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NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE MOVE

An analysis of the Modern International System of Refugee Protection

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ABSTRACT

The main motivation of this work is the concern with the current refugee crisis. It is driven by the belief that alternative and pragmatic solutions to refugees' problem can be achieved. This thesis studies the historical development of the modern international system for refugee protection. Since the early beginnings it was permeated by political and economic interests, and centuries after the first measures for protection were taken, the reality remains the same: often states interests take over human lives. The biggest development on institutional and legal protection of individuals happened from the mid-twentieth century on, a time when the world witnessed mass violations of human rights that led to the first refugee crisis in recent history. However, a robust framework addressing refugees and other forced displaced persons could only be set when international human rights law was created. This thesis analyses the structure of the modern system of refugee protection, focusing on the comportment of the international community towards these vulnerable individuals. Acknowledging that the failure of the system led to the current crisis, this work targets the flaws in order to propose alternative solutions to improve refugees' situation.

TABLE OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

1951 Convention	1951 Convention Related to the Status of Refugees
1967 Protocol	1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees
1969 OAU Convention	OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
CARA	Control of Alien Refugee Act
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
HCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
HIP	Humanitarian Innovation Project
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IRO	International Refugee Organization
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PRS	Protracted Refugee Situations
SRS	Self-Reliance Strategy
UDRH	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UN Charter	Charter of the United Nations
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR ExCom	Executive Committee of the UNHCR
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
URSS	Soviet Union
US	The United States
WWI	First World War
WWII	Second World War

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