

DOWNLOAD PDF REASON OF EXODUS OF REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Chapter 1 : Ten Facts About the Vietnam War and Vietnamese Refugees

Get this from a library! The reason of exodus of refugees from Vietnam and its consequences. [Shih-pÉ»u Lo].

Close search "Refugees in Asia: Forced migration is one of those subjects which are at the cutting edge of international concern today. We are all long aware of its dire humanitarian dimension, which is the primary focus of my Office, but especially during the last few years there has been increasing recognition that refugee problems more often than not, pose formidable political challenges to the international community. It is also in this light that I welcome the increasing interest of the academic world in the causes and consequences, and in the management and resolution of forced displacement. As practitioners, we can greatly benefit from your research and analysis; as advocates of the millions who are fleeing from war and persecution, we would welcome your help in mobilizing political thinking and action to address the root causes of conflict and to enhance the protection of the victims. I will explain how this response was affected by the political parameters of the Cold War, and how later the changed international climate has facilitated a more pro-active search for durable solutions in countries of origin of refugees. Next, I shall make some comments on humanitarian action in favour of internally displaced persons. I shall end with a brief outlook for the future. Today, UNHCR takes responsibility over some 27 million people uprooted by war, violence and gross violations of human rights. This number includes refugees who have been forced to flee abroad, returnees who have come home, but are yet to be properly reintegrated, and people who find themselves displaced inside their own countries or otherwise affected by war and violence. A period of transition and upheaval in world affairs has generated massive population movements, as demonstrated by the crises in former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda and Burundi in Africa. New emergencies have, however, been paralleled by opportunities for repatriation. Despite the uncertainties and insecurities of the current international order, in recent years more than 9 million refugees have returned home, in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iraq and Tajikistan, in Central-America, and in Namibia, Mozambique, Rwanda and South Africa, to name the most important. Population movements are therefore reflecting the mixed landscape of promise and peril of current international politics. This mixed picture is also visible in Asia. After Africa, the Asian continent still hosts the second largest number of refugees, 5 million, whereas well over 2 million people are assisted by my Office as internally displaced persons. Afghans and Iraqis constitute respectively the first and fourth largest refugee population in the world. Ongoing instability and eruptions of violence, in Afghanistan and, again recently in Sri Lanka, have halted earlier progress towards repatriation, and are causing more people to flee. On the whole, however, the continent has witnessed a steady decline in refugee numbers, just when they are spiralling in Africa and Europe. The two major factors responsible for this positive development, are the repatriation of 1. I will revert to the Indo-Chinese exodus in a moment. Whereas worldwide the number of refugees has declined from its peak of The total number of internally displaced persons is now estimated to surpass the number of persons fleeing across borders. In the past internal conflicts were often fuelled by ideological rivalry between the superpowers. Today, as I see it, cultural group identity, along ethnic, religious or linguistic lines, has become more of a divisive factor of its own, although political and socio-economic inequity amongst other factors may be at the root of the problem. Increasingly, people translate feelings of separateness into political claims, especially when they are discriminated against or persecuted. In the worst instances, this can lead to state fragmentation. The risk of violent disintegration increases following the collapse of authoritarian structures within existing States, such as in Somalia and Afghanistan, or as a sequence of the disappearance of overarching systems of "imperial" rule into the formation of new States. New borders risk to exclude people who fear to become oppressed, or second class citizens in another State. Majorities fear to become minorities. In reaction, they either oppose the formation of the new State, which happened in former Yugoslavia, or they move, often under pressure, to the ethnic or religious "mother" state, as was experienced on a massive scale in the Indian Subcontinent in the second half of the s. In such conflicts, displacement is increasingly not only a

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by-product, but an objective of war and persecution. De-population and re-population tactics, in support of territorial claims of self-determination, are the abominable features of the conflicts in the Balkans and in the Caucasus. Fortunately, population engineering does not seem to be a major characteristic of the internal conflicts in Asia, either in Afghanistan or Sri Lanka, however violent these are. Refugee problems being inherently political in nature, have always tended to affect international political relations. With the end of the Cold War, the international security dimension has not disappeared, but has changed in nature. Although the expansion of political and economic influence in a given region may still play a role, overt or covert backing by external powers which was common during the great ideological divide, has lost much of its relevance. Instead, the security factor is to a much larger extent regionalized; ethnic kinship or religious ties feature amongst reasons why asylum States have often an interest in the outcome of conflicts in neighbouring countries. Let me now turn to the analysis of the international response to compelled displacement in Asia. During the Cold War both the humanitarian management and resolution of refugee problems were influenced as much by national, regional and global security concerns and foreign policy considerations, as by genuine humanitarian compassion for the refugees. The response to the Indochinese refugee crisis bears witness to this theme. When the first boats began to arrive in Southeast Asia in , the countries in the region feared they would be stranded with the refugees, who were unacceptable to them for economic, social and political reasons. Socially, the governments feared that the refugees, who were mainly Chinese in the early days and later Vietnamese, would upset the delicate balance of the local communities and arouse historic enmities between the races. If the Laotians were treated more generously by Thailand, it was precisely because of their ethnic kinship with the host community. Politically, the Asian states saw the refugee outflow as a deliberate policy of the Vietnamese government to destabilize the region and refused to legitimize it by accepting the refugees. As a result, non-refoulement, a fundamental principle of refugee protection came under serious threat. By , countries began pushing off overloaded boats and pushing back refugees. If Vietnamese refugees were viewed with suspicion in the region, the Cambodians were used as pawns by various powers to further political and military goals. A number of States within and from outside the region actively supported the Khmer Rouge on the Thai border, who were left in control of camps accommodating , Cambodians, as a buffer against the Vietnamese-supported regime in Phnom Penh. Newly arriving refugees from Laos were at times used in military activities aimed at destabilizing their home country. These developments show how geopolitical realities influenced the admission and treatment of Indochinese seeking international protection. As a result humanitarian action was severely constrained, and practical compromises had to be found. For the boat people, the first International Conference on Indochinese Refugees, organized by UNHCR in , recognized the principle of admission and refuge in the region, but on a temporary basis only: This compromise, which was essentially a burden-sharing arrangement, was to survive for a decade, providing temporary refuge as well as resettlement to over a million refugees. Ideological rivalry did not only affect protection, it also stymied solutions. Wholesale resettlement, as in the case of the Vietnamese, reflected the Cold War bias in favour of exile, and led to the permanent integration of refugees fleeing from Communist regimes in non-Communist societies. By concentrating on the obligations of the regional countries of refuge and the international community, the arrangement ignored the responsibilities of countries of origin towards their own citizens. It failed to recognize the right of people to return, far less the right of people to remain in their own homes in safety and security. Even though UNHCR sought to promote voluntary repatriation, especially to Laos, and signed a voluntary repatriation agreement with the Provisional Government of Laos, it became very quickly evident that international support was not forthcoming. If the Indochinese exodus highlighted the geopolitical limits to protection, it also demonstrated, a decade later, the opportunities for new solution-oriented approaches offered by an improved international climate. The CPA, adopted in , recognized that while conditions in Vietnam and Laos stabilized, many boat people were no longer escaping from persecution, but from poverty. The lure of resettlement had turned into part of the problem. The objective of the CPA was twofold: Although the obligation of regional countries of first asylum to admit asylum-seekers was

