

ORTA DOĞU TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Modern Languages Department

ENG 101

Content-Based Task (CBT)

on

MIGRATION

designed by

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2017 – 2018 Fall

CONTENTS

CYCLE 1: Introduction to the theme “MIGRATION”(in-class, two hours)		
Skill / Focus	Material	Evaluation / Product
Personalization Activity & Vocabulary + Migration Maps Activity	Instructor designed	Vocab Study + Discussion
Reading(s)	Article from TIME: The Great Migration <i>(selected parts from the article)</i>	Reading Task Sheet + Discussion Task Sheet
<i>Vocabulary Assignment:</i>		<i>Students find more words related to migration until the next session</i>

CYCLE 2: More Input on MIGRATION (1-2 hours in class for task sheets)		
Skill / Focus	Material	Evaluation / Product
<i>Vocabulary Assignment</i>	<i>Vocabulary Task Sheet</i>	(other migration related words from students’ homework)
Video for Vocabulary (video watched before class)	UNHCR Global Trends 2015	
Video Input (video watched before class)	Between Borders: American Migrant Crisis	Audio/video Task Sheet + Discussion (Discussion: Latin America-US / Syria – Turkey)

CYCLE 3: Migration and Global Crises (1-2 hours in class /OR/ outside class)		
Skill / Focus	Material	Evaluation / Product
Reading	Amnesty International’s report	Reading Task Sheet (on assigned article)
Audio/video (video watched before class)	21st Century Concentration Camps	Audio/video Task Sheet (on assigned video)

FINAL PRODUCT
Written Output: A three-question output task <i>3 open-ended questions/ personalization questions (for students to link several input tasks throughout the CBT)</i>

CYCLE 1:

Introduction to the theme

MIGRATION

CYCLE 1 – Personalization Activity



A. List first three things that come to your mind when you hear the word

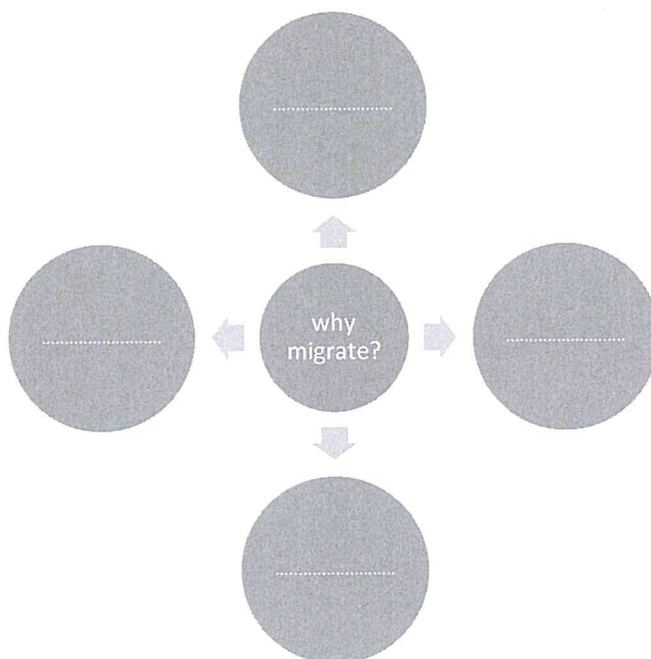
.....
.....
.....



B. Are you planning to leave your country after graduation?

Where would you like to go? What is your motivation to leave your country or stay in your country?

C. What are some other reasons / motivations for people to leave their countries?




CYCLE 1 – Vocabulary


A. Who is a refugee? Who is a migrant? Is there any difference?

Although most of them are refugees, some are considered migrants, and that distinction is important.


Refugees are recognized as people who can prove they are fleeing persecution or war and would potentially face death if they returned home.



Migrants, by contrast, have generally left their native countries in search of better economic conditions.



While the plight of some migrants may be just as desperate as refugees, they are treated very differently under international law.



(Source: KQED News)

B. What are some other words used for people leaving their homes?

Defining differences

The language we use to describe the millions of people on the move reflects distinctions in their legal status

Migrant *The umbrella term for people who have left their country of origin. This includes everyone from international students to workers entering countries illegally in search of a better life.*

Refugee *Refugee status is granted to people who have fled their home country because of war or because they have suffered (or feared) persecution. Under international law, refugees cannot be returned home against their will.*

Internally displaced person (IDP) *Someone who, out of fear for personal safety, left his or her home but not the country. In 2014, an estimated 30,000 people became IDPs every day.*

Asylum seeker *Any person who is applying for protection in another country. In Europe the country is obliged to house, feed and protect asylum seekers while weighing the application, which might take years to decide. If granted, asylum assures the right to live, work and access health care in the country. A denial may be appealed once; if denied again, the person may be deported to his or her country of origin.*

Stateless *Someone who does not have a nationality recognized by any country because of discrimination, redrawing of borders or gaps in nationality laws. There are about 10 million stateless people worldwide.*

(Source: Time Magazine)

C. Can you give real life examples of people or groups of people that match these definitions?

Migrant:
.....

Refugee:
.....

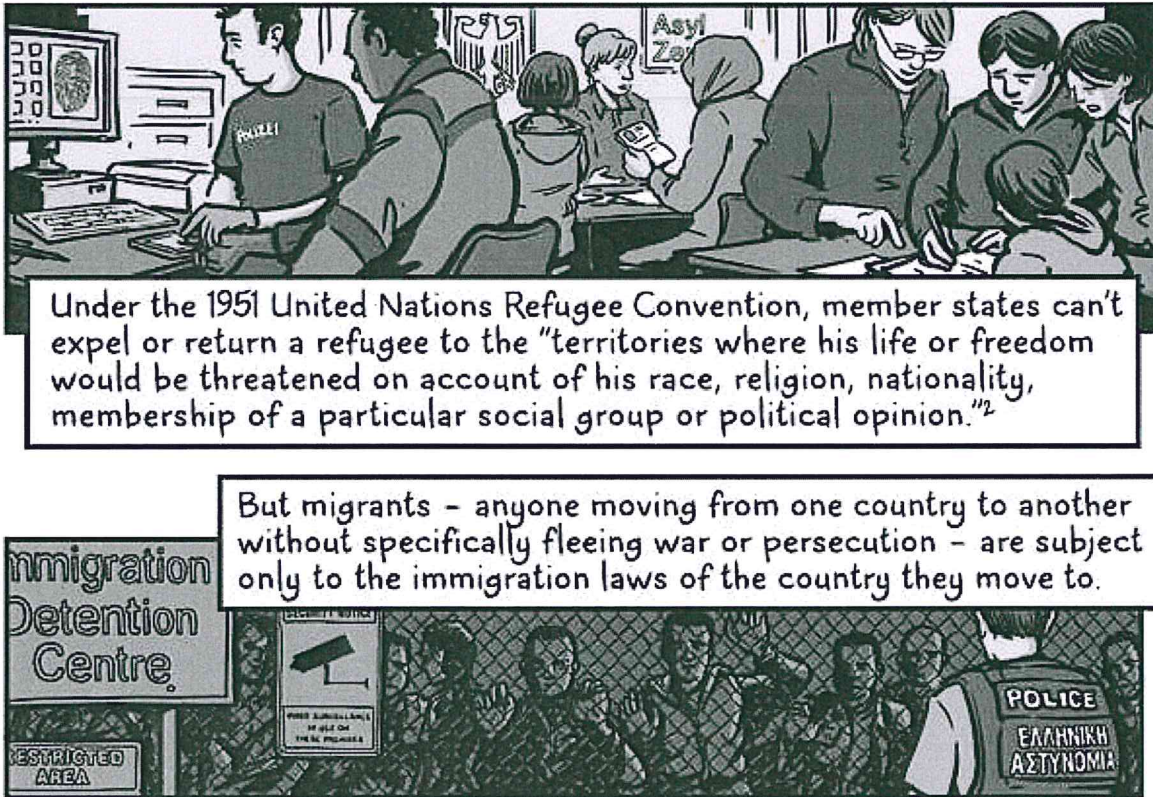
Internally displaced person:
.....

