

Refugee Rights: The Ethical Dilemma

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Individual refugees, do not pose any big social or economic burden on the host population, however exodus of large population poses a heavy burden. Yet, huge exodus of immigrants is not a usual phenomenon, except at the time of disasters like revolutions, genocides, famine, mass-murderous wars and civil conflicts as of French, Polish, Gypsies and Jews during WWII, during civil wars as in Bosnia, N. Ireland, Cyprus, East Pakistan, Congo, Afghanistan etc., after defeat in wars as of Germans from Poland, Czechoslovakia and other European colonies after WWI and WWII.

However, such conflicts are not always natural and sudden but have often been pre-planned. For example, it was a standard policy of the ancient Roman Empire to displace whole conquered nations into other lands, to plant them into new lands and socially rearranged according to Roman conventions. Jews after Roman conquest of Judea 70 CE were enslaved and planted as Romans agents, mostly in Germany and other parts of Europe. Such policy continued in the Byzantine Empire, and the French, German, British, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and now the American empires. Those who refused were slaughtered en masse as Saxons were under Charlemagne. Similar was the fate of rebellious German women who neither fled nor yet accepted Pope and Emperors' hegemony; 100,000 German women were arrested, investigated and tortured by the priests, monks and Jesuits, 50,000 of whom were burnt alive or drowned. The same tactics were used against the unwilling Red Indians in America famously known as "Trail of Tears" for their 1000 miles long travel on foot.

New powers displaced unfavorable populations and planted their favorite tribes and nations in their areas of influence, this creating exodus of large population e.g. wars by Byzantine and the Osmania Islamic Empires created waves of exodus of refugees which crossed the mountain range and arrived in Indian planes further displacing the local populations. According to Professor Asher Susser of the Tel Aviv University, the Jewish refugees started arriving in Palestine after WWI in accordance with the British mid-war promise of creation of Israel, there started the emigration of Palestinians. Soon after WWII as Israel started its nationhood in 1948, it started expanding, particularly after the Arab-Israel wars, Israel controlled most of Palestine and parts of Syria and had a strong influence in Lebanon, and other countries around.

As the politically inexperienced and an eye surgeon Bashar el-Assad took over as the president of Syria and allied himself with Iran, the delicate balance of power in Middle East started crumbling. Saudi Arabia, had been able to create its vast Islamic Sunni spiritual Empire, it recently bought a huge amount of weapons, translating its spiritual empire into a physical empire, on the line of Byzantine and Osmania Empires. While Iran with Shia powers and populations is proving to be a challenge to it.

Direct destabilization and destruction of Iraq by the US and its indirect support for the civil wars in Syria, Yemen and Libya has turned the whole area into turbulence. ISIL duly resulted as a reaction to the US destruction of Iraq and it has started killing Syrians and Iraqis en masse; Israel

sees this as its area of expansion. Suddenly there were strategic Paris and Brussel bombings after which thousands of Jews immigrated to Israel, as have happened after pre-planned anti-Jewish bombs and harassment of Jews in Middle East, as Israel needed more Jewish refugees for its expansion.

ISIL, the American supported anti-Assad rebels, and Israeli undercovers and Western Christian mercenaries started killing people en masse while the Western Christian powers like US, Britain, Canada, Australia, The Netherlands etc. started indiscriminate mass-murders and destruction, killing people by unjustified aerial bombardments, forcing large number of people to seek refuge in Turkey, Jordan, Germany and other European countries. And it is a pity that it is their only chance of survival....

Implications on the host countries: Germany and some other countries have welcomed refugees with open arms, however, such a large number of refugees means a whole lot of problems with economy, health, housing, food, clothing, transport and policing etc. Some of these problems may be seen as temporary, which education, assimilation, integration and later return of refugees may solve, however, problems of national identity and culture of the host countries may find itself under attack. Lebanon's culture and identity changed from Shia to Sunni because of the influx of a large number of Palestinian refugees, a strategy already applied during Western Christian wars of Counter-Reformation. Some may say that the influx of huge number of less developed refugees may be as challenging as the influx of less sophisticated Germanic tribes into the Roman Empire. The rights of refugees have to be balanced with the right of the host population, and that is the dilemma, which always have two horns.

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