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maintained, the group recognition of refugees ceased as did wholesale resettlement. The comprehensive approach under the CPA was unique to the extent that the responsibility of two countries of origin, with a communist leadership, to cooperate with the safe return of citizens who were determined not to be refugees, was brought into the equation. It was also unique because UNHCR was allowed to monitor all returnees in Vietnam, in order to help to assure their safety and to contribute to a climate of confidence. Five years later, the outflow from Vietnam and Laos virtually stopped, almost all those identified as refugees were resettled and more than 70, returned to Vietnam. Vietnam, on its part, has scrupulously respected its safety assurances, as ascertained by my Office and others concerned. The CPA helped to solve a refugee problem by permitting the reintegration of non-refugees. The comprehensive approach adopted under the Paris Peace Accords with regard to Cambodia went much further. While the former was comprehensive in managing a massive refugee outflow, the latter paved the way for solving the Cambodian refugee problem through voluntary repatriation, as an integral part of the UN operation UNTAC which implemented the Peace Accords. This time the political and humanitarian interests converged more clearly. Refugee repatriation was seen as a key element in the political process of peace building and national reconciliation, and the refugees themselves were eager to return. As part of a new generation of peace-keeping operations, UNTAC sought to address humanitarian and human rights issues in conjunction with the underlying political and military problems. My Office monitored the treatment of returnees in all parts of the country, including areas under the control of the Khmer Rouge. In cooperation with UNDP, we launched a host of small community-based quick impact projects to help reintegrate the returnees. Today, the returnees are in no different situation than the local population, which is no mean achievement when one considers their long and difficult exile. Unlike the past, the international community is increasingly interested, not only in what happens to refugees after they cross a border, but why they have fled and how they can be helped to return home rapidly and safely. Coupling traditional concerns for sanctuary with a more innovative search for solutions, UNHCR has attempted to develop strategic thinking and action which promotes the comprehensive prevention and solution of refugee problems, together with the protection of refugees. The bias towards the country of asylum is being replaced by a growing focus on the country of origin. In South Asia too, more and more governments have come to realize that the real solutions lie in the home country, whether for the Muslims from Myanmar, ethnic Nepalis from Bhutan, Tamils from Sri Lanka or Chakmas from Bangladesh. In the past, the tendency has been to seek bilateral agreements with limited or belated UNHCR involvement. The repatriation of refugees has often been long and arduous, and hampered by lack of physical and material security for the returnees. The Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh, however, benefitted from a different approach. While Bangladesh exerted strong pressure for their return, conditions inside Myanmar were still less than ideal. I will now address the issue of action in favour of internally displaced persons. There has been increasing recognition that the right of internally displaced persons to security, and to proper humanitarian treatment by State and non-State actors alike, is often as compelling, if not more so, as for refugees. The activities undertaken in their favour not only in Sri Lanka, but also in northern Iraq, Bosnia, Rwanda, Tajikistan and elsewhere, demonstrate that the increased focus on countries of origin of refugees has to be viewed as part of a much broader context of forced population movement. Freed of some of the Cold War constraints today, the international community has taken a more active stand on human rights and humanitarian issues. The responsibility of States to ensure the security of their own people, including through respect of human and minority rights, is increasingly emphasized. The traditional concept of state sovereignty and the ancillary norm of non-intervention, have, as you know, come under critical review, especially since the allied intervention in northern Iraq in They become less relevant when State structures collapse and chaos reigns. Several times now, the UN Security Council has viewed the disastrous humanitarian consequences of internal conflict, including large scale refugee outflows, in the context of threats to international peace and security. Although I believe that a realistic balance must be kept between the humanitarian imperative of saving lives and the political interest of stability in international relations, I believe we should appreciate the greater international willingness to protect and assist victims of

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gross and systematic violations of humanitarian and human rights law, as a positive trend. While the results of collective action in Somalia, Bosnia and Rwanda have been mixed, millions of internally displaced persons and of other people at risk of starvation, indiscriminate shelling and persecution have benefitted from international action in their favour. I should like, however, to add that in carrying out humanitarian activities, UNHCR relies on the consent and cooperation of the State in which it operates, a point affirmed in several resolutions of the General Assembly. In many instances, however, humanitarian access remains problematic for political or military reasons, as we have again experienced during the recent government offensive in northern Sri Lanka. We expect to receive the continuous support of the Security Council, and of the international community at large, to ensure that the principle of unimpeded and safe access to all victims in need of protection and assistance is accepted and respected. Let me proceed with a few observations regarding the future management of displacement in Asia, including residual refugee problems in Indochina.

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Chapter 2 : Refugees and "boat people" - The Vietnam War and Its Impact

Known as boat people for escaping Southeast Asia by sea, the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Southeast Asians (predominantly Vietnamese) generated a political and humanitarian firestorm for the international community, the United States, and Vietnam.

Known as boat people for escaping Southeast Asia by sea, the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Southeast Asians predominantly Vietnamese generated a political and humanitarian firestorm for the international community, the United States, and Vietnam. The first wave included, South Vietnamese, mostly political leaders, army officers, and skilled professionals escaping the communist takeover. Fewer than a thousand Vietnamese successfully fled the nation. Those who managed to escape pirates, typhoons, and starvation sought safety and a new life in refugee camps in Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong. For many, these countries became permanent homes, while for others they were only waystations to acquiring political asylum in other nations, including the United States. During the administration of President James Earl Carter, Vietnamese immigration to the United States became a prominent political issue. The number of refugees fleeing Vietnam by sea increased to nearly six thousand in and twenty thousand the following year. Officials estimated that nearly one-third of this total perished at sea from starvation, drowning, and pirates, problems that increased when some Asian countries began turning away boat people. The Vietnamese government began to institute socialist reforms by the late s, including the confiscation of businesses and farmland. Many ethnic Chinese business owners who had lived in southern Vietnam for generations came under attack. The Chinese, or Hoa as the Vietnamese called them, were suspected of sympathizing with China, profiting from the poverty of the Vietnamese people, and betraying Vietnam during the conflict with the United States. As a result, they were officially encouraged to leave the country. Adults could pay a bribe and a departure fee to arrange their deportation. In at least one case, a Hoa man paid for the passage of himself and his large family with a bag of gold bars obtained from the liquidation of his estate. Other Vietnamese took advantage of the black market trade in selling passage outside of the country, which developed into a lucrative business in Vietnam between and International attention to the plight of Vietnamese immigrants escalated in , when the human tide of boat people increased to an unprecedented level of , But from ten thousand to fifteen thousand immigrants were still leaving Vietnam each month. United Nations secretary general Kurt Waldheim called a conference in response to the impending catastrophe. Sixty-five nations attended the meeting in Geneva, voting to increase funding to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Utilizing an executive order to raise immigration quotas, President Carter doubled the number of Southeast Asian refugees allowed into the United States each month. Agreements were also reached with Vietnam to establish an orderly departure program. These developments combined to slow the exodus of refugees in and By , more than two million Vietnamese had left the nation of their birth to start new lives in foreign lands. Ethnic minorities in Vietnam confronted difficult choices in the wake of the Vietnam conflict. Hundreds of thousands of Hmong and Montagnard people, who supported the United States and South Vietnam during the conflict, migrated to refugee camps in the late s to evade the violence and instability left in the wake of American withdrawal. Many of the Hmong, natives of Laos, became political refugees and finally settled in communities in California and Minnesota, where they continued to practice their culture and adjust to new circumstances as hyphenated Americans. Until many Hmong funded attempts to retake Laos from communist control. Many Montagnards, who inhabited the Central Highlands of Vietnam, continued resisting the Vietnamese until the close of the Cold War in the early s. By then, most of the one-half million Montagnards had either fled to refugee camps in Cambodia or resettled in the United States. The political plight of Amerasian children embodies one of the most fundamental and lasting legacies of the Vietnam conflict. The offspring of American men and Vietnamese women, Amerasian children could not immigrate to the United States until the late s. Following the end of the

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war in , the Vietnamese government refused to meet with American officials to arrange for the immigration of these children. In turn, the United States refused to deal directly with the new communist regime. The children languished in uncertainty, held political hostage by two nations over a war long over. Although the children were viewed as half-castes, they were not officially targeted for discrimination. But the Vietnamese government viewed their mothers as traitors and called the children *bui doi* dust of life. Local officials often targeted Amerasian families for forced migration to New Economic Zones, where the surplus urban population resettled. Some Amerasian children suffered abandonment by families that did not want them for the shame and fear it brought upon their families. As a result, the children were sent to orphanages, and many became street urchins in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. For children of African-American soldiers and Vietnamese women, ethnic discrimination was even more intense. The children allowed to leave between and included those who could prove U. Vietnamese mothers and refugee organizations attempted to contact the fathers, who would be in a position to arrange for the immigration of the children through government agencies in their home nation. Yet citizenship itself did not guarantee safe passage. Bribes and exit fees were necessary to leave Vietnam legally during the era of massive emigration from to Amerasian children received renewed hope in when Congress passed the Amerasian Immigration Act, which applied to children throughout Southeast Asia, not just Vietnam. The act had substantial limitations and only a small number of children successfully immigrated. The Vietnamese government announced in that over twenty-five thousand cases still awaited processing; it then stopped the processing of new cases, causing a steep decline of Amerasian immigration by Abandoned and unwanted by the Vietnamese and American governments, the struggle of Amerasian children received widespread publicity, prompting renewed congressional action. The Amerasian Homecoming Act of , sponsored by U. Representative Robert Mrazek, facilitated the immigration of Vietnamese Amerasians and certain members of their families. The act successfully broadened Amerasian immigration so that by , refugee watch groups had declared that only a few thousand Amerasian children remained in Vietnam. The by-then grown children and their families had adapted to life there and had chosen to stay. Despite setbacks and challenges, many Amerasian children became prosperous. Those who adjusted most successfully were usually children who accompanied their Vietnamese mothers to America. Some of these children received assistance through the Big Brother and Big Sister programs. By , however, all Amerasian children had reached adulthood, and all federal programs to assist their assimilation and adjustment were terminated. Another group of children from Vietnam also grew to adulthood in the United States. As communist forces closed on Saigon in early April , President Gerald Ford began Operation Babylift, the evacuation of 2, Vietnamese orphans for adoption by American parents. Twenty years later, many of the children had adjusted successfully to living in the United States. Some became part of the tide of temporary migration back to Vietnam to find missing relatives. By over , Vietnamese had chosen to immigrate to the United States. Another , lived in other countries around the world. Many of these countries began to close the camps, forcing dislocated refugees to contemplate returning to Vietnam. By early more than 39, Vietnamese still remained in the camps. That year the United Nations began to withdraw funding of the refugee installations, and soon after closed the camps. Most of the Vietnamese refugees, including children who had never seen Vietnam, returned to an uncertain fate in their home country. Comment about this article, ask questions, or add new information about this topic:

