

Refugee Crises, 1945–2000

This timely study examines responses to mass refugee movements by a range of actors, from local communities to supranational organizations. Bringing together ten case studies from around the world, encompassing the global North and South alike, *Refugee Crises 1945–2000* explores a broad spectrum of types of migration and of international and domestic contexts. Although the driving forces and numbers of people involved, and the backgrounds (national, religious, social) of the migrants, vary considerably, this book highlights a common factor: each receiving country was confronted with the crucial question of how to deal with the arrival of a large number of people seeking refuge. They could not simply be sent away, but they were also widely seen in the receiving countries as an unpredictable challenge to stability and social cohesion. Taking a long-term perspective, this book is an eloquent contribution to the intense public debate about the impact of refugee migration on state stability, societal cohesion and as an impetus for social change.

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Refugee Crises, 1945–2000

Political and Societal Responses in International Comparison

Edited by

JAN C. JANSEN

University of Duisburg-Essen

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German Historical Institute, Washington, DC



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Acknowledgments

This volume grew out of a collaboration that was somewhat unusual for academic historians. In March 2016, the German Historical Institute Washington (GHI) teamed up with the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) at the World Bank and the German Embassy to the United States. Together, we organized a symposium that brought together experts working on refugee situations both past and present. The participants included scholars specializing in migration history, diplomats, and policy experts from international organizations and think tanks. During the symposium, we revisited major refugee situations in Europe and North America since the end of World War II. The dialogue between academics and policy experts during the symposium proved highly productive. The historians provided a broader context that helped challenge the widespread view that the 2015 European refugee crisis was unprecedented in dimensions and impact. The comparative historical perspective allowed for a wide-ranging debate about the factors that shaped particular refugee situations and the long-term consequences of sudden influxes of large numbers of refugees.

Realizing that the question of how societies and states respond to refugee crises has rarely been addressed from a comparative perspective, the symposium organizers and participants decided to embark on an ambitious examination of historical case studies: hence this book. The groundwork was laid at a follow-up meeting at the GHI in 2017 with an expanded group of scholars who put the question of responses to refugee crises in a global context.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to our partners in the original symposium. In particular, we want to thank Kirsten Schüttler of

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