Forum: GC4
Issue: The cultural integration of refugees in their host countries
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Introduction

This issue of cultural integration of refugees is part of one of the most imperative and polarising issues of this decade. Although cultural integration is paramount to the success of the assimilation of refugees, there are also a few other parts to the puzzle that can determine the success of cultural integration. We will not discuss them in this report, but two of them are local integration and the international legal framework.

Social and Cultural integration is the least straightforward part of „Integration as a three-way process." The process of naturalisation and assimilation is an ongoing, complex problem with myriads of solutions, but in general no perfect ones. In order for the solutions to come to fruition, an understanding of the physiological aspect of the refugees is crucial to deciphering how much is needed to properly assimilate them into cultural. Deep collaboration must be reached between the county, state, country, and refugee. Although this problem might sometimes look like a paradox, it is extremely important and feasible to solve.

Definition of Key Terms

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) -
UNHCR assists refugees by local integration, voluntary repatriation, or resettlement to their country.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)- An organization that offers advice and services for migrant workers, refugees, and internally displaced persons.

Refoulement - The forcible return of refugees or asylum seekers to a country where they are liable to be subjected to persecution.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)- A document adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The document consists of 30 articles confirming individual rights.

International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (*ICCPR)-* A treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966 which requires the respect of the right to live, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, electoral rights, right to due process, and right to a fair trial.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) - A treaty which, adopted at the United Nations General Committee in 1966, grants economic, cultural, and social rights to individuals.

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)- A task force created by the United Nations Security Council to train Afghan forces and assist them in rebuilding their government.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP) - Are people that are forced to flee from their home, but do not leave their country. Although they are not considered a legal refugee, they are normally referred to as refugees.

Host Country - A country which refugees flee to and reside in. Most refuges do not become a resident or citizen of their host country, but will illegally reside there.

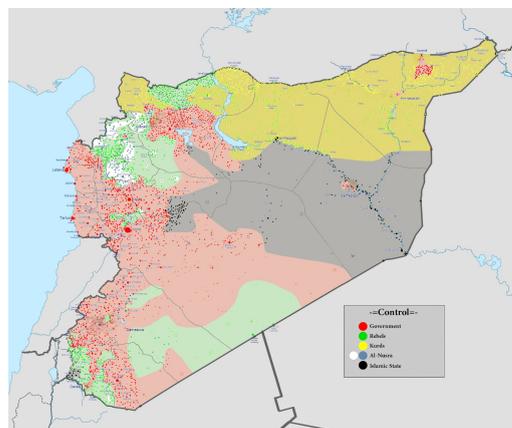*Repartitions* - The return of someone to their own country.

Background Information

Earlier History:

From the beginning of time people have been fleeing their home country for various reasons and assimilating into new cultures and environments. After Prophet Mohamad faced persecution in Mecca, he sought refuge in Medina. That is one of the earliest examples, but another would be the Mayflower voyage, which brought citizens of England to a new land promising religious freedom. In the beginning of our time, cultural and social integration was not as big of an issue. The population was not very high and one could travel miles and miles without finding anyone. Today one can barely find anywhere were there is absolutely no one. Culturally there was some difference though. If we go back to the Mayflower again, one might remember the vast differences between the Native Americans and the „refugees.“ Although it was far easier to assimilate back then, now we have issues of vast religious differences, cultural differences, and technological differences.

Syrian Refugee Crisis

The Syrian Refugee began with the uprises against the Bashar al-Assad which the public thought was it has been enough time since they have been in control of Syria. There were many demonstrations against the government by the armed rebel forces which were backed up by Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The small protests turned into an all armed war between the Syrian Government and the Government was armed by Iran and Russia. The Supporters of the government were mostly Shia while the rebels were made up of Sunni muslims.

A calculated amount of 11 million Syrians have fled their homes since the uprising of the common war in March 2011. Presently, in the 6th year of the war, 13.5 million are in need of help. Those that are escaping the conflict, the greater part have searched for asylum in neighboring countries. Information from the (UNHCR), estimates 4.8 million have fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, and 6.6 million are inside uprooted inside Syria. Then around one million have asked for entrance to Europe.

