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**NEW  
PUBLICATION**

## Asylum—A Moral Dilemma

By W. Gunther Plaut

Toronto: York Lanes Press; ISBN 1-55014-239-9; 192 pages, indexed; \$19.90.

Every year the refugee landscape changes, but only in that more problems are added, fewer are solved, and all become constantly more urgent. Fuelled by the explosion of the world's population, the quest for asylum is one of the most pressing problems of our age. Refugee receiving nations—located frequently, but by no means exclusively, in the Western world—have to respond to masses of humanity searching for new livable homes. Human compassion for these refugees can be found everywhere, but so can xenophobia and the desire to preserve one's nation, economic well being, and cultural integrity. The clash between these impulses represents one of the great dilemmas of our time and is the subject of Plaut's study. In exploring it, he provides a far-ranging inquiry into the human condition.

The book presents political, ethnic, philosophical, religious, and sociological arguments, and deals with some of the most troublesome and heartbreaking conflicts in the news.

**Contents:** *The Issues*; Questions Without Answers; Definitions; Religion, Natural Law, and Hospitality; A Look

at History; Some Ethical Questions; Through the Lens of Sociobiology; Community and Individual; Contended Rights: To Leave, Return, Remain; *The Practice*; Refugees in Africa; Four Asian Lands; Glimpses of Europe and Central America; The North American Experience; The Sanctuary Movement; A Final Look; Appendix A: Egyptian and Hittite Treaties; Appendix B: Human Rights-Major Documents; Appendix C: Refugee Documents; Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees of 31 January 1967; Bibliography; Index.

**W. Gunther Plaut** is a senior scholar at the Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto. Born in Germany, where he received his doctor of laws, he fled Hitler's Reich for the United States where he became a rabbi, serving in Chicago, St. Paul, and since 1961 in Toronto. Plaut is the author of 19 books, including *Torah: A Modern Commentary* (with B. Bamberger). His recommendations on the refugee determination process, submitted in 1985 at the invitation of the Canadian government, had an impact far beyond Canada's shores.

*Asylum* is simultaneously published in the United States by Praeger Publishers.

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