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Chapter 3 : The Vietnam War and Its Impact | calendrierdelascience.com

Cambodian Refugees In May , the first longer-term refugee camp for Cambodian refugees, As of December 18, , Nong Samet became home to about Vietnamese refugees who were transferred from a special camp for "land refugees" who had crossed Cambodia from Vietnam and entered Thailand.

The humanitarian emergency that the debilitating conflict created also impacted neighboring nations like Laos and Cambodia. In an effort to contain Communism in then Indo-China, the U. After the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was passed , the U. Record amounts were spent on military support to Vietnam, including chemical weaponry such as weedkillers, napalm and Agent Orange. The guerilla warfare tactics, coupled with public outrage in the U. The Vietnam War is reminiscent of yet another situation we see today with the refugee crisis, brought about by persecution and human rights violations. The following 10 facts will highlight the impacts of the war, developments and the extent to which humanitarian assistance aided the impoverished people. Not unlike the scene of the mass exodus in Europe, the defectors used ramshackle fishing boats not devised to be used in the open sea. Owing to the sheer numbers who were trying to flee, the boats were often overcrowded. The primary causes of death were drowning at sea as a result of being smuggled. The refugees were attacked by pirates and were trafficked and sold into slavery and prostitution. Two hundred thousand Cambodians and Vietnamese displaced by the war were allowed to enter the U. An aggregate of million dollars was spent on this initiative, with over a million refugees finding asylum in the United States. Despite a U. There were countless affairs between Vietnamese women and U. Even though they suffered a great deal of hardship, the Amerasian Act passed by Congress in , allowed for their integration in the United States. Owing to the success that Vietnam has had in achieving the U. Sustainable Development Goals and achieving food security, the food poverty rate , fortunately, plummeted by two-thirds between the years and Vietnam is now also a large exporter of rice. By , nearly 1. These individuals are beginning to lead businesses. This development is a percent increase from the year according to the World Bank. Education and living standards have drastically improved. Owing to the investment capacity of Vietnam, Silicon Valley is establishing Startups in the country. In an effort to halt the spread of communism, there was a tremendous cost to human life. Only time will reveal the full extent of U.

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Chapter 4 : Causes of the Indochinese Refugee Exodus | Howard Adelman - calendrierdelascience.com

How unlivable these ruined countries are is underlined again and again by the fact that not a single of the refugees profiled in Exodus ever turned back, despite enduring kidnappings, beatings.

This lesson explores the massive immigration from Vietnam and Cambodia begun in the s resulting from the end of the Vietnam War. It focuses particularly on the crisis caused by boat people fleeing the region, the Geneva Conference called to address the situation, and the subsequent resettlement of many of these refugees in the United States. In the activity, students look at refugees from Afghanistan and explore whether the United States owes a special obligation to refugees from countries in which it has fought wars. Students will be able to: Describe the refugee crisis, its causes, and what was done to resolve it. Express a reasoned opinion on whether the United States owes a special obligation to resettle refugees from countries in which it fights wars. Understands how the Cold War and conflicts in Korean and Vietnam influenced domestic and international politics. Understands how post-World War II reconstruction occurred, new international power relations took shape, and colonial empires broke up. II 3 Understands political and social change in the developing countries of. Asia after World War II e. Trace the origins and geopolitical consequences foreign and domestic of the Cold War and containment policy, including the following: Communist troops then overran South Vietnam and by had defeated the South Vietnamese. Over a million people have fled Southeast Asia since Many have come to the United States as refugees. Right after the fall of South Vietnam, a first wave of refugees began arriving in the United States. These people were usually well-educated and even wealthy Vietnamese. They had opposed the communists. About , of these Vietnamese resettled in this country. Starting in , another wave of Vietnamese began to flee their country. These were the "boat people," who were poorer and not as well-educated as the Vietnamese who came in the first wave. The Boat People In , the communist government in South Vietnam began to pressure some people to move from their city homes into the rural areas of the country. The Chinese living in Vietnam were threatened with being drafted in the army, losing their jobs, or being sent to rural "new economic zones" as laborers. The following year, China attacked Vietnam over a border dispute between the two countries. Soon the Vietnamese government began encouraging the Chinese to leave the country altogether. They fled by boat, paying to board small, leaky fishing boats or old freighters. Other Chinese and Vietnamese families, who hated food shortages and communist rule, left illegally without buying the government permits. Since they all fled Vietnam by boat, they soon came to be called the "boat people. Shortages of water and food plagued them. Boats capsized and sank. An estimated , boat people had drowned by the summer of Others were robbed, raped, and murdered by pirates. After drifting weeks at sea, the lucky survivors landed in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, or Hong Kong. Thousands of refugees from that unhappy land began to escape over the border into neighboring Thailand. By July , about , Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees lived in temporary camps throughout Southeast Asia. The largest refugee camp was on the Malaysian island of Palou Bidong. There, 42, Vietnamese lived together in a one-square mile compound. The so-called "nations of first asylum," the countries receiving the refugees, felt overwhelmed. They declared that they could not handle the thousands of people continuing to arrive each month. Malaysian officials even threatened to "shoot on sight" new arrivals who were coming at the rate of 65, a month. Thailand forced several thousand Cambodian refugees back into their war-torn homeland. In June , the United States had announced it would double the number of Southeast Asian refugees allowed to resettle in this country from 7, to 14, a month, but more people were still entering the crowded Southeast Asia refugee camps. The purpose of the meeting in Geneva was to see what could be done about slowing the flow of refugees and about resettling those living in refugee camps. In a speech to those attending, Mondale recalled that a similar meeting 41 years before had failed to reach an agreement on the resettlement of European Jews on the eve of World War II. The comparison of the Jewish Holocaust victims to the refugees dying daily in the waters of Southeast Asia was all too clear. Mondale went on to

