Negative: Refugees

By Katherine Baker

***Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce its restrictions on legal immigration to the United States.***

Summary: Pres. Trump dramatically reduced the quota for resettling refugees in the United States and also added impossible levels of vetting, such that very few refugees can be relocated legally into the U.S. any more. AFF reverses this and increases the quota to allow more refugees into the US. Negative will argue that the most cost-effective way to help the most refugees is to pay to maintain them in the region where they came from, not bring them all the way around the world one by one to the United States. That would also be a lot better for the U.S., since increased refugees means increased risk of terrorism.

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Negative: Refugees

COUNTERPLAN

PLAN: Fund refugee camps instead

Congress and the President authorize funding increase adequate for all the increase in refugees in the AFF plan to get assistance in regional refugee camps instead of being brought to the United States. Funding is general federal revenues and Counterplan takes effect the same day as the date proposed in the AFF plan.

ADVOCACY

Refugee admissions isn't a solution – the most cost-effective plan is to focus efforts on helping refugees locally in the front-line states

Olivia Enos, David Inserra and Joshua Meservey, 2017. (Enos is a Policy Analyst in the Asian Studies Center, of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy, at The Heritage Foundation. Inserra is Policy Analyst for Homeland Security and Cyber Policy, in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy, of the Davis Institute. Meservey is Senior Policy Analyst for Africa and the Middle East, in the Allison Center.) “The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program: A Roadmap for Reform” July 5, 2017. <https://www.heritage.org/immigration/report/the-us-refugee-admissions-program-roadmap-reform> (brackets added)

There are ways to further minimize the already slight risks associated with USRAP, including by shoring up the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS’s) anti-fraud capacity, further strengthening programs that enhance assimilation, and moving to a person-centric vetting system. However, no one should consider USRAP [US Refugee Admissions Program] a solution to the Syrian conflict, or the best way to help most refugees. To be as cost-effective as possible—which saves the most lives—the U.S. should focus the majority of its refugee efforts on helping front-line states care for the refugees they shelter.

US should focus resources on refugees in frontline countries

Olivia Enos, David Inserra and Joshua Meservey, 2017. (Enos is a Policy Analyst in the Asian Studies Center, of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy, at The Heritage Foundation. Inserra is Policy Analyst for Homeland Security and Cyber Policy, in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy, of the Davis Institute. Meservey is Senior Policy Analyst for Africa and the Middle East, in the Allison Center.) “The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program: A Roadmap for Reform” July 5, 2017. <https://www.heritage.org/immigration/report/the-us-refugee-admissions-program-roadmap-reform>

The U.S. government should enact refugee policies that advance the country’s interests. To do so, the U.S. should: Focus U.S. resources on ameliorating the plight of refugees in front-line states. The U.S. should stretch its finite resources as far as possible by focusing on improving refugee welfare where refugees are sheltering. Rallying the international community to meet funding shortfalls for organizations working with Middle Eastern refugees, and encouraging host countries to enact refugee-friendly economic policies, would help.

A/T "Do both" – No, resources are limited. We must explicitly choose the option that helps the most refugees

Steven A. Camarota, 2015. (Director of Research at the Center for Immigration Studies.) “The High Cost of Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees” November 4, 2015. <https://cis.org/Report/High-Cost-Resettling-Middle-Eastern-Refugees>

Wealthy countries like the United States that have costly refugee resettlement programs face a choice: They can help a relatively tiny number of refugees who in effect win what might be called the "migration lottery" and are resettled here, or they can devote the limited resources available to helping many more refugees in the region for the same amount of money. If the goal is to help as many people as possible, then assisting Middle Eastern refugees in their home region gives a far greater return on public money.

