen of any country.” *Oxford Dictionaries*

Internal Displacement

“The fact or process of people being forced to move within their own country as a result of conflict, natural disaster, etc.”

Internal displacement is relevant to the topic mainly due to the fact that especially when a certain part or region of a state is in a conflict the differences that would be observed in a less war torn part of the same state is something that would make the integration process of the internally displaced people more difficult.

Resettlement

_____ “The settlement of people in a different place.” *Oxford Dictionaries*

Asylum Seeker

“A person who has left their home country as a political refugee and is seeking asylum in another.” *Oxford Dictionaries*

Background Information

Refugee Crisis in the Americas

The Americas have a rich history of migration, having it be involuntary, in the form of slaves, or voluntary in the form of merchants and all sorts of people looking for a new start. In the present day the Americas, primarily Central and South

America, have been a steady contributor in the worldwide refugee crisis with the issue of internally displaced populations being the most major one. A country leading as far as refugees and internally displaced people are concerned is Colombia. A country stigmatized by the War on Drugs as well as constant and relentless Cartel related violence. Colombia is responsible for more than 6.9 million internally displaced people as well as 360,000 refugees to other countries. Central American countries like Mexico are also dominated by Cartels as well as the corruption and violence that comes with them. It is not a secret that the issues of security and government corruption in the Americas is as relevant as in the Middle East and if you combine the mass waves of violence that are unleashed by Cartels in Central and South America with the shaky economy and government of most developing nations in the Americas the refugee crisis created in the Americas seems extremely difficult to control, especially when considering the changes in the USA's policies on immigration (since the US has been a constant route that refugees in the Americas choose to follow when trying to escape the violence that haunts them in their home countries) the inability of countries in the Americas to cope with the extra costs of the infrastructure that is necessary for the proper treatment of refugees will be shown even more in the near future.

The Refugee Crisis in Asia

Asia has been going through a rather severe refugee crisis since earlier than the beginning of the Second World War. Even Though countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan are thought to be the only places where instability, corruption and violence drive their citizens away however that is far from true. Afghanistan and Pakistan both share their political instability that leads to the uncontrolled violence in the two region stems from the uncontrolled terrorist activity that is mainly credited to the Taliban, a terrorist organizations that has been suppressing the basic human rights of people in both Afghanistan and Pakistan for years now. Although the severity of the refugee crises in the countries mentioned above is very severe indeed other crises in eastern Asia are very often overlooked. Such a crisis is the refugee crisis in Myanmar. Myanmar is a country whose reign of dictatorship ended just a few years ago, with that drastic and violent change in the status quo it can be easily assumed that stability in both a political and financial level is very difficult to achieve. With a continuous struggle for different parties to fill in the void that the fall of the previous dictatorship created has left little room for growth and in addition to the rise of extremism, especially the rise of the buddhist extremism, has drove the mistreated religious minorities of vietnam out of the country. Asia is the biggest continent in

both size and population so it can be concluded that any type of population immigrating away from any set country would cause a massive amount of concern to neighboring countries as well as the world as a whole. The integration of refugees is even more difficult due to the problems of overpopulation that many Asian countries are currently facing, including economic powerhouses like China. The issue of overpopulation firstly reduces the numbers of refugees accepted by neighboring Asian countries and secondly heavily worsens the living conditions of the refugees if they are accepted into the country.

The Refugee Crisis in Africa

_____ Africa has been encountering civil wars, corruption and high crime rates ever since they were decolonized however the continuity of those problems have caused them to be severely underreported. Another factor that is added to the equation is also the diseases like cholera and ebola (more recently) that have been and will continue to drive people away from their home countries. Although policies like Ethiopia's "Open-door policy" has helped in alleviating the situation in Africa by hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees the problem is very much existent and with the lack of development and continuous rise of corruption it does not look like refugees will stop fleeing their countries any time soon. As far as the issue of integration is concerned, integration of refugees both within and outside of Africa is a very arduous task. As far as displacement within Africa is concerned the different religions that are practiced within Africa as well as the religious extremism that is associated with those religions making the proper integration of refugees that do not necessarily share the religion of the country that they are hosted in does not seem like an easy task. Regarding the of refugees outside the continent of Africa, their integration remains a difficult task. The cultural differences between Europe, the place that most refugees of African descent immigrate to, or any other region for that matter are immense.

