

small Vietnamese child who knew only open fields and the seashore, was told by his parents during their flight for life that he was "sailing to freedom". Now growing to adulthood in a closed Hong Kong camp, he stares through the barbed wire fence and asks, "What is freedom?"

The book's concluding "Articles for Solutions" highlight the burden felt by the international community and the enormity of the problem for refugees. For example, in a *Globe and Mail* article published on February 24, 1989, Morton Beiser wrote about his recent field trip to refugee camps in Hong Kong. In this crowded city of 5.5 million people, refugees were placed in about six different open or closed camps. Approximately 3,000 refugees live in the San Yick camp, a concrete building. On the third to tenth floors, 400 to 500 refugees live stacked in three tiers of 4 by 8 foot wooden platforms: the lower tier is for families, the middle tier for single women and the top tier for single men. Security and protection for single women is nonexistent; they keep watch over each other or sleep during the day. On each of the floors of the building the refugees share one toilet, two showers and one large sink which is used for all washing purposes. Proper hygiene is almost impossible to manage; disease, infections and malnutrition are rampant. A four year old girl, an unaccompanied

minor, is alone in this atmosphere. As Dr. Beiser says, "Each refugee has his or her own private nightmare." The camp in Sham Shui Po district is not much better and houses 5,000 refugees. As in other countries today, newly arriving refugees are held in detention centres; in Hong Kong, newcomers wait pending repatriation to Vietnam. "Understandably" Beiser says, "one of the great fears in places such as Hong Kong is that, as Canada and other countries of permanent asylum close their doors, refugees will cease to be a world problem, leaving nations that provide initial sanctuary to their own devices."

Clearly, the problem of "displaced persons" and "economic migrants" needs to be sorted out with respect to a reformulation of the definition of "refugee". Conditions placed on humanitarianism do not help the refugee, and closing borders does not resolve the refugee crisis. In the Neuwirth and Rogge article, the sentiment of Thailand's former Secretary-General of National Security gives pause for thought: "Thailand gives assistance to refugees *on the basis of humanitarian considerations*. Western Countries resettle refugees *on the basis of immigration considerations*."

We know that state policies have changed since this book was published and that the refugee situation has reached global crisis proportions. But the volume

of scholarly articles is a valuable contribution to refugee research, particularly the first-hand positions and situations of refugees in countries closest to the core, and those in the secondary and tertiary spheres of activity. They highlight the fact that all of the countries in these three concentric rings spreading out from the refugee producing centre in Indochina are closing their doors, some with a louder slam than others. Canada, with its unique policy for Designated Class refugees and sponsorship programmes continues to uphold its humanitarian intake. But the overall external pressures, or resistances wash the problem back onto the shores of those countries in closer proximity, or to those directly bordering the refugee producing centre. What we are seeing today then is what may be termed, in the abstract, the "standing wave" effect. In reality, it is the human life of refugees that is caught and crushed between the push and the pull of staying alive. Thus, for government, agencies, academics and refugees, this book presents a collective, staggering reminder that there is much work yet to be done.

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New Publications

- J. Bruce Nichols and Gil Loescher, editors, *The Moral Nation: Humanitarianism and U.S. Foreign Policy* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame, 1989). This volume critically examines the role of the U.S. government and private agencies in providing relief aid to human rights victims, refugees, and famine victims. It illustrates the difficulties of reconciling principles and politics in the administration of U.S. humanitarian policy and addresses the controversial topics of asylum and sanctuary for refugees from violence-torn areas such as Central America as well as looks at the actual mechanics of recent U.S. famine and refugee assistance in the Horn of Africa.
- Renée Hirschon, *Heirs of the Greek Catastrophe: The Social Life of Asia Minor Refugees in Piraeus* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989). This rare ethnographical study of Kokkina, an urban locality, over fifty years after its settlement by refugees following the war between Greece and Turkey which ended in 1922, provides insights into the phenomenon of ethnicity and demonstrates through anthropological analysis the strength of cultural values in transcending material deprivations.
- Gil Loescher and Laila Monahan, editors, *Refugees and International Relations* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989). The essays in this book are by leading experts in refugee protection and assistance, and examine some of the most pressing issues facing the international community today. They cover such topics as military attacks on refugee camps, voluntary repatriation, and the future of third country settlement, and point towards new directions in policy and practice.
- *1988 Annual Report on the Human Rights Situation in Peru* (Toronto: Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America, 1989). A concise but meticulous report on the deteriorating economic and political situation in Peru during 1988, a year which saw a marked increase in human rights violations by guerrilla, military and paramilitary forces. In all likelihood this will result in an increased flow of refugees from Peru. The report ends with a series of recommendations to the Canadian government.



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