A/T "Do both – fund refugees in place and let more immigrate" – Doesn't make sense because resources are limited. Funding in place is the best option

Steven A. Camarota, 2015. (Director of Research at the Center for Immigration Studies.) “The High Cost of Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees” November 4, 2015. <https://cis.org/Report/High-Cost-Resettling-Middle-Eastern-Refugees>

America has a long tradition of being a refuge for those fleeing war and persecution, but the modern system of refugee resettlement comes with a very high cost. This analysis attempts to conservatively estimate the costs for refugees from the Middle East based on government data. One may argue that when it comes to refugees costs should not matter because refugees are admitted for humanitarian reasons. But this position makes little sense. Funds to resettle refugees in this country or to help them overseas are never unlimited and there are always competing demands for public monies. The federal budget deficit was more than $400 billion in 2015 and 47 million U.S. residents live in poverty, including one-fifth of the nation's children. Resources to deal with the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East are finite.

JUSTIFICATION 1. Lives saved

1. LINK: Not enough money coming

JACKIE NORTHAM, 2015. (NPR's International Affairs Correspondent. She is a veteran journalist who has spent three decades reporting on conflict, politics, and life across the globe.) “For Syrian Refugees, Needs Are Growing And Aid Is Declining” September 14, 2015. <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2015/09/14/440280540/for-syrian-refugees-needs-are-growing-and-aid-is-declining>

Every January over the past four years, the UNHCR has made an international appeal for donations to help Syrians fleeing the war. The money pays for food, shelter, medical treatment and the like in refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. But Melissa Fleming, the agency's chief spokesman, says the response this year has been disappointing. "At the beginning of the year, we made an appeal for $4.5 billion to cover the needs of the 4 million refugees that are living in the neighboring countries," she says. "We are now in September, and unfortunately, we have only gotten a small portion of that funding, not even 40 percent." The UNHCR, like most of the U.N.'s humanitarian agencies, relies entirely on voluntary contributions from governments, corporations and individuals. If that money is not coming in, aid agencies have to adjust.

1. LINK: poor camp situation forces refugees to flee to Europe

JACKIE NORTHAM, 2015. (Jackie Northam is NPR's International Affairs Correspondent. She is a veteran journalist who has spent three decades reporting on conflict, politics, and life across the globe.) “For Syrian Refugees, Needs Are Growing And Aid Is Declining” September 14, 2015. <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2015/09/14/440280540/for-syrian-refugees-needs-are-growing-and-aid-is-declining>

The sheer number of Syrian refugees on the move is straining humanitarian aid agencies. The United Nations' main refugee agency, the office of the U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees, says it is financially broke, making it difficult to help millions of Syrians living in refugee camps in neighboring countries. Aid workers say the deteriorating situation in the camps is forcing more refugees to make the long and difficult trek to Europe.

1. IMPACT: Death. Crossing the Mediterranean has a growing mortality rate.

TIME, 2017. (Kate Samuelson.) “Amnesty: 2017 on Course to Be Deadliest Year Yet for Refugees Crossing the Mediterranean” July 6, 2017. <http://time.com/4845054/amnesty-2017-refugees-crossing-mediterranean/>

This year is set to be the deadliest year for refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean in the desperate attempt to reach safety or a better life in Europe, with the mortality rate tripling since 2015, according to a new report. The Amnesty International report, called A perfect storm: The failure of European policies in the Central Mediterranean, links the soaring death toll in the Mediterranean, which has seen 2,000 deaths since January, to failing E.U. policies. The route between Libya and Italy has become the primary means for refugees arriving in Europe, and the most hazardous.

BACKUP: 360,000 Syrians cut off from assistance.

JACKIE NORTHAM, 2015. (NPR's International Affairs Correspondent) “For Syrian Refugees, Needs Are Growing And Aid Is Declining” September 14, 2015. <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2015/09/14/440280540/for-syrian-refugees-needs-are-growing-and-aid-is-declining>

Abeer Etefa, with the U.N.'s World Food Program for the Middle East and North Africa region, says the WFP has had to cut off 360,000 Syrian refugees living in the camps from any sort of assistance — and slash food rations for more than 1.5 million refugees. "Right now, it's a maximum of $13 to $14 per person per month, that they receive in terms of food assistance from the World Food Program," she says. "That's less than 50 cents a day to eat and survive on." The Syrian refugees in the camps are having to find new ways to cope, Etefa says. "They either eat less or they're resorting to cheaper food, which does not give them the necessary nutrition," she says. "And some people are taking drastic measures, like taking their children off schools and sending them off to work or marrying off their daughters young."