The Beginning of the Refugee Crisis in the Middle East

_____ Europe, in its modern history, has been accepting thousands of refugees and predominantly migrants. Their integration had been very successful since they presence in European countries both sides, giving the migrants and refugees a chance to rebuild their lives and helping Europe by improving its decreasing birthrates and aging population. Despite the hit that European and World economy had taken in the recent years the controlled number of refugees that entered the

country was very well managed and integrated and had been investing a lot of money in the securities of its country's borders. However with the ascension of the Arab Spring matters changed drastically since many non-democratic and politically unstable nations in the Middle East and North Africa were about to fall in complete chaos. With the chaos that erupted in the Arab World an unprecedented wave of refugees from many different countries but primarily from Syria and Iraq started to flood Europe in a time where the European Union's preparation for such an event was pretty much non-existent.

Syria and the Refugee Crisis

Syria has been under the rule of Al-Assad dynasty who have been unquestioned dictators of Syria. During the Arab Spring however, protests against the Al-Assad regime turned violent once the current ruler of Syria, Bashar Al-Assad refused to resign and proceeded to unleash a mass wave of violence towards its own people starting a civil war is still being fought to this day. The unsettlement and anarchy that took place in Syria made it a very attractive destination to terrorist groups, with IS having the most influence, in the region. The presence of those relentless and fanatic terrorist groups, specifically IS, the number of atrocities committed in Syrian soil increased exponentially. Those atrocities are truly horrendous ranging from mass religious cleansings, suicide bombings, kidnappings and executions of civilians. The Syrian conflict has gotten even more complicated over the years mainly due to the large number of parties involved and the conflict of interests in the area between several Western powers like the Russian Federation, The United States of America, and France. The so called proxy war that is taking place in the area puts international corporation and effectiveness of military and nonmilitary operations in jeopardy.

When looking into Syria's very well known and severe crisis, it is easy to observe the magnitude of the crisis. Out of a population of over 22.4 million people, during the Syrian

Civil War more than 250,000 Syrians have been killed, 7.6 million have been internally displaced, and an impressive 4 million Syrians have been forced to become refugees and seek a



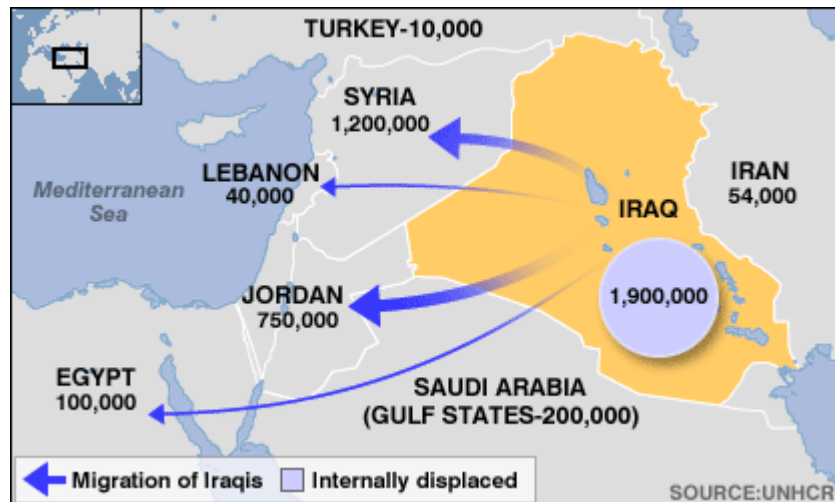
better future in Europe or in the Middle East. The Syrian refugee crises although being reported less and less over the years by the media has been a problem that has impacted many countries around the globe, being either European through the constant flow of large numbers of refugee, or being in the Middle East due to the Syrian armed conflict per se.