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declare that, "To alleviate the tragedy in Southeast Asia, we all have a part to play. The United States is committed to doing its share, just as we have done for generations. He also promised to ask Congress for additional refugee relief funds. Other countries at the conference made similar pledges, and even communist Vietnam said it would stop encouraging its citizens to leave the country. Shortly after the Geneva conference, President Jimmy Carter ordered the Seventh Fleet, operating in the South China Sea, to look for and pick up "boat people" who continued to flee Vietnam. Most of us can trace our presence here to the turmoil or oppression of another time and another place. Our nation has been immeasurably enriched by this continuing process. About came every day. Like the immigrants at Ellis Island years ago, the refugees at Travis waited to be questioned by government officers. Their papers in order, the immigrants were bused to a hotel near the San Francisco airport from which they flew the following day to their new homes. All the Southeast Asian refugees needed a U. Often, refugees had relatives in the United States, who served this function. Sponsors provided housing, food, clothing, transportation, and were generally responsible for the refugee until he or she was self-supporting. Those refugees without relatives in the United States had to wait for others to act as sponsors. Private individuals, churches, and service organizations in many communities throughout the United States volunteered to sponsor refugees. Private organizations such as the International Rescue Committee, U. From to , these organizations placed over , refugees from Southeast Asia. About 30 percent of them needed cash assistance when they first arrived. After a period of adjustment, most got jobs. The unemployment rate among Southeast Asian refugees was about the same as other workers. Since many came to the country speaking little English and with few skills, they usually ended up in low-paying jobs. Although the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees moved all over the United States, many have remained in California. Both places are near Los Angeles. Many Cambodians also live in Boston, Massachusetts. Today more than 1 million people of Vietnamese descent and , of Cambodian descent live in the United States. What was the refugee crisis? How was it resolved? What are some of the differences between the first wave of refugees from Southeast Asia, who came to the U. Why do you think the United States agreed to take so many refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia? Do you think the United States had a special obligation to take them? Why or why not? Activity Refugees from Afghanistan In , the Soviet Union sent troops into Afghanistan, its neighbor to the south, in support of the Afghan communist regime that had seized power the year before. Rebels took up arms opposing the Soviets. The rebels were supported by the United States and Pakistan which borders Afghanistan in the south. The ensuing fierce armed struggle led to a Soviet withdrawal in and contributed to the fall of the communist government in Warlords then fought for power in the country. By , the Taliban, a fundamentalist Islamic group, had control of more than 90 percent of the country. The Taliban imposed a harsh rule, executing many and virtually condemning women to remain in their homes. The Taliban also permitted the terrorist group Al Qaeda to run training camps in the countryside. This group was responsible for the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, When the United States demanded that Afghanistan cooperate in turning over the leaders of Al Qaeda, the Taliban refused. Today, the area around the capital city is under the control of forces friendly to the United States. The rest of Afghanistan is under the control of warlords, some of whom sympathize with the Taliban. For the last 25 years, Afghanistan has been in turmoil. More than 4 million people have fled the warfare and today live in refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran which borders Afghanistan in the west. These two countries have attempted to close their borders to further refugees. In this activity, students will explore what obligation, if any, the United States owes these refugees. Divide the class into small groups. Each group should discuss and decide on these questions: What do you think should be done with these refugees? Does the United States owe a special obligation to resettle refugees from countries in which it fights wars?

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Chapter 5 : Indochina refugee crisis - Wikipedia

December 13, , Page 3 The New York Times Archives. GENEVA, Dec. 12 " Vietnam denied today, that it was fostering an exodus of its citizens in fishing boats in return for payments.

It has been all too easy to become accustomed to the image of the refugee: The sum of human misery since the end of the Second World War has been so heavy and so constant as to have a numbing effect. However, the summer of has brought images of refugees and migrants drowning at sea, trying to make their way under barbed wire, with the most recent photos of some 70 persons who died in a closed truck on the frontier between Hungary and Austria. Until now, governments within the UN system have gone on the assumption that security and peace-keeping are political matters to be kept as separate as possible from emergency humanitarian efforts. Since in nearly all the cases that have led to massive departures the UN has failed in its attempts at conflict resolution, humanitarian aid did what it could to bind up some of the wounds. Both the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and non-governmental organizations working on direct relief avoided as much as possible political considerations. For public political analysis leads to controversy, to charges of being one-sided, and of misunderstanding the historic complexities of the situation. People flee their countries for a variety of reasons and usually as a result of a combination of factors rather than a single one: Some people may not have been singled out for repression, however they feel that their country cannot provide an adequate future and wish to try their chance elsewhere. Others, especially those who represent ethnic or religious minorities may be deliberately forced out. There is a link between the violations of human rights, the lack of possibility for popular participation in development and migration for economic reasons. Although there is a good deal of writing on migration for economic reasons, the diversity and scale of the phenomenon is not always documented and much of the migration is clandestine. Migration is of increasing complexity which we are not yet capable of analyzing properly. It is only relatively recently that the World Bank initiated a research program on international migration and development, largely as a result of information on the large amount of money that migrants send to their families in their home country. Likewise, it is only fairly recently that the gender aspects of migration are being studied. In light of this, we see how international migration cannot be fully understood without the prism of gender. We also see how development policies and international migration are parts of the same process. It is certain that there are no easy solutions to the problem of mass exodus. There will have to be complex changes in attitudes and values so that we see ourselves as citizens of the world with a joint responsibility to care for and protect the seven billion on the planet. Peace needs peacemakers; there is a need to train more adequate humanitarian workers and to be able to draw more quickly upon those individuals with the necessary skills and experience. There is a growing awareness of the need for a United Nations-led World Conference on Migration as there have been past UN conferences on the environment, population, food, women, urbanization and other world issues. The pattern of the world conferences remain largely the same: The impact of UN conferences has been greatest when there is a pre-existing popular, NGO-led movement which has sensitized people to the issue. The two UN conferences which have had the most lasting consequences were the Stockholm conference on the environment and the International Year of Women and its Mexico conference. The environment conference was held at a time of a growing popular concern with harm to the environment symbolized by the widely-read book of Rachel Carson *Silent Spring*. Migration does not have a well-organized NGO structure highlighting the issues, but migration and integration have become a widely-discussed political issue, a common theme of the narrow nationalist political movements. This anti-immigration rhetoric heightens awareness but presents no answers. Therefore a UN-led conference can provide rational discussion based on research and proposals taking in a world view and a longer time frame. In the meantime, citizens of the world have three related tasks:

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Chapter 6 : What was the impact of the Vietnam War? - The Vietnam War

Living History Remembering the Fall of Saigon and Vietnam's Mass 'Boat People' Exodus. On April 30, , American troops withdrew from Saigon as the city fell to the North Vietnamese.

A family of boat people rescued by a US Navy ship. Rescued Vietnamese boat people being given water. Within the same year, the countries of Cambodia and Laos also fell to communist forces, thus engendering a steady flow of refugees fleeing all three countries. A number of factors contributed to the refugee crisis, including economic hardship and wars between Vietnam, China, and Cambodia. In addition, up to , people, especially those associated with the former government of South Vietnam, were sent to re-education camps , where many endured torture, starvation, and disease while being forced to perform hard labor. In May , the Hoa began to leave Vietnam in large numbers for China, initially by land. By the end of , resulting from the Sino-Vietnamese War , , Hoa had sought refuge in China and many tens of thousands more were among the boat people scattered all over Southeast Asia and in Hong Kong. These payments were often made in the form of gold bars. Many poorer Vietnamese left their country secretly without documentation and in flimsy boats, and these were the most vulnerable to pirates and storms while at sea. Most were secret and done at night; some involved the bribing of top government officials. Others boarded fishing boats fishing being a common occupation in Vietnam and left that way. On arrival, they would take refuge for up to two days in safe houses while waiting for fishing junks and trawlers to take small groups into international waters. Although these attempts often caused a depletion of resources, people usually had several false starts before they managed to escape. The vessel Southern Cross unloaded 1, Vietnamese on an uninhabited island belonging to Indonesia. The government of Indonesia was furious at the people being dumped on its shores, but was pacified by the assurances of Western countries that they would resettle the refugees. In October, another ship, the Hai Hong, attempted to land 2, refugees in Malaysia. The Malaysians declined to allow them to enter their territory and the ship sat offshore until the refugees were processed for resettlement in third countries. Additional ships carrying thousands of refugees soon arrived in Hong Kong and the Philippines and were also denied permission to land. Their passengers were both ethnic Vietnamese and Hoa who had paid substantial fares for the passage. The people in these small boats faced enormous dangers at sea and many thousands of them did not survive the voyage. The countries of the region often "pushed back" the boats when they arrived near their coastline and boat people cast about at sea for weeks or months looking for a place where they could land. Despite the dangers and the resistance of the receiving countries, the number of boat people continued to grow, reaching a high of 54, arrivals in the month of June with a total of , in refugee camps in Southeast Asia and Hong Kong. At this point, the countries of Southeast Asia united in declaring that they had "reached the limit of their endurance and decided that they would not accept any new arrivals". The results of the conference were that the Southeast Asian countries agreed to provide temporary asylum to the refugees, Vietnam agreed to promote orderly departures rather than permit boat people to depart, and the Western countries agreed to accelerate resettlement. The Orderly Departure Program enabled Vietnamese, if approved, to depart Vietnam for resettlement in another country without having to become a boat person. The worst of the humanitarian crisis was over, although boat people would continue to leave Vietnam for more than another decade and die at sea or be confined to lengthy stays in refugee camps. The lucky ones would succeed in being rescued by freighters [18] or reach shore 1-2 weeks after departure. The unlucky ones continued their perilous journey at sea, sometimes lasting a few months long, suffering from hunger, thirst, disease, and pirates before finding safety. A typical story of the hazards faced by the boat people was told in by a man named Le Phuoc. Their two outboard motors soon failed and they drifted without power and ran out of food and water. Thai pirates boarded their boat three times during their day voyage, raped the four women on board and killed one, stole all the possessions of the refugees, and abducted one man who was never found. When their boat sank, they were rescued by a Thai fishing boat and ended up in a refugee camp on the coast of

