

BOOK REVIEW

Migration, Refugees and Human Security in the Mediterranean and MENA

By Marion Boulby and Kenneth Christie (eds.)

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Migration is not a new phenomenon, as globalization through transformations in communication and transportation has led to movements of people and the widespread exchanges of goods and services for centuries. The most remarkable point within this period is the last two decades, in which the movement of forcibly displaced people and refugees has become more noticeable. Such movement is shaped by economic, social and cultural push and pull factors. Since 2010, the Arab uprisings in particular have sparked many political conflicts, instabilities and displacements of people in the Mediterranean and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Eventually, an immense migration combined with refugees fleeing conflict became concentrated in MENA. For the last 20 years, the MENA states have occupied the center of this migration movement: they are countries of origin, as well as destination and transit stations. Amid all of this mobility, today, the greater part of attention is paid to human security and human vulnerability related to the upsurge of refugees fleeing crises in the MENA states.

Migration, Refugees and Human Security in the Mediterranean and MENA provides both the theoretical basis and empirical content of migration practices within the geographical region of MENA. The theoretical framework is built on the concept of human security and from this point of view, the context is limited to the human security of migrants related to the states' policies and globalization. Thus the main subjects of discussion are globalization, migration, human security and migration policies. Considering the main concepts and the focus region of the book, the authors aim to answer three essential questions in regard to the human security crisis in MENA. The first question has to do with human security for the people affected by

the refugee crisis. The second question involves defining the push and pull factors of the migrants and refugees and determining the most vulnerable populations in the crisis. The third question aims to address how policies and interventions in the region are conducted at the national and international level.

The structure of the book is designed around three parts that are divided thematically into ten chapters. The first part of the book presents an enlightening theoretical explanation of the concept of human security as it applies to twenty-first century migration and refugees. Kenneth Christie's introductory chapter provides multiple points of view about migration by taking Europe as the refugees' destination, the Mediterranean as their transit route and the MENA states as the source of forced migration. This theoretical first part is supported by two other chapters that dwell on the concepts of the sovereignty of states and human security. In the second chapter, Nergis Canefe discusses the ad hoc policies of the Middle East states that attempt to manage forced migration, and tries to redefine sovereignty in terms of human security, especially highlighting the Syrian crisis. As for the contribution of Katleen Marion, this third chapter gives a global overview of the most vulnerable members of the refugee crisis—children and youth—in terms of human security, protection and international legal procedures.

The second part of the book focuses on case studies, which constitute the empirical framework of the volume. The authors elaborate mainly upon three different countries to enrich and strengthen the first part. Considering the fusion of the two first parts, it is highly valuable to find theory and practice together in a single volume.

Stephan D. Perham sheds light on the concept of the mitigation of forced displacement and the refugee and migration crisis with reference to Uganda's refugee-hosting model in the fourth chapter. The mitigation concept is widely considered in terms of cause and effect relationships in this chapter. The second country taken as a case study is examined by Julia Rutz; in her contribution to the volume, the fifth chapter seeks to understand the role of non-state actors in procuring human security in failing states where the state itself becomes a push factor for migration. Among the MENA states, Palestine is chosen as the case study because the role of non-state actors is more distinguishable where the deficiency of the official authorities is considerable. In the final chapter of the second part, Nur Köprülü seeks to understand the role of the international

community in relation to the concept of human security and the responsibility to protect related to the refugee crisis in Syria and Turkey. From this point of view, the author argues for the effectiveness of humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect in light of international practices and the United Nations charters.

It is significant to notice that this collected work isn't a mere combination of a theoretical framework and case studies. Instead, it is strengthened by remarks regarding the future of human security and migration in MENA in the third part. Considering the Syrian refugee crisis process over several years, in the seventh chapter Marion Boulby focuses on how the Jordan government's securitization policy defeats human security and instead generates perpetual challenges for Syrian refugees residing in Jordan. The author's multidimensional perspective contributes to eliminating the vulnerability of human security in the MENA region by proposing solutions. Another context regarding human security and migration is introduced in the eighth chapter by Robert James Hanlon; namely the strict nexus between human trafficking, smuggling, refugees and the private sector in the MENA region. Non-traditional business, hiring illegal workers and causing precarious working conditions threaten human security in the region, as do human trafficking and the flow of smuggling toward Europe from the MENA region. After asserting that this nexus will grow in the coming years, Hanlon presents three recommendations to the private sector to prevent human rights from becoming more fragile. Finally, in the ninth chapter, policy responses regarding the securitization of migration into the European Union as an international community are questioned by Rute Baptista. The author summarizes the actions of the European Union as too little and too late considering the measures taken in terms of the living conditions of the refugees and the gravity of the number of deaths certain to continue until the EU takes action. In this context, the author's reflection that the EU countries are more concerned with ensuring their border security and preventing asylum seekers from entering their countries than they are with prioritizing human security continues to manifest itself today.

This collected work is an important contribution to developing migration literature in its formal and contextual aspects. In terms of form, the methodological division of the book into three parts, which contain theoretical, empirical and future-oriented chapters respectively, is an integrated element of the book that makes it easy to read and follow. In terms of the context, starting from a single geography, the book covers various aspects of the region

in detail and presents the triangle of MENA, migration and human security in an enlightening way. To sum up, within the context of migration and human security, the goal of each chapter is to reveal the underlying factors of the human security and migration crisis and still, each chapter underlines the fact that the human security and migration crisis is due to some man-made factors, such as protectionist state policies, ineffective international responses and the persistence of violence. It seems inevitable that the diversity of this book will ensure its status as a qualified example for future studies in other regions where migration is intense.

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