

Migration, Refugees and Human Security in the Mediterranean and MENA*, Springer International Publishing; Palgrave Macmillan, 2018., 257 p. / *Migracije, izbjeglice i ljudska sigurnost na Mediteranu i MENA području

Marion Boulby, Kenneth Christie (eds.)

Marion Boulby, an Associate Professor of History at Trent University (Canada) and Kenneth Christie, a Professor and Program Head of the Masters in Arts in Human Security and Peacebuilding at Royal Roads University (Canada) have sought out to present a book that would fully encompass the issues of migration and refugees in the Mediterranean and surrounding areas. Together they have edited their book named *Migration, Refugees and Human Security in the Mediterranean and MENA*. The book has been published by Palgrave Macmillan, whose registered company is Springer International Publishing AG, based in Cham, Switzerland. It represents years of studying the causes and consequences of migration and its correlation with human security. Furthermore, it approaches the problems of migration and refugees from multiple viewpoints.

The book consists of three parts. The first two parts have three chapters each, while the last has four. The first part is titled "Migration, Refugees and Human security in the Twenty-First century". The first chapter of the book called "Introduction: Migration, Refugees and Human Security in the Mediterranean and MENA", written by professor Christie, deals with the theoretical aspects of human security, migration, and the (un)involvement of countries in such matters. It emphasizes the objective of this book, which is to explore in what way the concepts of migration, human security and the question of refugees are intertwined in the socio-political area of the Mediterranean and MENA.

The second chapter "Death of the Refugee: The Silence of Numbers", written by Negis Canefe, grapples with the migration policies of select countries from the Middle East, with the emphasis on the Syrian refugee crisis and its consequence on human lives. The policies of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Turkey are explored. The chapter gives a clear overview of the accomplishments, failures and struggles of said countries. It is also important to note, that the author states how Turkey, albeit of its own reason, is the only one out of these countries, that considers Europe as its partner in these matters.

This chapter is a must read to anyone who wishes to understand the migration policies of the countries in the MENA region.

“Children and Youth in the Refugee Equation: Working with the Vulnerable”, written by Kathleen Manion, is the third chapter of this book. It focuses on the well-being of refugee children in the MENA area, while also mentioning the global state of affairs in these matters. The dependency of a child to protective factors, such as: family staying together during relocation, guaranteed rights under UN etc., are paramount to their security. The author also explores the needs of a child during pre-departure from their home, journey, transit, resettlement, and finally the return to their respected homeland. The last segments of the chapter look to the international protection that a child enjoys, including the UNCRC, UNICEF, UNPD programme and others.

The second part of the book “Case Studies”, begins with the fourth chapter titled “Causes and Mitigation”, by Stephanie D. Perham. The author explores the causes of the global refugee and migration crisis and offers several ideas on how to ease its pressure. Firstly, the author describes her time in Ethiopia and Uganda in 2013, where she interviewed and talked to refugees from numerous countries about their forced displacements and the threat to their security in their countries. Secondly, Perham outlines the state of refugee rights and problems within the MENA region, where quite a few number of countries do not fully implement the 1951 Refugee Convention. The Convention states that refugees get identity documents, freedom of movement, access to basic social security network, education. Education being one of the most important deterrence in reducing extremist thinking and promoting the value of the democratic rule. Lastly, the author describes the risks and the dangerous routes that the refugees take, and once again outlines existing ideas while offering their own on how to mitigate the current refugee crisis.

The fifth chapter is written by Julia Rutz, called “From Failing States to Migration: The Role of Non-state Actors” starts with the responsibility of the governments to ensure human security in all areas possible, from healthcare, rule of law, education, human rights etc. Rutz also states that while governments are responsible for the implementation of human security in their rule, it is the non-state actors that is also important as they are stakeholders in this regard. NGOs, journalists, religious communities and others, have a role in promoting and advocating for human security. The author lastly describes the correlation between failed states and migration on the case study of Palestine and concludes that countries, such as EU member states have to support failing states, to avoid a significant increase in the number of refugees heading to the EU. In this chapter Rutz has plainly and marvellously described how the system of human security of one country can easily affect the system of others.