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Thailand. An Argentine freighter finally picked them up and took them to Thailand. In that year, boats carrying Vietnamese boat people arrived in Thailand carrying 15, refugees. According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, between 1975 and 1976, boat people died at sea. As the number of boat people grew to tens of thousands per month in early 1979, their numbers outstripped the ability of local governments, the UN, and humanitarian organizations to provide food, water, housing, and medical care to them. Bidong Island was designated as the principal refugee camp in Malaysia in August 1975. The Malaysian government towed any arriving boatloads of refugees to the island. Less than one square mile in area, Bidong was prepared to receive 4, refugees, but by June Bidong had a refugee population of more than 40, who had arrived in boats. Food and drinking water had to be imported by barge. Water was rationed at one gallon per day per person. The food ration was mostly rice and canned meat and vegetables. The refugees constructed crude shelters from boat timbers, plastic sheeting, flattened tin cans, and palm fronds. Sanitation in the crowded conditions was the greatest problem. The United States and other governments had representatives on the island to interview refugees for resettlement. With the expansion of the numbers to be resettled after the July Geneva Conference, the population of Bidong slowly declined. The last refugee left in 1976. More than 1, Indochinese, the great majority Boat People, were temporarily resident at Galang while it served as a refugee camp from 1975 until 1976. After they became well-established, Galang and Bidong and other refugee camps provided education, language and cultural training to boat people who would be resettled abroad. Refugees usually had to live in camps for several months—and sometimes years—before being resettled. The center housed up to 18, Indochinese refugees who were approved for resettlement in the United States and elsewhere and provided them English language and other cross-cultural training. In 1976, the numbers of boat people began to grow again. The destination this time was primarily Hong Kong and Thailand. On June 15, 1976, after more than 18, Vietnamese had arrived that year, Hong Kong authorities announced that all new arrivals would be placed in detention centres and confined until they could be resettled. Boat people were held in prison-like conditions and education and other programs were eliminated. Countries in Southeast Asia were equally negative about accepting newly arriving Vietnamese boat people into their countries. Moreover, both asylum and resettlement countries were doubtful that many of the newer boat people were fleeing political repression and thus merited refugee status. Those who failed to qualify as refugees would be repatriated, voluntarily or involuntarily, to Vietnam, a process that would take more than a decade. The CPA quickly served to reduce boat people migration. In 1977, about 70, Indochinese boat people arrived in five Southeast Asian countries and Hong Kong. By 1978, that number declined to only 41 and the era of the Vietnamese Boat People fleeing their homeland definitively ended. However, resettlement of Vietnamese continued under the Orderly Departure Program, especially of former re-education camp inmates, Amerasian children, and to reunify families. A total of more than 1. Of that number more than 1, were boat people; the remaining 1, were resettled under the Orderly Departure Program or in China or Malaysia. For complete statistics see Indochina refugee crisis. They arrived mostly by boat, although 42, of the total arrived by land in Thailand. The residual caseload of Vietnamese boat people in 1979 was 2, of whom 2, were in Hong Kong. The three countries resettling most Vietnamese boat people and land arrivals were the United States with 1,; Australia with 1,; and Canada with 1, Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. November Escape boat saved by the Cap Anamur in late April 1979, placed in Troisdorf Memorial and tribute of the Vietnamese refugees in Hamburg The Orderly Departure Program from 1975 until 1976 helped to resettle refugees in the United States and other Western countries. In this program, refugees were asked to go back to Vietnam and wait for assessment. If they were deemed to be eligible to be resettled in the United States according to criteria that the US government had established, they would be allowed to immigrate. They were to be allowed to immigrate to the U. Half-American children in Vietnam, descendants of servicemen, were also allowed to immigrate along with their mothers or foster parents. This program sparked a wave of rich Vietnamese parents buying the immigration rights from the real mothers or foster parents. They paid money in the black market to transfer the half-American children into their custody, then applied for visas to emigrate to the United States.

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Most of these half-American children were born of American soldiers and prostitutes. They were subject to discrimination, poverty, neglect and abuse. On November 15, 1975, the United States and Vietnam signed an agreement allowing additional Vietnamese to immigrate who were not able to do so before the humanitarian program ended in 1975. Effectively, this new agreement was an extension and also final chapter of the HO program. Hong Kong adopted the "port of first asylum policy" in July 1979 and received over 1 million Vietnamese at the peak of migration in the late 1970s. Many refugee camps were set up in its territories. Frequent violent clashes between the boat people and security forces caused public outcry and mounting concerns in the early 1980s since many camps were very close to high-density residential areas. By the late 1970s, Western Europe, the United States and Australia received fewer Vietnamese refugees [citation needed]. It became much harder for refugees to get visas to settle in those countries. As hundreds of thousands of people were escaping out of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia via land or boat, countries of first asylum in South-East Asia were faced with the continuing exodus and the increasing reluctance by third countries to maintain resettlement opportunities for every exile, they threatened push-backs of the asylum seekers. The cut-off date for refugees was March 14, 1979. Effective from this day, the Indochinese Boat people would no longer automatically be considered as prima facie refugees, but only asylum seekers and would have to be screened to qualify for refugee status. Those who were "screened-out" would be sent back to Vietnam and Laos, under an orderly and monitored repatriation program. The refugees faced prospects of staying years in the camps and ultimate repatriation to Vietnam. They were branded, rightly or wrongly, as economic refugees. By the mids, the number of refugees fleeing from Vietnam had significantly dwindled. Many refugee camps were shut down. Most of the well educated or those with genuine refugee status had already been accepted by receiving countries [citation needed]. There appeared to be some unwritten rules in Western countries. Officials gave preference to married couples, young families and women over 18 years old, leaving single men and minors to suffer at the camps for years. Among these unwanted, those who worked and studied hard and involved themselves in constructive refugee community activities were eventually accepted by the West by recommendations from UNHCR workers. Hong Kong was open about its willingness to take the remnants at its camp, but only some refugees took up the offer.

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Chapter 7 : Migration-refugee exodus: A world-wide challenge - Foreign Policy News

Refugees are people who are forced to leave their home community in order to preserve their own safety. War, climate change, political turmoil, oppression, and natural disaster are a few of the reasons that lead individuals and families to become refugees. Current international laws surrounding.

A refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. This booklet answers some of the most commonly asked questions about refugees themselves and how the agency attempts to help them. Who, for instance, can qualify as a refugee and on what grounds? Can people be excluded and why? What rights does a refugee enjoy and what obligations? How are refugees protected? Governments normally guarantee the basic human rights and physical security of citizens. But when civilians become refugees this safety net disappears. However, it is not a supranational organization and cannot be considered as a substitute for government responsibility. Countries may not forcibly return refugees to a territory where they face danger or discriminate between groups of refugees. They should ensure that refugees benefit from economic and social rights, at least to the same degree as other foreign residents of the country of asylum. For humanitarian reasons, states should allow a spouse or dependent children to join persons to whom temporary refuge or asylum has been granted. What rights does a refugee have? A refugee has the right to safe asylum. However, international protection comprises more than physical safety. Refugees should receive at least the same rights and basic help as any other foreigner who is a legal resident, including freedom of thought, of movement, and freedom from torture and degrading treatment. Economic and social rights are equally applicable. Refugees should have access to medical care, schooling and the right to work. In certain circumstances when adequate government resources are not immediately available, such as the sudden arrival of large numbers of uprooted persons, international organizations such as UNHCR provide assistance. This may include financial grants, food, tools and shelter and basic infrastructure such as schools and clinics. With projects such as income-generating activities and skill training programmes, UNHCR makes every effort to ensure that refugees become self-sufficient as quickly as possible. What are the obligations of a refugee? Refugees are required to respect the laws and regulations of their country of asylum. Who decides who is a refugee? UNHCR may offer advice as part of its mandate to promote refugee law, protect refugees and supervise the implementation of the Refugee Convention. The agency advocates that governments adopt a rapid, flexible and liberal process, recognizing how difficult it often is to document persecution. Are persons fleeing war or war-related conditions such as famine and ethnic violence refugees? The Geneva Convention, the main international instrument of refugee law, does not specifically address the issue of civilians fleeing conflict, though in recent years major refugee movements have resulted from civil wars, ethnic, tribal and religious violence. However, UNHCR considers that persons fleeing such conditions, and whose state is unwilling or unable to protect them, should be considered refugees. Some countries, particularly in western Europe, argue that civilians fleeing generalized war or who fear persecution by non-governmental groups such as militias and rebels, should not be given formal refugee status. Who helps the internally displaced Internally displaced persons IDPs flee their homes for the same reasons as refugees, but remain within their own country and are thus subject to the laws of that state. In some crises, and though it does not have a specific mandate in this area, UNHCR assists several million, but not all of the estimated million IDPs worldwide. These operations are initiated at the request of the U. Secretary-General or the General Assembly, with the consent of the country involved and have included recent crises in the Middle East, the Balkans, Africa and Afghanistan. Must every refugee undergo individual status determination? People who apply for refugee status normally need to establish individually that their fear of persecution is well-founded. An economic migrant normally leaves a country voluntarily to seek a better life. Should he or