JUSTIFICATION 2. Most cost effective

1. Link: Cost of resettling 39,000 Syrian refugees would erase funding gap for neighboring camps

Steven A. Camarota, 2015. (Director of Research at the Center for Immigration Studies.) “The High Cost of Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees” November 4, 2015. <https://cis.org/Report/High-Cost-Resettling-Middle-Eastern-Refugees>

UNHCR reports a gap of $2.5 billion in funding that it needs to care for approximately four million Syrians in neighboring countries. The five-year cost of resettling about 39,000 Syrian refugees in the United States is enough to erase the current UNHCR funding gap.

Backup Link: 61 refugees can be helped in a region for the 5-year cost of bringing a refugee to the US

Steven A. Camarota, 2015. (Director of Research at the Center for Immigration Studies.) “The High Cost of Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees” November 4, 2015. <https://cis.org/Report/High-Cost-Resettling-Middle-Eastern-Refugees>

The UN spends $1,057 per refugee to help them in the region. Comparing the five-year cost of bringing one refugee to the United States to the cost of providing for someone in the region shows that for each refugee resettled here, 61 can be helped if they remain in a safe neighboring country such as Turkey, Jordan, or Lebanon for one year. At present, the UN reports a $2.5 billion funding gap between what it needs to care for some four million Syrian refugees in the Middle East and what it has received from donor nations. This is equal to the five-year costs of resettling just 39,000 Middle Eastern refugees in the United States.

1. IMPACT: 12 to 1 net benefits with Negative. For the cost of resettling 1 refugee in the US, 12 can be helped in a neighboring country

Steven A. Camarota, 2015. (Director of Research at the Center for Immigration Studies.) “The High Cost of Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees” November 4, 2015. <https://cis.org/Report/High-Cost-Resettling-Middle-Eastern-Refugees>

On average, each Middle Eastern refugee resettled in the United States costs an estimated $64,370 in the first five years, or $257,481 per household. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has requested $1,057 to care for each Syrian refugee annually in most countries neighboring Syria. For what it costs to resettle one Middle Eastern refugee in the United States for five years, about 12 refugees can be helped in the Middle East for five years, or 61 refugees can be helped for one year.

“Life better in US than neighboring country” RESPONSE: Cost effective, less culture shock and higher likelihood of returning home

Steven A. Camarota, 2015. (Director of Research at the Center for Immigration Studies.) “The High Cost of Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees” November 4, 2015. <https://cis.org/Report/High-Cost-Resettling-Middle-Eastern-Refugees>

To be sure, the material life of refugees in the United States will, with few exceptions, be better than if they remain in the region. However, providing for them a neighboring country has two additional advantages other than being more cost-effective. First, other countries in the region have similar cultures, while adapting to the United States can be challenging for people who have already suffered from war and deprivation. Second, if refugees remain in the region, they will be much more likely to return home once the war is over. If, on the other hand, they are resettled on the other side of the world in this country, it is much less likely they will ever return to their home country.

MINOR REPAIR

More vetting: Better selecting, not more selecting, the most effective way to help

James Carafano, Steven Bucci, David Inserra, 2015. (Carafano, a leading expert in national security and foreign policy challenges, is The Heritage Foundation’s vice president for foreign and defense policy studies. Bucci - served America for three decades as an Army Special Forces officer and top Pentagon official, is a visiting research fellow at The Heritage Foundation. Inserra specializes in cyber and homeland security policy, including protection of critical infrastructure, as policy analyst in The Heritage Foundation.) November 17, 2015. “What a Responsible Syrian Refugee Policy Looks Like for US After Paris Attacks” <http://dailysignal.com/2015/11/17/what-a-responsible-syrian-refugee-policy-looks-like-for-u-s-after-paris-attacks/>