Asylum seeker:
.....

Stateless:
.....

CYCLE 1 – Vocabulary

D. Explain the criticism about the international law (1951 United Nations Refugee Convention) in the infographic below.

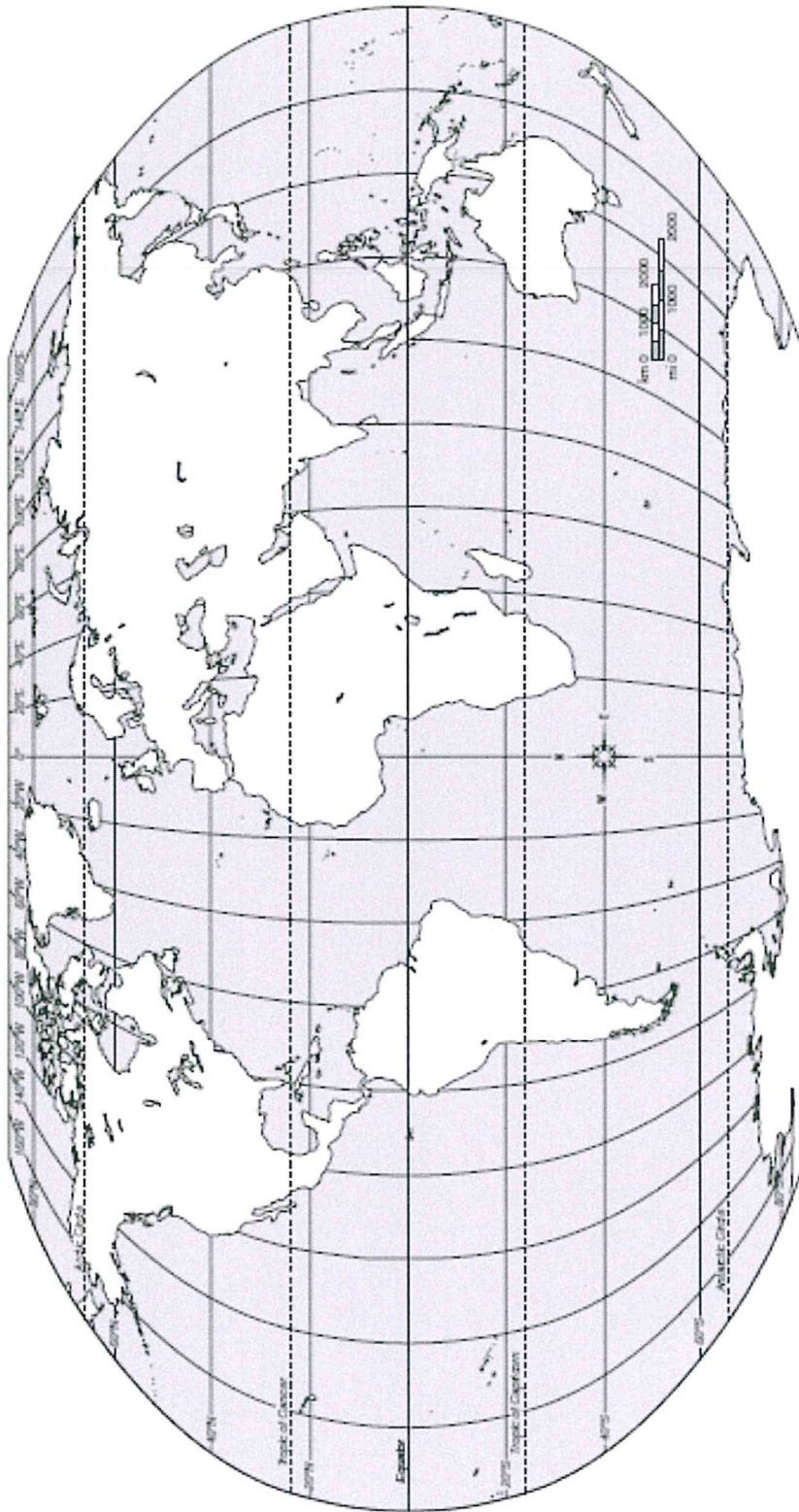


(Source: KQED News)

E. To what extent does the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention solve the global migration crises today?

CYCLE 1 – Migration Maps Activity

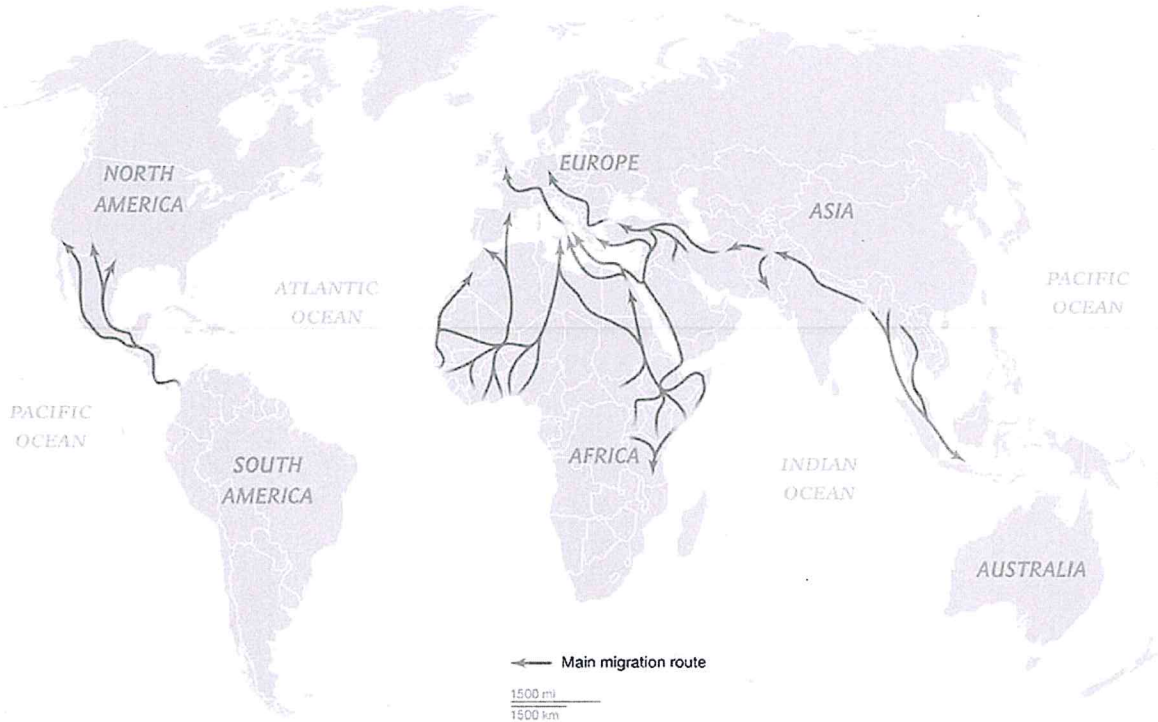
A. Guess the migration patterns (directions) of people who leave their homes and go elsewhere. Draw lines on the blank map below that show the source and destination of migration today:



(Source: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company)