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she elect to return home, they would continue to receive the protection of their government. Refugees flee because of the threat of persecution and cannot return safely to their homes in the prevailing circumstances. May governments deport persons who are found not to be refugees? Persons who have been determined, under an equitable procedure, not to be in need of international protection are in a situation similar to that of illegal aliens, and may be deported. However, UNHCR does urge that protection be granted to people who come from countries devastated by armed conflicts or generalized violence. The agency also advocates that rejected asylum seekers be granted the right to a review before being deported. Can a draft evader be a refugee? Every country has the right to ask its citizens to bear arms in periods of national emergency. However, citizens should have an equal right to conscientious objection. In cases where the option of conscientious objection is not observed, or where a conflict violates international norms, draft evaders who fear persecution on political or other grounds may be eligible for refugee status. Can a criminal be a refugee? A criminal who has received a fair trial for a common law offense and who flees his country to escape jail is not necessarily a refugee. However, a person accused of these or other non-political crimes, whether innocent or guilty, may also be persecuted for political or other reasons, and is thus not necessarily excluded from refugee status. Can a war criminal be a refugee? Persons who have participated in war crimes and violations of international humanitarian and human rights law - including the crime of terrorism - are specifically excluded from the protection accorded to refugees. In practice, especially during a mass exodus, it is sometimes difficult to separate persons suspected of serious human rights violations from bona fide refugees especially for a humanitarian organization such as UNHCR which is neither a police force or a judicial body. In the s, for instance, known violators were living in the huge refugee camps for Rwandans established in surrounding countries. The most viable solution is to provide support initiatives such as the international tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, to bring war criminals to justice. Can a soldier be a refugee? A refugee is a civilian. A person who continues to pursue armed action against his or her country of origin from the country of asylum cannot be considered a refugee. Can women facing persecution because they refuse to comply with social constraints be refugees? Women, like men, may be persecuted for political, ethnic or religious reasons. In addition, someone fleeing discrimination or severe persecution for her failure to conform to strict social codes has grounds to be considered for refugee status. Such persecution may emanate from a government authority or, in the absence of adequate government protection, from non-state actors. Sexual violence, such as rape, may constitute persecution. Such discrimination should have consequences that are significantly prejudicial. A woman who fears attack for her refusal to wear a chador or other restrictive clothing, or because of her desire to choose her own spouse and live an independent life, may qualify to be a refugee. In , the European Parliament determined that women facing cruel or inhumane treatment because they seemed to transgress social mores should be considered a particular social group for the purposes of determining refugee status. The United States and Canada have exhaustive guidelines relating to gender-based persecution, and there has been similar progress in Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Can a woman who fears that she, or her infant daughter, will be genitally mutilated claim refugee status? In France, the Netherlands, Canada and the United States, it has been officially recognized that genital mutilation represents a form of persecution and that this can be a basis for refugee status. In one case, a woman who feared persecution in her country because of her refusal to inflict genital mutilation on her infant daughter was recognized as a refugee. Is a person who fears persecution because of sexual orientation eligible for refugee status? Homosexuals may be eligible for refugee status on the basis of persecution because of their membership of a particular social group. It is the policy of UNHCR that persons facing attack, inhumane treatment, or serious discrimination because of their homosexuality, and whose governments are unable or unwilling to protect them, should be recognized as refugees. What is temporary protection? In such circumstances people can be speedily admitted to safe countries, but without any guarantee of permanent asylum. But it only complements, and does not substitute for the wider protection measures, including refugee asylum, offered by the Convention. Temporary protection should not be prolonged, and after a reasonable period of time UNHCR advocates that people

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benefiting from this should be given the right to claim full refugee status. Those rejected should, nonetheless, be allowed to remain in a country of asylum until it is safe to return. Refugees, especially the elderly, women and children, are often vulnerable to violence. Rape, in particular, is a common element in the pattern of persecution that drives refugee families from their homes, as civilians increasingly become the deliberate targets of sectarian warfare. Civilians may also be sexually assaulted during their flight and on arrival in their country of asylum, by officials, locals, or other refugees. UNHCR field staff attempt to prevent conditions that may encourage such assaults, offering victims special care and ensuring a proper legal follow-up which could include trials for suspected perpetrators. Preventive measures include improving camp layout or upgrading basic facilities such as lighting and walls and encouraging refugees to institute night patrols. How can unaccompanied children find their families? An unaccompanied minor is one "who is separated from both parents and for whose care no person can be found who by law or custom has primary responsibility. In the Rwandan crisis in the mid s, an estimated 67, children were reunited with their families. Voluntary repatriation is the preferred long-term solution for the majority of refugees. However, because of an ongoing threat of persecution or other reasons, some civilians cannot repatriate and are unable to live permanently in their country of asylum. In those circumstances, resettlement in a third country may be the only feasible option. Can refugees request resettlement in a specific country? In normal circumstances, no. But in the interests of family reunification, refugees may request resettlement in countries where their close family members are living. Which countries maintain a resettlement quota? Of the member states of the U. Other countries may consider submissions from UNHCR on a case by case basis, normally because of family reunion or strong cultural links. Governments are not always ready to adapt their quotas to rapidly changing needs, and often establish them in response to domestic interest groups, targeting specific nationalities. Resettlement countries may also turn down cases such as families with pressing medical problems, who may be more costly in terms of welfare payments, or who may have limited ability to integrate rapidly. In general, although some countries do accept difficult to place hardship cases, most resettlement countries prefer educated refugees with strong family and cultural links, an intact family structure, and a high likelihood of rapid integration. Such families may not always correspond to the pressing protection cases which UNHCR attempts to resettle.

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Chapter 8 : Vietnamese boat people - Wikipedia

The Vietnam War is reminiscent of yet another situation we see today with the refugee crisis, brought about by persecution and human rights violations. The following 10 facts will highlight the impacts of the war, developments and the extent to which humanitarian assistance aided the impoverished people.