Iraq and the Refugee Crisis

Through the years, Iraq has been one of the most war torn nations around the world linking it to refugee crises going as far back as the First and Second World War. Iraq's contribution to the numbers of refugees going to Europe and other Middle Eastern countries has been significant with hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the country. The first major waves of refugees leaving Iraq took place during the first Barzani revolts in 1931 and 1943, where thousands of kurds were forced to leave after their revolution against the Iraqi government failed. The next major wave took place during the numerous Arab Israeli Wars climaxing with the First Gulf War where many people were displaced from their homes after the failed invasion of Israel by a coalition of Arab States. Following the Arab-Israeli Wars the US Invasion of Iraq that started in 2003 put the country in complete chaos and also made Iraq a destination for terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda, with the Iraqi insurgency at its pick millions of people were displaced. The most major refugee crisis Iraq has experienced is the current one. Starting in 2014, the once defeated Iraqi insurgency rose up again challenging Iraq's political leaders, terrorist organizations like IS that were already operating in nearby countries like Syria joined the conflict quickly causing one of the biggest refugee crises our world has ever seen.

The reason Iraqi citizens are forced to leave is similar to the reason that makes Syrians leave their country. The constant presence of political instability in the region as well as the fear that terrorist organizations like the Islamic State (IS) have planted into the people's hearts push those people to flee from their homes in search for a better future. The Iraqi situation is even more interesting since the Iraqi government has accepted more than 230,000 Syrian refugees something that can be considered controversial

since Iraq does not have the financial and political stability necessary in order to take care of even more refugees especially when considering the fact that Iraq is in a very similar military and political state with Syria.