CYCLE 1 – Migration Maps Activity

B. How does your map compare to these maps that show migration patterns of people today?

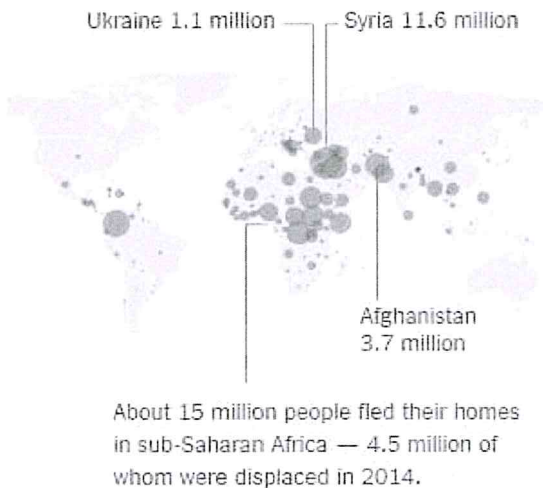


(Source: National Geographic - 2015)

C. How do the National Geographic map above and the New York Times map below compare?

Where people have been displaced

Total displaced by Dec. 2014**



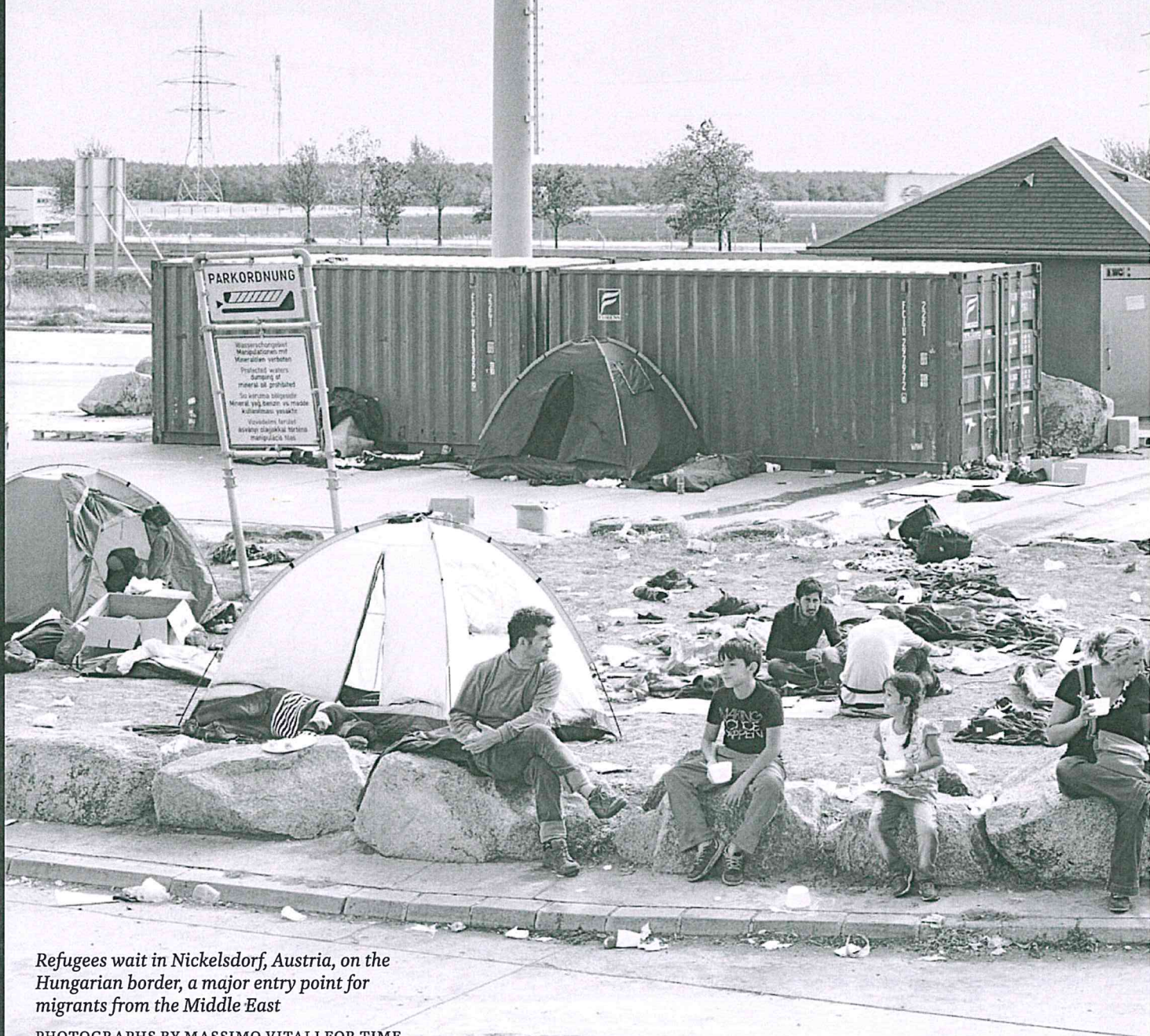
** Some countries record refugee and asylum statistics by country of birth rather than country of origin. This affects the number of refugees reported as originating from the United States, for example.

By The New York Times

(Source: New York Times - 2014)

The Great .