Navy vessel during Operation Frequent Wind. In Spring , the armies of North Vietnam and the Viet Cong advanced rapidly southward and by early April the defeat and occupation of South Vietnam by the north was nearly certain. During the Vietnam War, nearly one million Vietnamese had been employed by the U. Fearing that rumors of evacuation would cause panic in the South Vietnamese population, extensive planning began only on April 18, when U. President Gerald Ford created an inter-agency task force headed by Julia Taft to "coordinate North Vietnamese rockets were fired at Tan Son Nhut on April 29, killing two American marines, and the airport was closed later that day. Thousands of Vietnamese and Americans were still clustered inside the American Embassy and in the streets around the Embassy awaiting evacuation. All that afternoon and night, military helicopters landed on the roof of the Embassy and carried evacuees to U. Tens of thousands of Vietnamese evacuated themselves, primarily by taking boats out to sea and demanding to be picked up by the navy. Early on the morning of April 30, the last Americans, 11 marines, were evacuated by helicopter from the Embassy roof. Many Vietnamese and third country nationals awaiting or hoping for evacuation were left behind. Most of them were taken by navy ships to Guam for processing to enter the United States and from there they were flown to one of four military bases: A few thousand refugees were resettled in other countries, especially Canada, or elected to return to Vietnam. The United States established a refugee office in Bangkok , Thailand headed by Lionel Rosenblatt , to process additional refugees for entry into the United States. Hmong people The Hmong and other highland peoples of Laos were U. By May , however, the communist armies were advancing on the last Hmong stronghold at Long Tieng. Fearing that the communists would carry out their threat to exterminate the Hmong, CIA agent Jerry Daniels organized an evacuation of close associates and Hmong military officers, including General Vang Pao , the Hmong commander. Using civilian aircraft and pilots, about 2, Hmong were evacuated by air to Thailand from May 10 to 14, Thousands died during the difficult journey. About 40, Hmong fled to Thailand in and more followed in the next few years. Lobbying by Americans who had worked with the Hmong caused a change in policy. The Hmong resettlement program continued until , the U. Laotian diaspora Along with the Hmong and other highland peoples a large number of lowland, ethnic Lao, crossed the Mekong River into Thailand. Between and , the number of Laotians refugees, including both Hmong and lowland Lao, totalled , Most of the lowland Lao fleeing their country were urbanized and educated; many were former employees of the U. Between and , , ethnic Lao were resettled worldwide. In , an estimated one to two million Hoa lived in Vietnam, and they owned or controlled most of the commerce of South Vietnam. After South and North Vietnam were united under a single communist government in , the new government began to transform the economy from capitalist to socialist. The people most affected were the Hoa. Between and , , Vietnamese refugees, mostly Hoa arriving by sea in Hong Kong, were resettled in other countries. More than 67, were repatriated to Vietnam. The "Boat People" see below were largely Hoa. In February , China invaded Vietnam and briefly occupied parts of the north. The Vietnamese government initiated a policy of encouraging the Hoa to leave the country and charging them a fee of several thousand dollars to do so. Because of the outflow, the Hoa population of Vietnam declined during the s. Vietnamese boat people Vietnamese boat people awaiting rescue. After the North Vietnamese takeover in April , one million or more people were sent to "re-education" camps, often for several years, and the government attempted to destroy private enterprise, especially businesses owned by the Hoa. In September , 1, "boat people" left Vietnam on an old ship and landed in Indonesia. That was the beginning of a flood of refugees arriving monthly by boat in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia , Hong Kong, and other countries. The number of boat people arriving monthly on foreign shores peaked at 56, in June Most of the boat people left

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Vietnam in decrepit, leaky, overcrowded boats. They encountered storms, shortages of water and food, and, most seriously, pirates in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand. Merchant ships encountering boats in distress often refused to pick up the refugees for fear that no country would allow them to unload the refugees. Thai and Malay pirates attacked many of the small boats, raping and kidnapping women and stealing the possessions of the passengers. Authorities of the countries where they arrived often "pushed off" the refugee boats, refusing to allow them to land. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees estimated that between 1975 and 1979, 150,000 boat people died at sea. At a UN conference on refugees in Geneva in July 1979, the Western countries agreed to accept 150,000 refugees per year, up from 50,000, for resettlement, to facilitate processing of refugees, and to contribute additional funds to refugee assistance. Most importantly, the Vietnamese government promised to stem the flow of refugees and to cooperate in the Orderly Departure Program under which Vietnamese could apply for resettlement without leaving their homeland. The numbers of boat people leaving Vietnam quickly dropped off to more manageable numbers. Resettlement continued until the 1980s. Under the Orderly Departure Program and Comprehensive Plan of Action more than 1,000,000 additional Vietnamese were resettled abroad between 1975 and 1995. Most of them were housed in Thai border camps until resettled abroad.

Cambodian humanitarian crisis Refugee houses in Nong Samet camp in Thailand. In the early days of the camp, refugees lived in tents or huts made of whatever material was available. The conquest of Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge in April 1975 caused an outflow of more than 1,000,000 ethnic Chinese, ethnic Vietnamese, and Cambodians to Vietnam despite the unsettled political conditions there. However, only a few thousand Cambodians escaped the Khmer Rouge to Thailand as the border was guarded and seeded with minefields. The Khmer Rouge and other resistance groups fled into the mountains and the border areas, but the people of the ravaged country—some one to three million of whom had been killed by the Khmer Rouge—faced starvation and hundreds of thousands of them arrived at the border of Thailand seeking food and safety. Most Cambodians were stopped at the border and took up residence in chaotic camps straddling the border between Cambodia and Thailand. Early arrivals at Sa Kaeo, mostly Khmer Rouge and their families fleeing the Vietnamese army, were in the last extremity of starvation. By the end of 1975, about 100,000 Cambodians were believed to be in Thailand, in the border camps, or near the border attempting to cross into Thailand. The Thai "pushed back" many of the Cambodians attempting to cross, most notably at Preah Vihear Temple where thousands of Cambodians died in a mine field. By January 1976, 10,000 Cambodians arrived every day on foot, bicycle, or oxcart, and each received 10 to 30 kilograms of rice. By January 1976, when the program ended, more than 1,000,000 Cambodians had received food, seeds, and farm implements and the threat of famine within Cambodia had abated.

Montagnard Vietnam About one million highland peoples, called Montagnards, lived in Vietnam in 1975. Although the Montagnards were firm allies of the United States, especially the Green Berets, very few of them were among the evacuees from Saigon. Their guerilla war against the Vietnamese communists continued for the next 15 years, and a few Montagnards fled across the border to remote, jungle areas of Cambodia sandwiched between the hostile Khmer Rouge and Vietnamese. The Montagnards were largely forgotten but in 1975, escaped to Thailand and were resettled in Raleigh, North Carolina. A few thousand have been resettled since 1975, mostly in the United States. Country Laotians including Hmong, other highlanders Cambodians.

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Chapter 9 : UNHCR - Protecting Refugees: questions and answers

North Vietnam violated Paris Accord and invaded South Vietnam, further caused the exodus of Vietnamese people. The core of it must be like this: The refugees from Vietnam were mostly religious, while communists were anti-religion.

Mike Molloy and James C. The ideology of the regime may be incompatible with the beliefs and practices of those who go into exile. Some flows are temporary and people are simply escaping from the terrors of war and will return home as soon as the fighting stops; in other cases, conflict seems interminable. When there is not, the refugees try to flee to an adjacent or nearby country, perhaps one sharing the ethnicity of the group pushed into exile. When there is no such area within the country or in countries of first asylum which do not share the ethnicity or religion of the population in flight, especially when first asylum countries reject receiving any more refugees, then resettlement abroad seems to be the only answer. The latter was the situation of Indochinese refugees who fled a combination of general oppression, ethnic cleansing and targeting of particular groups for persecution. The first phase of the exodus began in Cambodia with the assumption of power of the Khmer Rouge on 17 April when the Khmer Rouge captured Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. Very shortly after that, Saigon fell to the Viet Cong and North Vietnam on 30 April and the large exodus began, though many managed to escape with the departing Americans. The inevitable then followed in Laos. The long Laotian Civil War lasted with some intermissions from the withdrawal of the French in to the conquest of Vientiane by the Laotian communists, the Pathet Lao, backed by Vietnam in . The first phase of the exodus from all three countries in Indochina ran from until . The second phase took place between the end of until in a period of vast resettlement from countries of first asylum to countries of resettlement. The third phase took place from until when resettlement from refugee camps in South- East Asia ended for most with the creation of the Orderly Departures Program. By , there were estimated to be over , ethnic Vietnamese living in Canada: When taken all together, the population of Laotian, Cambodian, Vietnamese and ethnic Chinese from Indochina who came to Canada between and is estimated to have been , In , after the termination of the Vietnam War, dubbed by the Vietnamese as the "American War", Americans felt a special obligation to assist Vietnamese who had been associated with the American side in the conflict. The USA put pressure on its allies to assist in the humanitarian endeavour Called Operation Frequent Wind, including Canada, which, unlike Australia, had remained aloof from any military involvement in Vietnam. Canada offered a token response and took in 3, Vietnamese immigrants in and 2, in for a total of 5, By the end of , the total taken in had risen to 7, The Refugee Convention was used as a guideline for selecting refugees for resettlement. The situation changed in when more than , fled. This was a year in which almost all refugees from Vietnam were not ethnic Vietnamese but ethnic Chinese. Once before in , the Diem government had tried to break the dominant ethnic Chinese control of the Vietnamese economy but failed. The Ngo Dinh Diem regime in decreed that all Chinese born in Vietnam would automatically become Vietnamese citizens and in issued a decree nationalizing all categories of trade. Further, non- ethnic Vietnamese were excluded as butchers and fish mongers, rice or grain traders, in the trade of fuel 2 of approximately one million ethnic Chinese in South Vietnam had become Vietnamese citizens. In , Hanoi demanded that the ethnic Chinese register for the election of the National Assembly. The maintenance of the status quo was also helped by the utility of these businessmen to the Vietnam government in fostering regional trade. The crucial turning point was political rather than economic, though the economic crisis of as a result of crop failures that year and general economic mismanagement did not help. This coincided with a Communist Party of Kampuchea Central Committee directive instructing local officials to arrest all ethnic Vietnamese, all Khmer who spoke Vietnamese and even Khmer who had Vietnamese friends. The Pol Pot genocide began with the mass murder of the vast majority of those who had been arrested in the effort to purify Kampuchea of Vietnamese influences and to reclaim lost Khmer lands in Vietnam, primarily in the Mekong Delta. Hanoi began to fear the emergence of a fifth column and pressure was exerted on the ethnic Chinese in what had been North Vietnam. In February , China accused