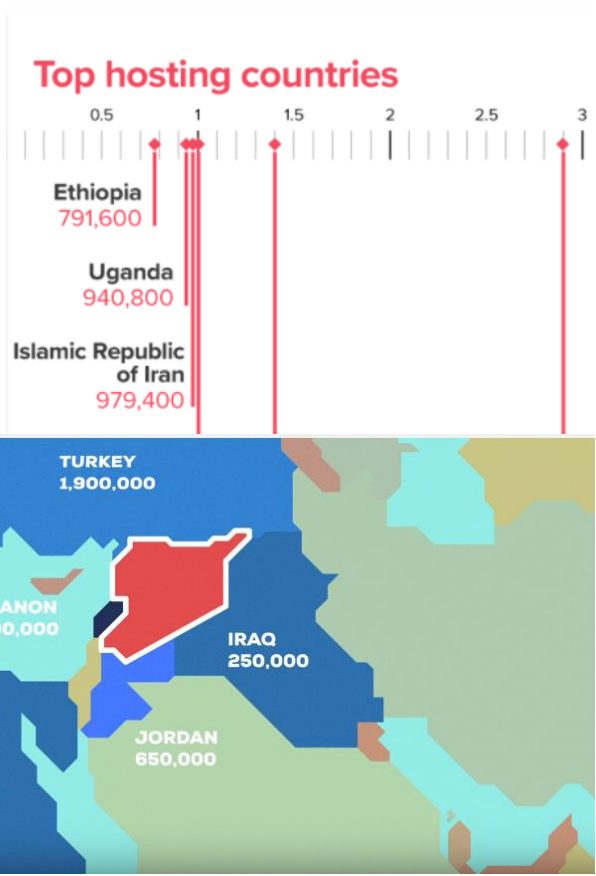


The World Dealing with the Refugee Crisis in the Middle East

As mentioned above Europe was very unprepared for the massive wave of refugees seeking asylum after the commencement of Syrian and Iraqi Civil Wars. Border states like Greece and Italy, countries that were already in a dismal financial situation, were forced to take way more refugees than they could accommodate making living conditions for the refugees very poor. Bigger and more economically developed countries like Germany were very reluctant to accept refugees and some European countries such as Hungary went as far as completely closing off their borders to any refugees. Germany did finally decide to take accept large numbers of Syrian refugees in 2015 however its decision was followed by thorough border controls and the bureaucracy that was involved in the process made it very long and ineffective. With even more Northern European countries closing off their borders refugees from all over the world are forced to stay in border states like Greece that do not have proper infrastructure to take proper care of the refugees causing frustration in both the refugees, who are not able to reach their preferred destination and instead are forced to stay in containers that do not support the best

living conditions and in the citizens of Greece who see their already crumbling economy take even bigger hits when forced to create the infrastructure that will be able to house and take proper care of hundreds of thousands of refugees. Although the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and other organizations have supported the governments of border states in their struggle of creating a better situation for refugees the funds, manpower, and infrastructure are simply not enough.

The lack of the aforementioned resources is not only absent in European countries. Nations like Jordan, that also have an aching economy and have been struggling to support their growing population for years, have seen their population increase even more with the influx of refugees coming from Syria and Iraq. It is important to



keep in mind that more than 95% of Syrian refugees are being hosted in the Middle East and not in Europe. Despite that fact Middle Eastern that have been plagued with the same political and financial instability Syria Iraq have been plagued with are being forced to take care of hundreds of thousands of refugees, even millions in some cases while the grand total of refugees hosted in the Arab States of the Persian Gulf is zero. Thus it is easy to infer that the uneven distribution of refugees in Europe and Middle East has made the refugee crisis even more severe in the nations that are forced to take the vast majority of refugees.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Syria

Syria has been the biggest source of refugees (more than 4 million) and the instigator of the refugee crisis. Syria's political and financial instability, in addition to the constant terrorist activity in the region have displaced millions of people. Syrian refugees are considered a priority during the asylum granting process in Europe mainly because of the situation that Syria is currently in. Syrian refugees mostly try to escape the religious and political prosecution that is unleashed by all parties that are active in the region, being the government, the rebel groups, or terrorist groups like IS.

Iraq

As mentioned previously Iraq has had a very bellicose past and present and it is one of the biggest sources of refugees. Similarly to Syria, Iraq's political instability and the terror unleashed by IS have forced people to leave their homes. Iraq has also been accepting Syrian refugees despite lacking the necessary funds, infrastructure and organization since its current government is seen as corrupt, discriminatory, incapable and very unpopular among the nation's citizens. Like Syria, Iraq plays a huge role in the current refugee crisis our world is facing today.

Germany

Germany has been the main destination for refugees wishing to start a new life and escape the religious or political persecution they were facing in their home country. That is due to Germany's thriving economy and the preexistence of muslim populations in the country that make it an even more attractive destinations to Muslims coming from countries like Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Although the numbers of refugees Germany has accepted are not very proportional to the interest refugees have in getting to the country Germany does have a significant population of refugees. Despite the initial response to the wave refugees going in Germany being badly planned and very uncoordinated the country has improved its efforts of both accepting and integrating refugees into the community. In order to integrate the refugees that have been accepted, Germany first tries to improve their living conditions by moving families away from camps into hostels or other more welcome and comfortable buildings. In addition the German government does make attempts to get refugees to learn German in order for them to be able to communicate and thus be better integrated into the greater community. However refugees can not be fully integrated in any society without being able to work and contribute, something that unfortunately is not the case in Germany and other European countries since

under EU law refugees are not allowed to work. The fact that refugees are unable to work is especially detrimental to their integration and wellbeing since many of them are forced to find illegal jobs with terrible working conditions, no form of insurance, and below the minimum wage salaries. The integration in refugee hotspots like Germany is Europe is in the right path however there many further steps to be taken in order for it to be completely successful.