■=Government ■=Rebels ■=Kurds ■=Islamic State

Rohingya Refugee Crisis (Myanmar)

The Rohingya Refugee Crisis began in the last decade due to the violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State that is causing hundreds of thousands of citizens and residents to flee into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The refugees are mostly severely traumatised for myriads of reasons for example being rapped and seeing villages burned down. The refuges have basic health care, food, and water but most do not have proper shelters. The UNHCR and IOM have created a Joint Response Plan to attempt to fix these problems. According to OCHA(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian affairs) as of November 18 2018, the Joint Response Plan was 71% funded. The United States has taken in over 15,000 refugees from Rohingya, with the largest amount being in Chicago. Even though many countries have taken thousands of citizens, the refugee crisis still remains to be an unsolved problem. The UNHCR requires far more funding for camps around Myanmar and more support from countries around the world.
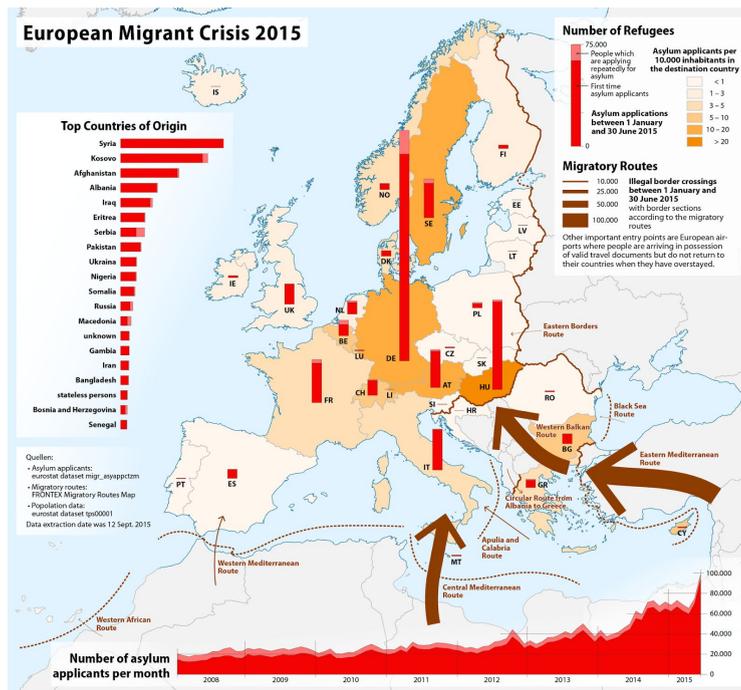

Finding safe haven in Bangladesh

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have left their ethnic homeland of Rakhine State for the district of Cox's Bazar in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Current Crisis:

The situation has grown more complicated due to multiple situations. One of the biggest problems is the elaborate laws in each country dealing with refugees and their various penalties. When a refugee flees his home land, he must cross the border into a new land with the worry of losing everything he has worked for. The previous process of simply crossing into a new land, has been replaced with a complex and risky process, different in every country.

In Europe 57% of refugees have come from South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Syria. Civil Wars have been the largest cause of refugees fleeing in the world. Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan are the three largest host countries currently in the world. In recent decades, the UN has created councils and committees for solving this refugee problems. In 1949 The High Commissioners Office for Refugees was established and one year later their statues were adopted. International civil rights have also been established and the Refoulement has been declared illegal in Europe. Although these statues and rights have been international adopted, there remains a large refugee problem with the world unsure of what the next step is. Pakistan, is asking that all undocumented refugees, nearly 1.6 million, return back to Syria. In Afghanistan the crime and danger

Timeline of Major Events

December 10, 1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights established
3 December 1949	The United Nations General Assembly established a High Commissioner's Office for Refugees
14 December 1950	United Nations adopted the statue of the UNHCR
23 August 1977	Principle of Non-Refoulement was established by the UNHCR
1979	Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan
1992	The Afghanistan Civil war began
2011	The Syrian Civil war began and more than 11 million Syrian citizens and residents fled Syria.
2006	79% of refugee shelters in Bangladesh are flooded during the rainy season causing thousands of refugees to lose their homes.

