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REFUGEE ISSUES IN MODERN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The refugee crisis is one of the most pressing challenges in modern international relations. Armed conflicts, political instability, economic crises, and climate change drive mass displacement. This paper examines key issues, including legal uncertainties, socio-economic burdens, security concerns, and integration difficulties. It explores solution strategies such as strengthening legal frameworks, enhancing international cooperation, promoting integration programs, and increasing support for host countries. A coordinated global response is essential to protect refugees while ensuring stability in host communities.

Keywords: refugees, international cooperation, migration, integration, economy.

Challenges related to refugee issues have been affecting the system of international relations for a long time. Throughout the 20th century, during various international crises and conflicts, the global community faced the challenge of resolving refugee issues. The number of long-term international migrants (i.e., those who have lived abroad for more than a year) has steadily increased over the last four decades. According to data from the UN Population Division, in 1965 only 75 million people met this definition, rising to 84 million by 1975 and 105 million by 1985. Estimates indicate that in 1990 there were 120 million international migrants, the last year for which detailed international statistics were available. Studies of internal migration data from individual countries suggest that international migration continued at approximately the same growth rate throughout the 1990s. As of 2000, according to estimates prepared by this author for the International Organisation for Migration, there were 150 million international migrants. Globally, 281 million people were estimated to be international migrants—people who were born in another country and/or held foreign citizenship—in mid-year 2020 [2; 3, c. 2].

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The data makes it abundantly evident that, in the current framework of international relations, refugee crises are important and widespread. Another significant issue facing mankind as a result of an ongoing increase in migratory flows is the establishment of global regulatory organisations to oversee this process. Refugees are not a burden for a nation if migration policy is properly handled; rather, they present a chance for economic expansion, labour expansion, and production enhancement. Finding solutions to the problems that nations face is essential to achieving this.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The most problematic issue is the concentration of refugees in certain regions. Identifying solutions that respect victims' and their families' rights and provide access to justice and the truth. Promises of non-repetition and compensation for the victims.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study's main goal is to research the impact of modern conflicts on refugee problems and ways to solve them.

RESEARCH METHODS

The main methods applied by the authors: the general scientific principles of historicism, objectivity, and systematicity. A comprehensive and systematic approach was used, which allowed for a holistic, comprehensive, and consistent consideration of the problem.

MAIN TEXT

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal, and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries. 73% of all refugees and other people in need of international protection come from just five countries: Afghanistan, Syria, Venezuela, Ukraine, and Sudan. [4].

One of the issues is the concentration of refugees in certain regions. Most people choose highly developed countries with good employment opportunities and refugee programs. On the one hand, this is understandable and logical, but on the other, it creates certain inconveniences and challenges for the governments and populations of host countries. In particular, overpopulation in certain cities or regions leads to a lack of jobs for the local population. It also causes an increase in housing costs and, consequently, difficulties in renting, as prices rise according to demand. Often, residents are forced to become migrants themselves and relocate due to such problems.

From an economic perspective, it is worth considering both advantages and disadvantages. First, let's discuss the disadvantages, including the pressure on the social security system. In the short term, refugees may require government

assistance (housing, social benefits, medical care), which adds pressure to the budget. In some sectors, competition for jobs may increase, potentially affecting wages or unemployment rates among the local population. Countries support and help refugees integrate into the new environment by funding language training, adaptation, retraining, and integration programs, which can be an expensive process. If refugees face employment difficulties or fail to integrate, this can lead to social conflicts or the creation of poverty-stricken areas. Most of these issues arise when there is an excessive number of refugees concentrated in a specific region.

Regarding the benefits of migration for countries, it is important to note the filling of labour shortages. This applies to countries experiencing population ageing (especially in Europe and North America), leading to labour shortages in certain sectors (construction, elderly care, agriculture). Refugees can fill these vacancies, supporting economic growth. New residents consume goods and services, stimulating the economy, particularly in housing construction, retail, and food services, thus boosting trade development. If a country implements a successful migration policy and ensures the rapid adaptation of refugees and immigrants, they often start their businesses, contributing to economic growth and job creation. Over time, refugees begin to work, pay taxes, and contribute to pension and social funds.

It is important to remember that the integration process is a multi-stage, intricate process that encompasses social, economic, cultural, and political elements if we view it as a component of an effective migration policy. State policies, the local population's readiness to live with newcomers, and the refugees' efforts will all play a part in its success.

First and foremost, refugees face legal challenges. The laws regarding refugees vary between countries, as do the procedures for obtaining refugee status or residence permits. That is why migration policy development usually considers simplifying bureaucratic procedures for legalising refugee status in another country. Refugees who stay in a country for a long time, live there permanently, and pay taxes may, after a certain period (depending on the country), be eligible for citizenship. Educational integration often includes language courses in the host country (for example, Germany offers this opportunity to migrants). For children, special adaptation classes or school placements may be provided. Students from other countries may qualify for scholarships or grants on preferential terms (Sweden provides state subsidies for refugee education in local universities). As mentioned earlier, refugees need jobs, so there are support programs for refugees or social benefits for initial support (for example, Canada has mentorship programs for faster labour market adaptation). If one seeks help at their country's embassy, they can receive recommendations or assistance in finding housing and accessing medical care. Successful integration depends not only on the quality or quantity of assistance provided by the country but also on

the efforts of refugees to adapt. Integration contributes to economic growth, social stability, and cultural exchange [1, c. 13].

Having considered the main challenges associated with the refugee issue, it is worth highlighting strategies for addressing these problems. A key element in solving these issues is strengthening international cooperation, which includes close interaction between states, international organizations, and civil society. Effective mechanisms for distributing responsibility must be created to avoid overloading individual countries. It is also necessary to regulate the acceptable number of refugees per country to prevent economic and labour market strain. Ensuring proper housing conditions, access to medical services, education, and the labour market will help reduce social tensions and promote refugee integration into the new society. Overall, the primary goal of the international community should be to address the root causes that force people to leave their homes. This includes combating wars, supporting stability in refugees' countries of origin, and promoting economic development in these regions.

CONCLUSION

The refugee issue remains one of the most complex challenges in international relations. It requires a comprehensive approach that includes both humanitarian and political aspects. The only way to effectively alleviate the pain of millions of people and maintain world stability is for the international community to work together. It is crucial to realize that, with well-planned integration procedures, refugee flows can both be a burden and a chance for societal advancement.

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