Afghanistan

Before the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War, Afghanistan had consistently been the primary source of refugees and still is in the core of countries that fuel the refugee crisis with their internal conflicts. The internal problems Afghanistan has been facing over the years are similar to the ones of Syria and Iraq and although its Civil War has been overshadowed by the ones in Iraq and Syria Afghanistan does remain a steady contributor in the Refugee Crisis our world is facing today.

Greece

_____Greece has been in the middle of the refugee crisis from its very start. Greece is seen as the borders between the Middle East and the dream refugees have of reaching Europe. It comes with no wonder that refugee see Greece a transit country and thus pick it as the place from which they will start their journey towards Europe. Refugees going to Greece mainly come from Turkey and first enter the islands of Greece, mainly lesvos and samos, hoping to continue their trip towards Northern Europe. Greece however was never prepared to handle the large amounts of refugees entering the country that were stuck in Greece after several European countries closed off their borders or made their refugee acceptance policies even harsher. Greece financial state also made the situation even worse for both the citizens of the country and the refugees who did not see Greece as their final and desirable destination and wished to leave as soon as possible. The integration of the refugees in Greece is especially difficult since not many of them see staying in Greece as their long term goal making them often unwilling to take the extra step when trying to integrate with the community. Integration is also difficult due to the unwillingness of the Greek populations to accept the integration of refugees in their communities. Greek citizens like many European countries share the fears that come with the stereotypes associated with the Muslim populations attempting to enter the country. Achieving cultural and educational integration in Greece is very important since refugees entering Greece might spend years before being able to move on to another country within Europe.

Turkey

_____Turkey is a country that has been very close to the refugee crisis (especially the one in the Middle East) both geographically and politically. Among other things, Turkey has been accepting millions of refugees. The massive waves of refugees coming to Turkey from all over the world, primarily with the hope of reaching Europe, came in the middle of Turkey's attempts to redesign their immigration system making, the aforementioned redesign slowed down the process of the integration and asylum seeking however the European Union and the United Nations as a whole has been providing significant funds to Turkey since it is a country that is estimated to host over 3.7 million refugees.

Colombia

_____Despite having its president winning the Nobel Prize for negotiating truce with the biggest cartels and guerrilla groups in the region drug related violence and corruption are still a very much alive phenomena in Colombia. The numbers of refugees and internally displaced people are in the millions and the power of the Cartels is still to be undermined. With those factors still in the equation it is easy to see why Colombia is in the middle of the refugee crisis in both South and Central America.

United States of America (USA)

_____The United States of America is one of the most influential countries in the world and its impact in the refugee crises our world has and is facing is immense, especially in the one in that is mainly affecting Central and South America. The United States have been receiving millions of refugees, primarily of Mexican descent, for many years now and has relatively good job integrating most of them in the society. However there is still room for improvement since many immigrants, especially the ones that may arrive in the country illegally are often taken advantage of and mistreated by being forced to work countless hours a day with no insurance. The United States has been making great strides in its efforts to properly integrate refugees and it is only if the US leads by example as one of the most influential and powerful countries that an appropriate global model is established on the integration of refugees.

Myanmar

_____Myanmar is a country of over 53 million people and since it is located in an already very overpopulated eastern Asia the reason why its refugee crisis is so

impactful is easy to see. After Myanmar's dictatorship ended Myanmar followed the path that many countries follow when an authoritarian regime falls and a vacuum of power is created. Much like the case of Iraq, when Saddam Hussein's regime fell the country fell in complete and utter chaos with all kinds of extremist groups getting into the picture, Myanmar followed the same dark path leading to the situation the country finds itself today. With many religious minorities such as the Rohingya being oppressed and discriminated millions of people are forced to flee to neighboring countries like Thailand and Malaysia.