Nur Koprulu, wrote the sixth chapter of this book, called “Intervention and Policy in the Mediterranean Refugee Crisis”. This chapter starts with the author’s view on the consequences that the Syrian crisis and refugees from countries have had on the Mediterranean area, outlining the fact that more than 3700 people have died crossing the sea. Those that did not choose to try and cross the Mediterranean area are mainly situated in Turkey since the country issued an open border policy for Syrian refugees. The author further describes how the EU, in its hope to stem the flow of refugees, has given substantial monetary aid to Turkey. Alas, those migrants and/or refugees that managed to get to the EU borders, weren’t being temporarily settled there, as it is in accordance with the Dublin Regulation. In these actions, the author describes a significant problem with dealing with the refugees, and that is that

a significant number of countries enforce some of its security policy, and not a unified one as the EU is supposed to. After bringing attention to this problem, Koprulu writes about a universal perspective on the human and collective security and concludes that the recent case of Syria and the reluctance of the UN, as well as the self-centred approach of some of the EU member states, have put the security of refugees in danger, and offers a true test to the capability of international organizations.

The third and final part of the book “Prescribing the Future of Human Security and Migration in MENA” begins with chapter seven, written by professor Boubly, titled “The Middle East: Syrian Refugees, Human Security and Insecurity in Jordan”. The author starts with Jordan’s refugee policy, and its reluctance to integrate refugees into their society, mainly because of the perception that these refugees are a burden to the economic sector which is already plagued by many factors. An area called “Berm” just outside of Jordan “housed” many refugees, and after a suicide bomb attack at the tri-border area, Jordan closed its borders. Boubly emphasizes that NGOs such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have failed to gain entry and help those in need due to the borders being closed. Jordan only allowed help by dropping shipments into the area. Circling back, the author states that Jordan was praised by many countries for its open-door policy before the attack, and just after the emergence of the Syrian crisis. Nevertheless, after the borders have closed the culture of Jordan, and its stance on women’s and children’s rights has been called out by NGOs. Continuing, the author writes about the Jordan Compact, a plan with the international community, which would compel Jordan to issues work permits to a number of Syrian refugees. The regime in Jordan was troubled with the refugees, but it had support from the USA and EU, not mainly because of refugees, but because of the stability in the region. Boubly ends the chapter by stating that the humanitarian concerns do not appear to be motivating enough for countries to act, however she states that countries see refugees as an opportunity for their development, which is an essential element for human security.

“Human Trafficking and the Issue of Slavery in Supply Chains” is the eight chapter of the book, written by Robert James Hanlon. Hanlon tackles the human trafficking and its impact on the human security in the MENA region. After presenting several definitions of human trafficking, he explains how the trafficking has led to an increase of illegal migration in Europe, which in turn leads to an increase in the supply of low-skilled labour, for which the demand in countries of MENA is considerable. Examining the subject further, the author explores how the treatment of migrants in (forced) labour is putting them in danger due to health hazards, which results in human insecurity in the economic sector of those countries. Lastly, the author states the UN and its Guiding Principle on Business and Human Rights, and other international organisations can help with establishing human security and human rights in the work sectors around the MENA region. Hanlon outlined some of the essential steps to take in order to stop human trafficking and its impact on businesses in the MENA region, giving a unique position on how trafficking can affect far broader areas than most think.

Chapter nine, “Policy Responses: Too Little or Too Late?” , written by Rute Baptista, deals with the question of policy delaying, whilst the one of the greatest humanitarian crisis in modern history was occurring. Baptista firstly dwells deeper into the human security concept and its link to migration, exploring the Copenhagen

School of thought. She links the increased securitization of migration to the terrorist attacks in the first half of the 2000s, which in turn has shifted the view of countries on refugees. The author then thoroughly examines the EU and its numerous actions and policies from 2015 to 2017. She then reaches the conclusion that the international community, challenged by the wave of migrants going to the EU, is continuing to fail the concept of human security, outlined more than 25 years ago.

Marion Boubly writes "Conclusion", the tenth and final chapter of this book, and states that this book is written to encompass all the challenges to human security posed by migration, migrants, and refugees, whilst focusing on the Mediterranean and MENA region. Her goal was for the book to answer three questions: the security implications of people victimized by the refugee crisis; what are the push and pull factors for migrants, and which part of the population is most vulnerable, like woman and children; and finally the relationships between conflict in MENA states from which the crisis has originated, and how they affect policies towards refugees and migrants, i. e. in which way the international legal instruments can help resolve the crisis. After summarizing all the chapters before, she once more states that it is of paramount importance to correct this crisis, as there is a moral responsibility to do it.

The book ends with an Index.

It can be said that Marion Boubly and Kenneth Christie have succeeded in their task, as they have edited a book that thoroughly encircles all the struggles, indecisiveness, reluctances and consequences that have surrounded the international actors as one of the greatest humanitarian refugee crisis of our time. Overall, this is a book that everyone who studies migration and refugee policies has to read, as it gives an insight into the larger picture that migration can break, both to individual states and the international community.

Marko Roško