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Hanoi of forcing an exodus of ethnic Chinese, especially in the border area as tens of thousands of the hundred thousand who fled streamed into China. In the Indochinese case, tens of thousands of ethnic Chinese from North Vietnam fled to and could be settled in China. For many more ethnic Chinese in the south, who had been businessmen and entrepreneurs or who had been identified in any way with the prior regime the Vietnamese middle class were generally opposed to living under communism, resettlement abroad was a preferable option. For the Vietnamese who had been expelled from Cambodia and were not sympathetic to the North Vietnamese government and for some of the refugees from the north opposed to communism, settlement in China respectively was out of the question. Pushed by domestic fears of "traitors", border fears of expansionist and hegemonic neighbours beginning in the Tay Bac and Viet Bac autonomous zones along the border coal, charcoal, fuel oil, and from the textile industry at both the wholesale and retail levels. However, the ethnic Chinese in Vietnam circumvented these decrees most frequently by taking on Vietnamese "partners" rather than becoming citizens. In March, partly to displace the blame for the economic failures, Hanoi decreed the end of bourgeois trade in the south. Though not initially on that scale, on 24 October an event took place which would serve as a catalyst to the change in refugee policy of the Canadian government. Singapore and Malaysia refused to allow the boat to dock. When ethnic Chinese aboard, the Hai Hong, a boat initially scheduled to be sold for scrap metal, attempted to repeat the "success" of the Southern Cross in late October, as expected, it was denied permission to dock in Port Klang, Malaysia. But the boat was in much worse condition than the Southern Cross and much more overcrowded when the Vietnamese government forced on board twice the number planned to be picked up. Stranded off shore and lacking food, water and adequate sanitary services, the story received front page and repeated news. The ill-fated boat intended to resume its voyage to Indonesia but ran into Typhoon Rita. The Malaysian authorities, unwilling to take in more than the 35, refugees that they had already admitted and unwilling to encourage boat traffickers, towed the boat out to sea. The news coverage took place in the aftermath of the changes to the Canadian Immigration Act that in part had established a separate provision for humanitarian movements as Designated Class Immigrants or humanitarian refugees that went beyond the definition of Convention Refugees, individuals who had to prove they had a well-founded fear of persecution. The new movement perfectly fitted into the new government policy and initiative, a situation recognized by Bud Cullen, the Minister of Immigration, as well as his senior officials. Further, in addition to the refugees from Vietnam that Canada had accepted in and, Canada had accepted an additional Indochinese refugees with little fanfare by the time of the Hai Hong incident and 4 Ethnic Chinese traders contributed to this perception by hoarding rice, contributing to the shortages and escalating both speculation and prices. Dara Marcus "The Hai Hong incident: Though the Hai Hong incident was initially portrayed in the media coverage primarily as rich ethnic Chinese fleeing Vietnam with enormous stocks of gold bars abetted by boat smugglers, the governments of Canada and Quebec were convinced that humanitarian factors coincided with economic interests and that these "refugees", like the Ugandan Asians before them, would be of benefit to Canada. The North Vietnamese had evolved into a regime that stole from the rich in multiple ways and pushed the ethnic Chinese minority and subsequently Vietnamese businessmen out of the country. Other international events would accelerate the flow of refugees. In the new year, the Sino-Vietnamese War ensued. China, seeing Russian expansionism via Vietnam as its proxy, invaded Vietnam. On 6 March, after six weeks China withdrew, declaring that their punitive mission had been achieved and that they had tickled the buttocks of the "tiger" the USSR without any response by the Soviet Union in spite of a mutual defence treaty signed between Hanoi and Moscow a month. Unlikely to have a close relative in Canada, designated class immigrants humanitarian refugees from Indochina had to speak English or French, pass a medical exam and have a desirable profession or trade that would benefit Canada. West Germany in total took 1, Hoover Institution Press, and O. Chapuis A History of Vietnam: From Hong Bang to Tu Duc. Against this background of regional inter-state and domestic ethnic and economic conflicts, by June of, over, refugees were waiting for resettlement in various camps in southeast Asia and the numbers continued to grow. Vietnam invaded another communist state, Cambodia. China was just beginning

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to stretch its wings and joined the IOC in April. By November, China was re-admitted to the Olympics.

Laotian Refugees The unity government of royalists and Pathet Lao began to dissolve as the royalists saw the writing on the wall when Saigon fell and the Pathet Lao forces on the Plain of Jars began advancing westward even before Saigon fell. The royalists chose acquiescence to the inevitable and royalist politicians and royalist military officers began to desert the government and flee to Thailand, quickly followed by officials and members of the business class. A totally separate exodus took place among the Hmong. As the victory of the Pathet Lao took place, on 5 May, the U.S. Just for days after the communists vowed to exterminate the Hmong. The evacuation, using three American planes, but without markings and flown by civilian pilots, began the airlift on 13 May, but in multiple forays back and forth were forced to leave many behind as the Pathet Lao closed in on 14 May forcing the end of the airlift. By the end of May, 40,000 Hmong had reached Thailand. Eventually, as many as 100,000 Hmong went into exile in Thailand. Most ended up in the US. Other Hmong fighters hid in mountains of Xianghouang Province for years, with a remnant emerging from the jungle only in 1975. After the Pathet Lao took over the country in 1975, the conflict continued in isolated pockets. By August, when the Pathet Lao arrived in Vientiane, they entered a virtually deserted city and initially kept in place the shell of the coalition government. The exodus from Laos consisted of three groups, Laotians associated with the Royalist regime, Hmong refugees and ethnic Chinese originating in Laos. So after all we could still touch the buttocks of the tiger. Of 100,000 who left in mostly unseaworthy craft, 45,000 were drowned or killed. In several weeks in November alone, 10,000 perished and the numbers fleeing by boat were increasing very rapidly in the last few months of 1975. For example, the numbers in flight in the spring of 1975 were estimated to be 1,000; by October, 10,000 were fleeing per month and the numbers were expected to rise to 20,000 per month by the spring of 1976. From 1975 to 1976, 75,000 fled to the west and 75,000 went into China. There were still 40,000 Indochinese refugees in transit camps in Malaysia and 100,000 in transit camps in Thailand. In April 1976, the U.S. On 29 November 1975, U.S. This would bring to 30,000 the number of "boat people" the United States would admit for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1976. In the Fall of 1975, the Nations High Commissioner for Refugees announced that it would convene a meeting in Geneva on December of more than 30 countries to seek international action on the Southeast Asian refugee problem. Beginning in 1975, 30,000 ethnic Chinese households in Vietnam were ordered to move to the New Economic Zones. From 1975, the program of resettlement became serious. Thousands of urban dwellers were forced to migrate to these areas. Though initially resisted and followed by mass arrests, the authorities responded with disciplined determination and ruthlessness. Ethnic Chinese in Vietnam began to pay 10 taels of gold per person to leave Vietnam, a process fuelled by both ethnic Chinese entrepreneurship, government complicity and racism. This policy and practice of the Vietnamese government was a major factor in the boat people crisis of 1975. In September 1975, China claimed that more than 100,000 Chinese ethnic refugees from Vietnam had been driven across the border, though some also arrived by sea. The name was reinforced by the predominant imagery of rickety overstuffed boats of desperate people with many of the boats capsizing, running out of fuel and water, attacked by pirates and being shoved back out to sea by Malaysian authorities. If it was not enough to suffer oppression and expulsion, they also soon encountered rejection by others. Jews fleeing Nazi Germany in 1939 immediately came to mind. The identification of the Indochinese with the Jews fostered guilt among Western countries that had failed to come to the rescue of Jews who managed to flee by boat in 1939, forty years before. Though most passing ships under the International Laws of the Sea rescued the human cargo lest they drown, many ships passed without offering aid. Those that rescued refugees, tried to offload their passengers at nearby countries which then prevented the ships from landing.