Eritrea

_____The case of Eritrea and their refugee crisis is quite unique. Unlike most of the African countries Eritrea is not plagued by civil war, lack of economic growth, or major disease outbreaks. The reason so many Eritreans choose to leave their country is because of they want to avoid their compulsory military service. In Eritrea ever since 2002 the previously voted 18 month term was changed to indefinite service as an attempt to give the government free labor. The practises in the Eritrean army do resemble a modern day slavery system and has been forcing hundreds of thousands of Eritreans to flee.

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

The UNHCR has been an active contributor in the struggle to preserve the wellbeing and reassure the integration of refugees in their host countries. In order for the UNHCR to achieve the aforementioned goals during the refugee crisis it was established supervision of refugee camps in Europe and the Middle East, has been striving to reunite separated families, as well as taking care of unaccompanied children or children with special needs. The UNHCR has also been in charge of relocating families in different places that would fit their situation better and has been constantly pushing European states to adopt less harsh asylum accepting policies. It has also been working closely with the Greek and Italian authorities in order to successfully accommodate the thousands of asylum seekers that have found themselves stranded in the aforementioned countries.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event

May 1950	The Chinese Civil War ends as the defeated capitalists flee to Taiwan
November 1 1955	The Vietnam War begins
July 27 1953	The Korean War ends leaving a huge number of internally displaced populations behind it
January 1 1959	Following the overthrowing of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista massive waves of Cubans who supported the regime flee to the United States
1965	Asian immigration almost quadruples due to the ongoing armed conflicts in South-East Asia
April 30 1975	The Vietnam War ends resulting in hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese to leave their homes in the fear of prosecution
1979	More than a million of vietnamese civilians are seeking refuge abroad
September 22 1980	The Iran-Iraq war begins, causing millions of people to be internally displaced
1981	Drug lord Pablo Escobar creates the Medellin Cartel, a cartel that will spread terror over Colombia and South and Central America as a whole for years to come
1985	The Uganda Civil War ends leaving an unstable economy and millions of internally displaced people behind
1989	The Liberian Civil War begins
1996	The Liberian Civil War ends
1997	The Congo Civil War begins, signaling the beginning of yet another refugee crisis in Central Africa
1999	The Congo Civil War ends

March 20 2003	The United States invade Iraq
May 1 2003	Saddam Hussein is overthrown, leading to the birth of the Iraqi Insurgency and the beginning of a period of long lasting political instability in the region
March 2011	The Syrian Civil War begins as civil protests all around the nation turn violent
May 2011	The first refugee camp for Syrian and Iraqi refugees opens in Turkey
July 2012	More refugee camps open in Jordan
September 2012	UNHCR operations in Syria and Iraq are increased
October 2012	UNHCR calls for less strict asylum seeking procedures in the European Union
2013	The South-Sudan Civil War breaks out, a conflict that will displace more than 2 million people
March 2013	Number of Syrian refugees become over 1 million
September 2013	Number of Syrian refugees surpassed 2 million
February 2014	A major outbreak of the Ebola Virus is recorded in Western Africa, a medical crisis that will force thousands of people to leave their homes
July 2014	Number of refugees in the Middle East surpasses 3 million, refugees accepted in Europe are less than 100,000
July 2015	Hungary builds a fence around its borders with Serbia to stop the flow of refugees in the country
September 2015	A picture of a dead 3 year old Syrian boy lying face down on a beach surface, unleashing a way of empathy towards refugees

October 2015	The number of refugees arriving in Greece daily reaches 10,000
2015	More 5 and a half million people are estimated to be internally displaced during the civil conflict in Colombia
February 2016	FYROM closes off its borders with Greece stopping the flow of refugees in the country

Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions and Events

[Resolution A/RES/56/136](#)

Adopted on the 19th of December, 2001 during the 88th Plenary Session of the General Assembly regarding unaccompanied refugee minors.

[Resolution 2240](#)

Voted on the 9th of October 2015 by the Security Council. Concerns migrant smuggling in the Middle East.

