

## Refugees in Twentieth-Century Britain

This timely history explores the entry, reception and resettlement of refugees across twentieth-century Britain. Focusing on four cohorts of refugees – Jewish and other refugees from Nazism; Hungarians in 1956; Ugandan Asians expelled by Idi Amin; and Vietnamese ‘boat people’ who arrived in the wake of the fall of Saigon – Becky Taylor deftly integrates refugee history with key themes in the history of modern Britain. She thus demonstrates how refugees’ experiences, rather than being marginal, were emblematic of some of the principal developments in British society. Arguing that Britain’s reception of refugees was rarely motivated by humanitarianism, this book reveals the role of Britain’s international preoccupations, anxieties and sense of identity; and how refugees’ reception was shaped by voluntary efforts and the changing nature of the welfare state. Based on rich archival sources, this study offers a compelling new perspective on changing ideas of Britishness and the place of ‘outsiders’ in modern Britain.

Becky Taylor teaches modern British history at the University of East Anglia. She is the (co)author of four other books, including *Another Darkness, Another Dawn: A History of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers* (2014) and *A Minority and the State: Travellers in Britain in the Twentieth Century* (2008).

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# Refugees in Twentieth-Century Britain

*A History*

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Becky Taylor  
University of East Anglia



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To Xen Hasan  
Who spent her life crossing borders

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## Acknowledgements

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It has become conventional, at this point, to thank one’s family and partner. In my case I suspect that, like me, they are simply glad it is finally done.

## List of Abbreviations

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AAC	Academic Assistance Council
ACC	Association of County Councils
ATS	Auxiliary Territorial Service
BAME	Black, Asian and minority ethnic
BAWS	British Asian Welfare Society
BCAR	British Council for Aid to Refugees
BCRC	British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia
CCWEU	Co-ordinating Committee for the Welfare of Evacuees from Uganda
CND	Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
CPAG	Child Poverty Action Group
CRO(s)	Community Relations Officer(s)
CRC(s)	Community Relations Council(s)
CUKC(s)	Citizen(s) of the United Kingdom and Colonies
DHSS	Department of Health and Social Security
DP(s)	Displaced Person(s)
EEC	European Economic Community
ESL	English as a Second Language
EVW(s)	European Voluntary Worker(s)
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
GAAR	Gloucester Association for Aiding Refugees
GLC	Great London Council
ILEA	Inner London Education Authority
IVS	International Voluntary Service
JCRV	Joint Committee for Refugees from Vietnam
LCC	London County Council
LEA	Local Education Authority
MOA	Mass Observation Archive
MP	Member of parliament
NAB	National Assistance Board
NAS	National Archives of Scotland
NCB	National Coal Board

## List of Abbreviations

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NETS	New and Expanding Towns Scheme
NETs	New and Expanding Towns
NGOs	Non-government organisations
NUM	National Union of Mineworkers
ODP	Orderly Departure Program
RAF	Royal Air Force
RVSA	Royal Voluntary Service Archive
SAO	Southeast Asia Outreach
SBC	Supplementary Benefits Commission
SCF	Save the Children Fund
UAB	Unemployment Assistance Board
UKPH(s)	United Kingdom Passport Holder(s)
URB	Ugandan Resettlement Board
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNRRA	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
WAAF	Women's Auxiliary Air Force
WRVS	Women's Royal Voluntary Service
WSPU	Women's Social and Political Union
WVS	Women's Voluntary Service
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

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