Rarely in modern history have so many brave, and tragic, journeys are reshapi

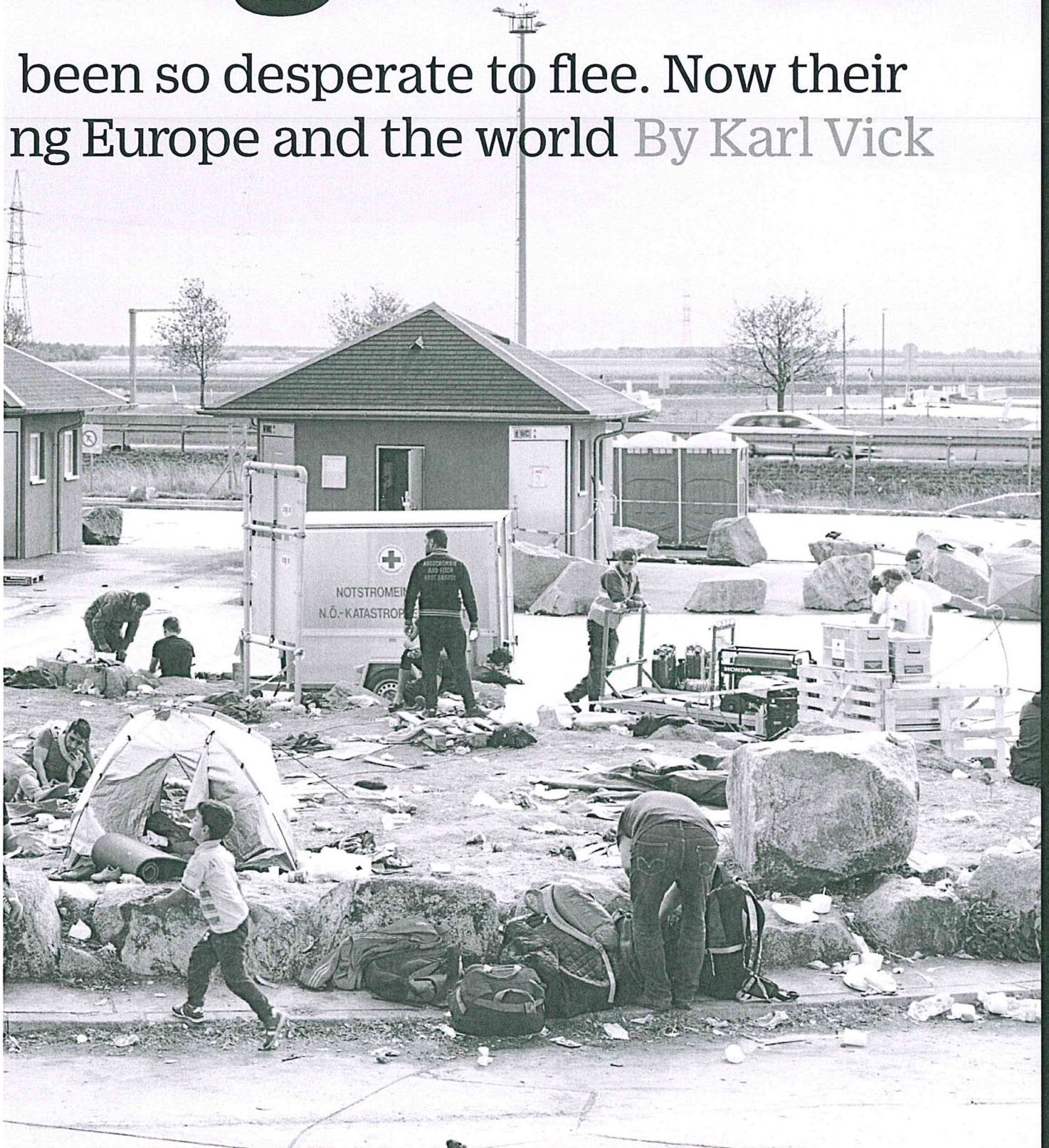


Refugees wait in Nickelsdorf, Austria, on the Hungarian border, a major entry point for migrants from the Middle East

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MASSIMO VITALI FOR TIME

Migration

been so desperate to flee. Now their
ing Europe and the world By Karl Vick



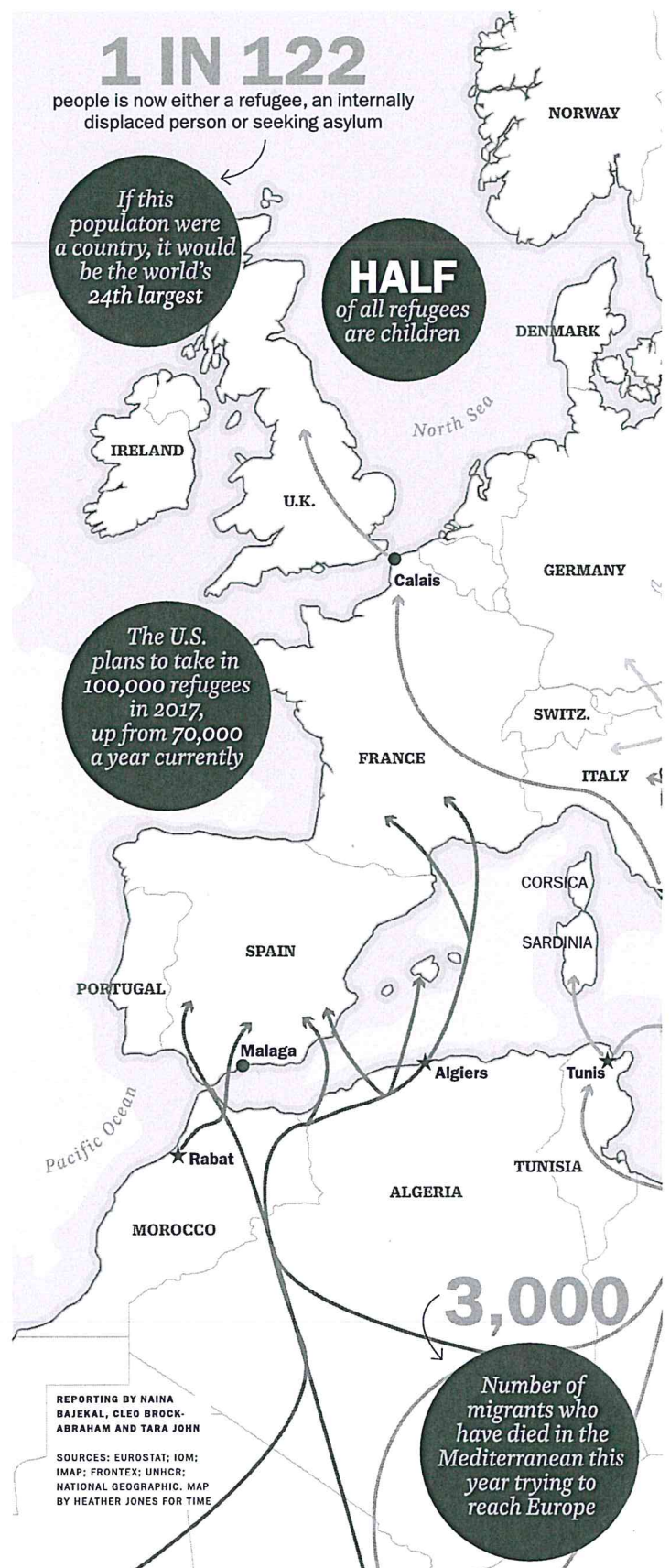
Americans think of themselves as a mobile people, pulling up stakes for new jobs, moving often.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that in recent years, roughly every 9th person gets a new address. But Americans tend not to venture far—2 out of 3 moves end in the same county; only 16% cross a state line. And just 3% leave the country, a prospect of dislocation that leaves many mortified and, at some primal level relevant to Europe's migrant crisis, unsettles even the worldliest. Why else do seasoned travelers ask, "Can someone meet me at the airport?"

Airports are not scary. They are purposely bland, simple to navigate, reassuringly similar. What's scary is the uncertainty embedded in any journey, a vague foreboding that informed the theory of a flat earth, which merely assumed the horizon was exactly what it appears to be: a precipice. Beyond lay a void like the one at the pit of the stomach when you find yourself in a place where you know no one, darkness is gathering and nothing is like back home.

So when Syrians began emerging from the Aegean Sea this summer, scrambling for footing on the submerged stones that form the doorstep of Europe, the sight produced what 220,000 deaths had not: a surge of fellow feeling. But then few Westerners have actually seen war, and almost no one has witnessed the kind of violence that is emptying Syria, a confounding conflict involving some 7,000 armed groups. The Middle East more than ever seems an excellent place to leave behind, even if it means entering the realm of the migrant.

It's a crowded realm. More than 600,000 people have entered Europe so far this year, cascading in at a rate—sometimes 10,000 a day—that underprepared, overwhelmed governments quickly declared a crisis. And yet the Syrians—along with the Iraqis and Afghans in the same rubber dinghies—are only the most visible flotsam in a wider and scarcely less insistent stream of human beings, an almost tidal flow that has been running for decades from poorer countries to richer. It leads from Latin America to the U.S., from Burma toward refuge in Malaysia and in most of the