[Convention and Protocol Regarding the Status of Refugees](#)

_____ Includes the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Language Acquisition Programmes and Education

Over the years the European Union, the United Nations, the UNHCR and many Middle Eastern countries have been making serious attempts to contain the

refugee crisis and integrate the displaced people that enter their countries every week. European countries like Germany have been enlisting refugees in language acquisition programmes that would certainly help them feel more comfortable in their stay in the country and be able to communicate in a better and thus increasing the odds of them being accepted in their new community. The aforementioned programs have been very successful but do need to be expanded in order to accommodate the needs of all the refugees that are looking to learn their host country's language and thus defeat the language barrier that is keeping them from successfully integrating.

For the refugees seeking a higher education or continue the studies that they abandoned when they were forced to leave their home countries there are options to further develop their education even in the conditions they might find themselves in. For instance, "The Greek Open University" offers courses for refugees and migrants mainly in the field of linguistics. In addition to that several refugees have been accepted into Greek universities over the years allowing to have a tertiary level of education. These efforts are especially important in the educational integration of refugees since having well educated members in a society will certainly help the wider community and assist in the proper and successful integration of refugees in the workforce and society.

Housing, Skill Development and Psychological Support for Minors

The fact that the hardships and horror that a refugee experiences, especially in a younger age, can be haunting and could potentially follow them for the rest of their lives can be easily stipulated. That is why creating safe homes where minors will be surrounded by caring people, opportunities for education, and a well structured psychological support program can make sure that the refugee minors will be more than ready to be active and instrumental parts of their community. That is exactly where organizations like the Home Project comes in, an organization with the goal of addressing the needs of refugees, specifically unaccompanied minors. The organization provides well built homes and create a small community for minors which prepares to join the wider community and thus be integrated more easily. In addition to houses organizations like the Home Project provide language and skills acquisition programmes as well as psychological support programmes that aim to cure the trauma the refugee minors had experienced during and before their journey by having a team of professionals treat every child on an individual basis with the goal of transforming the home into a "healing environment". Of course making such

widespread actions that would tackle every single refugee is impossible, however funding organizations such as the Home Project and helping them maintain and even expand their efforts should be an idea worth considering.

Possible Solutions

The integration of refugees in the communities and societies that they are introduced in is important for both the refugee, since he is able to complete rebuild his life in a safe and accepting environment and for the country accepting the refugees since they will be able to gain more hard working, law abiding, and active citizens. Seeing as the integration of refugees in host countries, being both cultural and educational, is a win for both sides achieving that integration should be a top priority, especially for countries that are hosting large amounts of refugees. However there is no clear solution or plan for the integration of refugees and many different approaches to the problem do indeed exist. With that in mind here are some key principles that if followed will put us in the right path when Achieving the cultural and educational integration of refugees into new societies:

- Establishment of integration services that will provide their service as soon as possible to refugees, since refugees might spend years until they are introduced to integration services such as language acquisition programmes.
- Shorten asylum applications assessment period in order to launch the integration process as early as possible.
- During relocations of refugees, the environment of the region as well as work availability should be taken into account.
- Make sure that decisions regarding the relocation of refugee and their treatment in general is done on a case to case basis especially when refugees are from different religious or ethnic backgrounds.
- Reassure that refugees that are minors but are not in an age of compulsory schooling should be treated appropriately and on a case to case basis so as to make sure that they will be able to catch up to in any courses they have potentially missed should they wish to continue their studies.
- Make sure that all refugees of different religious and ethnic backgrounds are getting equal access to the aforementioned integration services.

- Allow the employment of Asylum Seekers wishing to stay in the host country.
- Monitor the workplaces of employed Asylum Seekers in order to make sure that they are not exploited while being treated equally and fairly.
- Create the infrastructure that can support the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. Including amenities such as but not limited to access to hospitals and medication, education, and psychological support.
- Raise awareness in the host country's native population in order to urge people to volunteer in refugee camps or make donations. Such efforts will put the refugees and the native community closer and create a bond of trust and understanding which will be the pillar of the integration of refugees in the new society.

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