Major Countries and Organisations Involved

Syria, Afghanistan, and South Sudan:

57% of all refugees come from Syria, Afghanistan, and South Sudan. Afghan refugees are citizens of Afghanistan that have fled their countries due to major and minor wars. In 1979 the first big refugee fleeing crisis occurred when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan. Citizens fled to Iran and Pakistan until the war ended in 1989 when some of those citizens returned back to their hometowns. Then in 1992 a civil war broke up when the mujahideen invaded Kabul and other prominent cities in Afghanistan. Residents then fled again to neighbouring countries. Until 2013 Afghanistan had held the greatest refugee producing title for 32 years. Then in 2013 Syria received this title. In 2011 the Syrian War started one of the largest refugee crisis the world has ever had. More than five million refugees flew to host countries around Syria and more than six million where internally displaced in Syria. The largest country receiving refugees was Turkey with over 3.5 million refugees fleeing from Syria. South Sudan has recently become the third largest refugee crisis. Due to desertification and prolonged combat resulting in violence and famine, citizens are fleeing to nearby countries.

Pakistan:

Pakistan holds nearly 1.4 million refugees registered from Afghanistan. Although it is estimated that there are nearly 3 million refugees in Pakistan. Due to stability in Afghanistan deteriorating further, voluntary repatriations have almost completely ended. Refugees, even those born in camps in Pakistan, live the constant fear of being forced out of the country due to security reasons.

Iran:

There are almost one million registered refugees in Iran, according to UNHCR. The vast majority of these refugees have fled from Afghanistan. Iran was one of the first countries to create progressive and inclusive refugee policies. The government has also created school specially for the refugee crisis and has required every child to attend school regardless of documentation. Because of this, 48,000 undocumented students were able to attend school in Iran.

Turkey:

Since 2011, Turkey has had one of the largest refugee problems in the world. With over 3.5 million Syrians fleeing to Turkey, Turkey has taken a hefty role in the problem. In 2011, Turkey gave free health care and a home for the Syrian refugees, but in 2018 Turkish officials has announced that they want Syrian refugees to return back to Syria. This occurred after the Turkish military had multiple victories in northern Syria and opened the possibility to refugees to return back. Most Syrian refugees have indicated that they do not feel that Syria is safe and will not leave their new life they have created in Turkey.

UNHCR:

The United Nations High Commissioners for Refugee Organisation is the leading organisation fighting for rights of refugees around the world. It was setup by the United Nations to protect refugees by assisting in voluntary repatriation, resettlement in a third country, the establishment of schools and health facilities, and providing local integration help. The UNHCR has established many schools throughout crucial countries such as Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan. It has also setup health care and setup programmes for refugees to receive basic forms of health care even if they are undocumented. The UNHCR continues to solve problems of the refugee problem through volunteer programmes, refugee camps, and awareness for example.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

• UNHCR statute
(UNHCR, 1950)

• Principle of Non-Refoulement

MUNESCO

(UN General Assembly, 1977)

Possible Solutions

- More organizations, such as the UNHCR, could be setup to provide free and supportive help in cultural assimilation to refugees. Organizations that are more specific to the problem of cultural integration could be setup. The UNHCR is a very broad organization dedicated to the whole problem and therefore is not able to do that much with the cultural integration aspect. The United Nations could setup a new organization completely dedicated to this.

- An international „refugee bill of rights" could be established by the United Nations to offer all refugees, regardless of host country or home country, necessary rights. With these rights, refugees would be able to feel less threatened and there would possibly be less undocumented refugees. Some of these rights could include, easier ways to apply for citizenship, free primary health care, or schooling for all refugees.

- More International Refugees Camps could be setup to allow refugees to stay in a familiar environment with the same language and cultural. The United Nations could commission countries to create an international refugee camp offering asylum to all refugees. Refugees would not have the constant fear of getting deported if this was created.

Useful Links For Further Research

- https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264085350-5-en.pdf?expires=1549706861&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=041F49548FA735C5C45FFE290AFEF7DE - The OECD website can give you plenty of information about the current refugee crisis and information about the refugee that have found a host country. There are plenty of articles or published documents to talk about

- https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2018/05/Robila_EGM_2018.pdf - The article published by the EU parliament has tons of examples and information about the refugees that inhabit the European countries. By following the article you can find a lot of data about the refugees and their cultural integration into the EU societies.

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