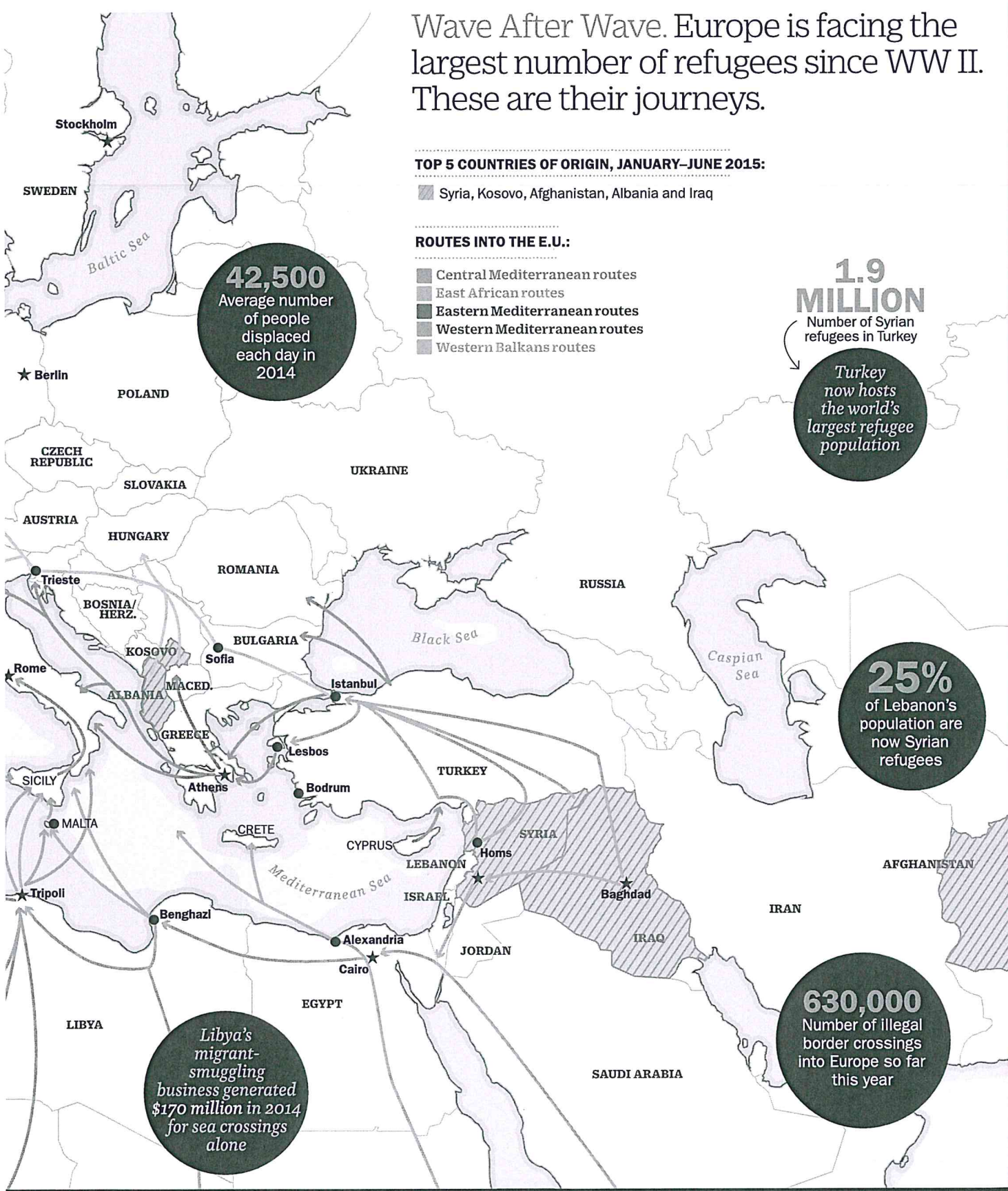
Wave After Wave. Europe is facing the largest number of refugees since WW II. These are their journeys.

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, JANUARY-JUNE 2015:

▨ Syria, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Albania and Iraq

ROUTES INTO THE E.U.:

- ▨ Central Mediterranean routes
- ▨ East African routes
- ▨ Eastern Mediterranean routes
- ▨ Western Mediterranean routes
- ▨ Western Balkans routes



42,500
Average number of people displaced each day in 2014

1.9 MILLION
Number of Syrian refugees in Turkey

Turkey now hosts the world's largest refugee population

25%
of Lebanon's population are now Syrian refugees

630,000
Number of illegal border crossings into Europe so far this year

Libya's migrant-smuggling business generated \$170 million in 2014 for sea crossings alone

*Austrian police and army personnel
in Nickelsdorf organize groups
of migrants as they prepare to be
loaded onto buses to take them
further into Europe*





rest of the world—Africa, the Middle East, much of Asia—toward the European Union. “It’s not going to stop,” says Behzad Yaghmaian, a professor of political economy at Ramapo College of New Jersey, who wrote *Embracing the Infidel: Stories of Muslim Migrants on the Journey West*. “Because of globalization, you have awareness of life elsewhere in the world. That’s crucial now. So you move.”

Do you have a signal?

When the travelers climb out of a boat on a Greek island, many raise their arms—first in thanks, and then, a second time, to take a selfie. The images of relief and joy are then uploaded from the smartphone that made the crossing swaddled in plastic bags and rubber bands. “My whole life’s on my phone” is no exaggeration here. In refugee camps, the U.N. distributes local SIM cards for phones and solar generators to charge them. The migrants make their way to new lives by GPS coordinates posted on Facebook or WhatsApp by those who have gone before. Glowing posts on social networks—which border crossing is open, what smuggler can be trusted—are the constellations that guided the travelers to Europe this summer, first in a trickle and soon a torrent. The largest movement of refugees since the end of World War II appeared first in groups of 20 or 30, then in hundreds, trudging down rail beds, emerging from cornfields, and crowding the shoulders of freeways.

If it sounds a little like a zombie movie, the association was not lost on many Europeans, watching from the comfort of their homes. The Periscope application streams video live from wherever someone is holding up a camera phone, and allows viewers to type in comments as they watch. Those comments appear over the live video: action and reaction all on one screen. On Sept. 2, photojournalist Patrick Witty streamed images of inflatable boats coming ashore on Lesbos, and as the exuberant Middle Easterners climbed out, the comments began as gushes:

“God bless”

“Welcome”

“The kids are all okay? OMG.”

Then:

“The invasion of Europe.”

“All Arabs are maggots.”

“Stop the hate talk or I’ll report you.”

Before long the back and forth filled the screen, blocking out the people climbing out of boats. The same will likely happen in person where the migrants

Defining differences

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Stateless *Someone who does not have a nationality recognized by any country because of discrimination, redrawing of borders or gaps in nationality laws. There are about 10 million stateless people worldwide.*

finally end up—provided the E.U. decides where that is. Right-wing parties that promote nativism and xenophobia were already on the rise in France, Greece and other E.U. nations well before the latest surge of migrants. Sitting governments in Hungary, the Czech Republic and, more quietly, many of the other 28 E.U. members warn the new arrivals will compete with residents for jobs, government benefits and, ultimately, the identity of Europe. Most migrants are Muslim, so the baggage includes security concerns as well.

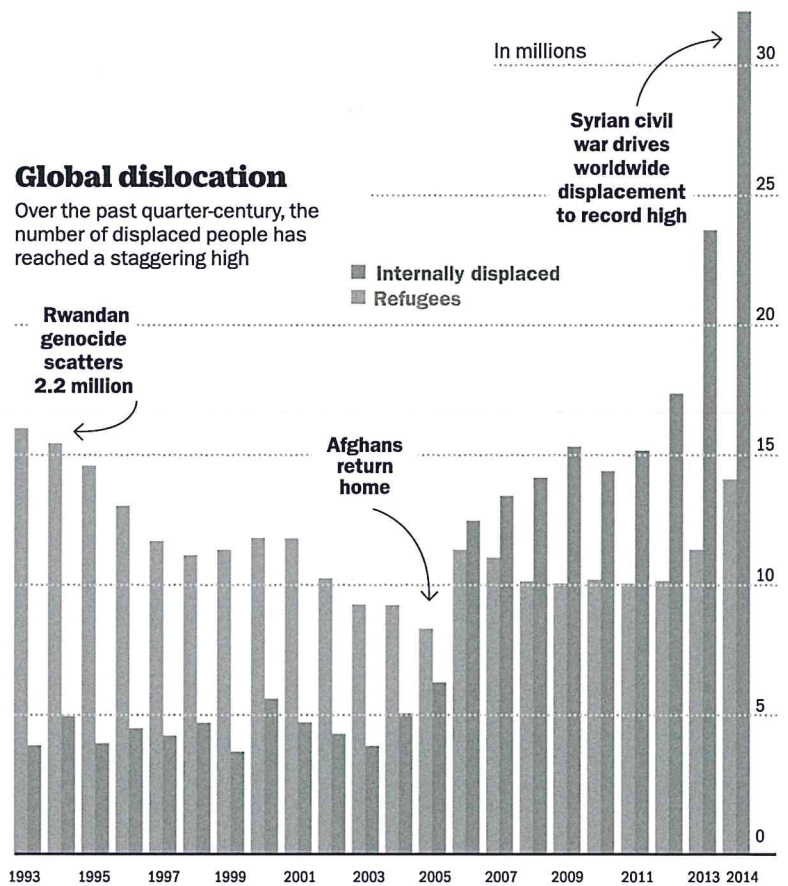
“There is definitely a battle of values, with compassion on one side and fear on the other,” says António Guterres, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. But as the E.U. argues where to put the million-plus expected by year’s end, he points out that the 1 million Syrians in Lebanon account for a quarter of that tiny country’s population. The more than 600,000 in Europe so far this year boost the continent’s population by less than 1%. “It’s clear,” he tells TIME, “that Europe has to get its act together.”

How it happened

What do refugees look like? In Africa, they’re easy to spot. Find a war, proceed to the nearest international border, and they’re the people just beyond it, huddled under the standard blue tarps issued by the United

Global dislocation

Over the past quarter-century, the number of displaced people has reached a staggering high



Nations. Lacking the means to set off anywhere else, they wait to return home. A map of refugee flows in Africa looks like a chart of central Pacific currents—whorls describing a huge circle.

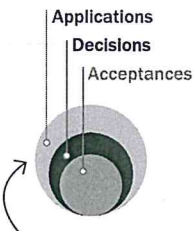
In Europe, Syrians wade ashore in blue jeans. One’s a pediatrician. Another made music videos. All count as refugees, because they are fleeing war or persecution, the legal definition settled on in 1951 by most of the world amid the postwar debris. The idea was protection, and the good of it could be seen aboard a Greek coast-guard vessel in the early hours of Sept. 7, moments after 40 people were lifted from a rubber boat. Mohamad Balhas, 26, was explaining first why he had been arrested by the Syrian police who tortured him in custody: “Because we don’t love that bastard Bashar.” He was instantly hushed by a friend—a reflexive reaction in a police state. Then a second friend remembered where they were. “No, it’s okay,” he said. “You can say it now.” The three looked at each other for a long moment, then broke out laughing.

In relative terms, it can actually be good to be a refugee. At least it’s better than being a “migrant,” a legal status afforded no special protection under international law, and a label applied to some 240 million people across the globe who have crossed borders, often seeking work. They are Indians building soccer

A year of asylum

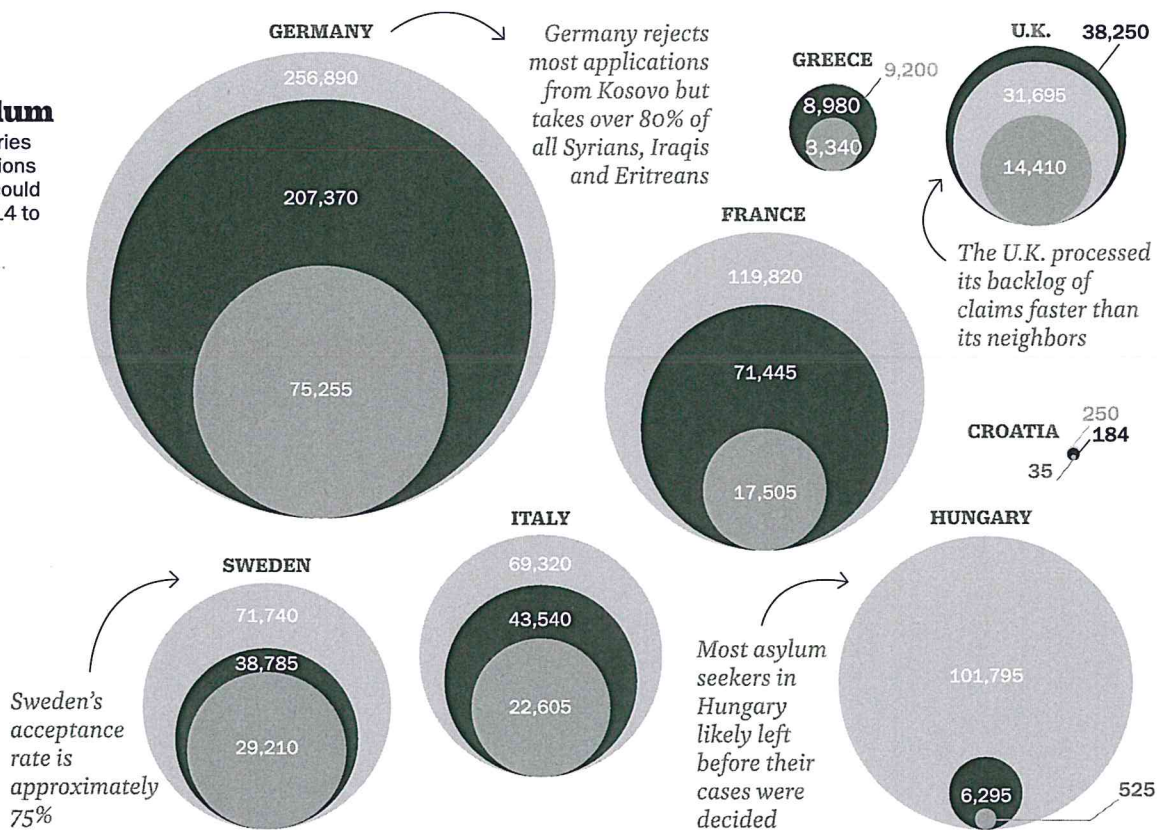
Most European countries saw far more applications for asylum than they could process from July 2014 to July 2015:

KEY TO CHART



The difference here likely reflects the size of a country's backlog and the time it takes to process claims

GRAPHIC REPORTING BY NAINA BAJEKAL AND TARA JOHN; SOURCES: EUROSTAT; THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION; UNHCR



stadiums in Qatar, Eritreans cleaning restaurants in Israel and Senegalese selling knockoff designer handbags on the streets of Rome. They long entered Europe in a steady trickle, at least until the Arab Spring changed things. The mass uprisings of 2011 toppled governments, but when no new order took their place, the combination of miserable populations and vanishing border controls made Libya, for instance, a point of embarkation so frenetic it called to mind Dunkirk.

"My plan was to be a learned man, to have a better future," says Adeyinka, a Nigerian who spent 19 hours bobbing in a boat with 100 other migrants before being rescued by Italian authorities. Adeyinka's brother was among the 3,000 migrants killed trying to make the same crossing, a death toll that prompted Europe to crack down on smugglers, and Syrians to search for an alternate route.

They found it close at hand, in Turkey, where some 1.9 million Syrians had already taken refuge. The islands of Greece lie as close as three miles (5 km) off Turkey's western shores, and Syrians began making the crossing earlier this year, then moved north toward the wealthier E.U. nations in the north central Schengen zone where borders are open. They crossed Macedonia and Serbia, then into Hungary, then into Germany, where on Aug. 25, the Federal Office of Mi-

gration and Refugees posted a tweet heard round the world: Syrians who could make it to Germany could apply for asylum there. The news arrived just when refugee life grew dramatically harder back in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. Aid agencies abruptly cut assistance in August, citing "donor fatigue," leaving 4 million Syrians to feed themselves on \$14 a month. At the same time, inside Syria, press gangs sharpened their search for young men to serve in Assad's army.

The result was a refugee flow that soon resembled a map from World War II: wide arrows swooping from the Middle East into the "soft underbelly" of Europe. And once again, the objective was Berlin.

The search for home

Germany's role in the crisis is a redemption story. It is, after all, Europe's dark 20th century history that deepens the anguish in the images emerging from the current migration—desperate civilians facing armed guards across barbed wire, families being separated in the scramble to board trains to a destination they do not know. But this time the journey is one of hope. "I know how the refugee feels," says Hamidullah Arman, an Afghan who received asylum in Berlin. "But Germany is a lovely country. It's doing a lot."

One thing Germany is doing, however, is sorting

refugees from mere migrants, a process that the U.N.'s Guterres calls inherently unfair. The reality is that refugees are now generated by more than just war. "There are a number of megatrends overlapping each other and affecting each other," he says, naming climate change, water scarcity and overpopulation as examples. "And the truth is, these factors are creating more and more situations where life is unsustainable for people in some communities, forcing them to move. They are forced to flee, but they are not covered by the legal status of the '51 convention. There is a protection gap."

In human terms, that means perhaps half the people climbing off trains in Leipzig will in a few weeks be quietly placed on flights back to Tirana or Karachi, their applications for asylum quickly closed. And even those likeliest to be offered new lives in Europe face excruciating delays. "There are people like me who come here and are totally lost," says Muhammad Haj Ali, 26, a Syrian waiting since Nov. 2014 for asylum approval in Germany. "After a while, you stop missing anyone or anything. You're breathing, the days continue, but that's it. I don't have hope anymore. The truth is, when you have hope, you hurt."

Yet people seem unable to help themselves. In a worldwide poll, Gallup determined that 13% of Earth's residents would like to move to another country—perhaps 700 million people. The No. 1 destination would be the U.S., which might swell by 150 million if its borders came down.

Compare that with the number of additional refugees—15,000 next year, to bring a sum total of 85,000 for 2016—the Obama Administration has vowed to accept next year, and the limits of compassion, coupled with wariness of Muslims, comes into remorseless focus, even in an immigrant nation. "The U.S. has been really bad," says Yaghmaian, who himself emigrated from Iran, after years in Turkey, and gathered a lesson in his travels. He remembers visiting Istanbul apartments shared by 40 migrants, all waiting to push westward. But that memory is balanced by the knowledge that his own brother, who has a green card for America, "the greatest country in the world," chooses to live in Iran, having left once already.

"Home is valuable," Yaghmaian says. "Home is precious. The smell of home matters a lot." Leaving it is hard, even for those who know where their journey will end. —WITH REPORTING BY NAINA BAJEKAL/
BERLIN, SIMON SHUSTER/LEROS, VIVIENNE WALT/
MESSINA AND PATRICK WITTY/LESBOS □



The Ferry Dusika Hallenstadion, an indoor arena in Vienna, is one of many buildings being used as a temporary shelter for migrants



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CYCLE 1 – Reading Task Sheet

A. Read the article “The Great Migration” in the TIME Magazine to answer the following questions.

1. How is Germany’s attitude toward the recent refugee crisis evaluated in the article in terms of international law?

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.....

2. How ethical do you think is Germany’s attitude toward the recent refugee crisis in the article?

.....
.....

3. Does the TIME Magazine have a western or eastern perspective on the refugee crisis in the article? Give supports.

.....
.....

4. If you left your country today and went to Europe, what word/term in the article would best describe you?

.....
.....

5. Would you leave your country under the current international law? Why? Why not?

.....
.....

CYCLE 2:

More input on MIGRATION

CYCLE 2 – Vocabulary

A. Tick the words you remember from the previous CBT session.

- Migrant
- Refugee
- Internally displaced person
- Asylum seeker
- Stateless

B. List some other words you've found related to migration. (Homework!)

-
-
-
-
-

C. What are some forms or cases of migration when people are not forcibly displaced?

List words that describe these people. (Use words from homework)

-
-
-
-
-

D. Choose one item from Part C above.

- Would you prefer leaving your country as a / an ?
- How would you feel about being a / an ?
- What could be some opportunities for you?
- What could be some challenges for you?

CYCLE 2 – Audio/Video Task Sheet

A. Watch the video “Global Trends 2015” by the UNHCR to answer the following questions.

1. The video “Global Trends 2015” by the UNHCR does not mention much migration in(to) the continents America or Australia? Why do you think so?

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.....
.....
.....

2. The video “Global Trends 2015” provides data about developing and developed countries.

- What is surprising about these data?
- What is the criticism for barriers?

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B. Watch the video “Between Borders: American Migrant Crises” by Times Documentaries to answer the following questions.

1. What is the role of age in Latin American migration into the US?

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2. Should minors in Latin American countries try their chances to reach the US or stay home?

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CYCLE 2 – Audio/Video Task Sheet

C. Evaluate the videos “Global Trends 2015” and “Between Borders: American Migrant Crises” in terms of age as a factor for migration. Any similarities or differences?

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.....

D. What are some other important factors for migration besides age?

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-
-
-

CYCLE 2 – Discussion Sheet

A. How would the migration from Latin American countries to the US and the migration from Syria to Turkey compare?

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.....

.....

B. Discuss the motivations of Latin Americans and Syrians for migration?

.....

.....

.....

C. Evaluate the international law (the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention) in the cases of Latin America-US and Syria-Turkey migration patterns by referring to the TIME magazine’s article “The Great Migration”:

- Is the international law applicable to both cases?
- To what extent can the international law solve the problems of Latin Americans and Syrians?
- Should there be an international law for people who migrate to other countries?

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CYCLE 2 – Reaction Paragraph

What makes someone American isn't just blood or birth but commitment to our founding principles and faith in the idea that anyone – from anywhere – can write the next chapter of our story.

- Barack Obama

Reaction paragraph guidelines:

- Read the above quotation about migration.
- Write a well-organized reaction paragraph of 150-200 words in response to its main idea /message
- Discuss whether you agree and/or disagree by providing two justifications for your position.

Reaction Paragraph Outline: Use this space to organize your ideas.

Main idea / message of the quote:

.....
.....

My agreement / disagreement / partial agreement-disagreement?.....

My justifications:

1)

2)

CYCLE 3:
Migration and Global Crises

CYCLE 3 – Audio/Video Task Sheet

Watch the video “21st Century Concentration Camps” by Times Documentaries to answer the questions.

1. What’s the role of religion in conflicts in Myanmar?

.....
.....
.....

2. Explain the situation of muslim minority in Myanmar in terms of basic human rights.

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.....
.....

3. Evaluate the terms xenophobia and islamophobia in the light of Myanmar example in the video.

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.....

4. Explain the criticism of the journalist in the video on Nobel Prize winners for peace.

.....
.....
.....

“The Global Refugee Crisis: A Conspiracy of Neglect”



JUNE 15, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Worst refugee crisis since World War II.
- One million refugees desperately in need of resettlement.
- Four million Syrian refugees struggling to survive in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.
- More than 3 million refugees in sub-Saharan Africa, and only a small fraction offered resettlement since 2013.
- 3,500 people drowned while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea in 2014 -- 1,865 so far in 2015.
- 300 people died in the Andaman Sea in the first three months of 2015 due to starvation, dehydration and abuse by boat crews.

World leaders are condemning millions of refugees to an unbearable existence and thousands to death by failing to provide essential humanitarian protection, said Amnesty International as it published a new briefing in Beirut today, ahead of World Refugee Day on June 20.

The Global Refugee Crisis: A Conspiracy of Neglect explores the startling suffering of millions of refugees, from Lebanon to Kenya, the Andaman Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, and calls for a radical change in the way the world deals with refugees.

“We are witnessing the worst refugee crisis of our era, with millions of women, men and children struggling to survive amidst brutal wars, networks of people traffickers and governments who pursue selfish political interests instead of showing basic human compassion,” said Salil Shetty, Amnesty International’s Secretary General.

“The refugee crisis is one of the defining challenges of the 21st century, but the response of the international community has been a shameful failure. We need a radical overhaul of policy and practice to create a coherent and comprehensive global strategy.”

Amnesty International is setting out a proposal to reinvigorate the system for refugee protection and urging states to make firm commitments to live up to their individual legal obligations and renew their commitment to international responsibility-sharing. Amongst the actions Amnesty International is urging governments to take are:

- A commitment to collectively resettle the one million refugees who currently need resettlement over the next four years.
- To establish a global refugee fund that will fulfill all UN humanitarian appeals for refugee crises and provide financial support to countries hosting large numbers of refugees.
- The global ratification of the UN Refugee Convention.
- To develop fair domestic systems to assess refugee claims and guarantee that refugees have access to basic services such as education and healthcare.

“The world can no longer sit and watch while countries like Lebanon and Turkey take on such huge burdens. No country should be left to deal with a massive humanitarian emergency with so little help from others, just because it happens to share a border with a country in conflict,” said Shetty.

“Governments across the world have the duty to ensure people do not die while trying to reach safety. It is essential that they offer a safe haven for desperate refugees, establish a global refugee fund and take effective action to prosecute trafficking gangs. Now is the time to step up protection for refugees, anything less will make world leaders accomplices in this preventable tragedy.”

Syria: World’s largest refugee crisis

More than four million refugees have fled Syria, 95 percent of them are in just five main host countries: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

These countries are now struggling to cope. The international community has failed to provide them, or the humanitarian agencies supporting refugees, with sufficient resources. Despite calls from the UNHCR and the UN Refugee Agency, far too few resettlement places have been offered to Syrian refugees. The situation is so desperate that some of Syria’s neighbors have resorted to deeply troubling measures, including denying desperate people entry to their territory and pushing people back into the conflict.

Since the beginning of 2015, Lebanon has severely restricted entry to people fleeing Syria. The Lebanese authorities issued new guidelines whereby Syrian nationals are required to fulfill specific criteria in order to enter. Since these criteria were imposed, there has been a significant drop in registration of Syrian refugees – in the first three months of 2015 UNHCR registered 80 percent fewer Syrian refugees than in the same period in 2014.

Mediterranean: The most dangerous sea route

The Mediterranean is the most dangerous sea route for refugees and migrants. In 2014, 219,000 people made the crossing under extremely dangerous conditions and 3,500 died attempting it.

In 2014, the Italian authorities rescued more than 166,000 people. However in October 2014, Italy, under pressure from other EU member states, cancelled the rescue operation, Mare Nostrum, which was replaced by the much more limited Operation Triton (by the EU border agency, Frontex).

Operation Triton had fewer vessels and its area of operation was far away from where the majority of SOS distress calls are made. This contributed to a dramatic increase in the number of lives lost in the Mediterranean. As of May 31, 2015, 1,865 people had died attempting the Mediterranean crossing, compared to 425 during the same period in 2014 (according to the IOM).

Following several horrific cases of loss of life in the Mediterranean, at the end of April, European leaders finally increased resources for search and rescue. Triton's resources and area of operation were increased to match Mare Nostrum's. In addition European states such as Germany, Ireland and the UK have deployed ships and aircrafts, additional to Operation Triton resources to further boost capacity for assisting people at sea. These measures, which had long been advocated for by Amnesty International, are a welcome step towards increasing safety at sea for refugees and migrants.

The European Commission also proposed that EU states offer 20,000 additional resettlement places to refugees from outside the EU. While this proposal is a step forward, 20,000 is too small a number to adequately contribute to international responsibility-sharing.

For example, Syrian refugees faced with reduced humanitarian assistance in the main host countries and with no prospect of returning home in the near future, are likely to continue to attempt to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe. Without sufficient safe and legal alternative routes for refugees – but also for migrants – people will continue to risk their lives.

Africa: Forgotten crises

There are more than 3 million refugees in sub-Saharan Africa. Outbreaks of fighting in countries including South Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR), have led to an increasing number of people on the move – fleeing conflict and persecution. Of the top 10 countries globally from which people are fleeing as refugees, five are in sub-Saharan Africa. Four of the top ten refugee-hosting countries are in sub-Saharan Africa.

The conflicts and crises in the region have led to an influx of refugees to neighboring countries, many of which already host long-standing refugee populations from countries such as Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia, among others.

In some of these situations, as in the case of South Sudan and Sudan, refugees are hosted by countries that are themselves beset by conflict.

The refugee crises in Africa receive little or no attention in regional or global political forums. In 2013 fewer than 15,000 refugees from African countries were resettled and UN humanitarian appeals have been severely underfunded. For example, as a result of the conflict which broke out in South Sudan in December 2013, more than 550,000 people became refugees, the majority of whom are now in Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya and Uganda. Only 11% of the UN's South Sudan regional refugee response plan was funded as of June 3, 2015.

South East Asia: Turning away the desperate

In the first quarter of 2015, UNHCR reported that some 25,000 people attempted to cross the Bay of Bengal. This is approximately double the figure for the same period in 2014. This Bay of Bengal sea route is predominantly used by Muslim Rohingya from Myanmar and Bangladeshi nationals.

On May 11, the International Organization for Migration estimated that there were 8,000 people stranded on boats close to Thailand. Many of those aboard were believed to be Rohingya fleeing state-sponsored persecution in Myanmar.

During May, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand turned back boats carrying hundreds of refugees and migrants desperate for help, despite the dangers they faced. UNHCR estimates that 300 people died at sea in the first three months of 2015 due to "starvation, dehydration and abuse by boat crews."

On May 20 Indonesia and Malaysia changed course, announcing that they would provide "temporary shelter" for up to 7,000 people still at sea. However, this temporary protection would only last for up to a year, and on condition that the international community would help with repatriation or resettlement of the people. Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have not ratified the UN Refugee Convention.

Elsewhere, a terrible precedent has been set in the region by the Australian government whose hard-line approach to asylum-seekers attempting to arrive by boat has, under the guise of saving lives, violated its responsibilities under refugee and human rights law.

"From the Andaman to the Mediterranean people are losing their lives as they desperately seek safe haven. The current refugee crisis will not be solved unless the international community recognizes that it is a global problem that requires states to significantly step up international cooperation. Later this week UNHCR will release their annual statistics on refugees and we will likely find that the crisis is getting worse. It is time for action," said Shetty.

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CYCLE 3 – Reading Task Sheet

Read the report “The Global Refugee Crisis: A Conspiracy of Neglect ” by Amnesty International to answer the following questions.

1. Read the excerpt from the report:

“Amnesty International is setting out a proposal to reinvigorate the system for refugee protection and urging states to make firm commitments to live up to their individual legal obligations and renew their commitment to international responsibility-sharing. Amongst the actions Amnesty International is urging governments to take are:

- A commitment to collectively resettle the one million refugees who currently need resettlement over the next four years.
- To establish a global refugee fund that will fulfill all UN humanitarian appeals for refugee crises and provide financial support to countries hosting large numbers of refugees.
- The global ratification of the UN Refugee Convention.
- To develop fair domestic systems to assess refugee claims and guarantee that refugees have access to basic services such as education and healthcare.”

In your opinion, which of the suggested actions above is the most urgent?

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In your opinion, which of the suggested actions above is the most likely to be achieved? Why?

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2. Explain Amnesty International’s criticism for the EU and Australia on global refugee crisis.

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