Indeed, there are individuals whom the U.S. knows little or nothing about, and whom the U.S. should not be looking to accept without a reasonable vetting system. There are other refugee applicants, however, where the U.S. already has some information and/or can gather more information. In other words, some refugee applicants are more ideal candidates than others because we have better information with which to vet them. These individuals should be the focus of our refugee efforts. This effort also speaks to the importance of providing U.S. officials with adequate intelligence tools and resources. Additionally and subject to intelligence assessments, the U.S. should be looking to accept individuals likely to be those in greatest need from refugee camps in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, rather than those already in Europe.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. A/T "US Moral Responsibility"

“Iraq War means US is responsible” RESPONSE: Facts off

Andrew Gripp, 2015. (M.A. in Democracy and Governance from Georgetown University in 2012. He is a former political science professor, and he writes on American politics, international affairs, philosophy, and literature) “No, The U.S. Is Not To Blame for the Refugee Crisis” Sep 14, 2015 <https://ivn.us/2015/09/14/no-u-s-not-blame-refugee-crisis/>

First, a bit of fact-checking is in order. Swann says that the Iraq War led to half a million Iraqi deaths. This number is very much in dispute. Following the release of troves of Iraq War-related documents by Wikileaks, it appears that the number of noncombatant Iraqis killed is closer to 122,000. Of this total, more than half are estimated to have been at the hands of fellow Iraqis, including from roadside bombs and sectarian killings. Moreover, through semantic slight-of-hand, Swann blames the rise of ISIS on America’s support for the Free Syrian Army. This is disingenuous. Not only has U.S. support for the FSA been delayed and meager, but the FSA and jihadist groups like Jabhat al-Nusra and ISIS are sworn enemies: it is only because the U.S. provided so little support for the moderate opposition that FSA fighters began defecting to the more radical, better-equipped jihadist groups.

Iraq war not the cause of the crisis

Andrew Gripp, 2015. (M.A. in Democracy and Governance from Georgetown University in 2012. He is a former political science professor, and he writes on American politics, international affairs, philosophy, and literature. He currently resides in New York City.) “No, The U.S. Is Not To Blame for the Refugee Crisis” Sep 14, 2015 <https://ivn.us/2015/09/14/no-u-s-not-blame-refugee-crisis/>

Yet the fatal flaw in Swann’s argument is his identification of the war in Iraq as the origin of the refugee crisis. Choosing this event or point in time is as arbitrary as it is revealing of his membership in the “Blame American First” crowd, whose interpretation of events in the Middle East is very much in need of rebuttal. To begin, perhaps Swann is not aware — or does not bother to relate to his readers — that Iraq has been experiencing a refugee crisis for decades. Perhaps he is unaware that it was in order to escape the brutality of Saddam Hussein’s dictatorship that Iraqis began fleeing the country in droves — many of them settling in America, including in places like Dearborn, Michigan. One wonders why he does not mention Saddam’s draining of the marshes in southern Iraq and his attacks on the Shi’ite population there, which created at least 200,000 displaced persons. One questions why he does not bring up Saddam’s brutal repression of the spontaneous uprisings in 1991 (I wonder if Swann could stomach reading even a few pages of Kanan Makiya’s chronicling of these atrocities in his underappreciated book, Cruelty and Silence), which created 2 million Kurdish refugees alone, with an estimated two thousand dying every day from dehydration and dysentery. Swann’s focus on the Iraq War but not its antecedents (the war was not waged solely on the basis of securing WMDs, but for, among other reasons, Saddam’s violation of the terms of the post-Gulf War ceasefire agreement) reminds me of how Western journalists, since 2003, are often all too quick to step over 1,000 cold corpses — murdered at the hands of autocrats or jihadists — in order to humiliate the United States.

Political revolutions, not US involvement, responsible for crisis

Andrew Gripp, 2015. (Andrew Gripp received his M.A. in Democracy and Governance from Georgetown University in 2012. He is a former political science professor, and he writes on American politics, international affairs, philosophy, and literature. He currently resides in New York City.) “No, The U.S. Is Not To Blame for the Refugee Crisis” Sep 14, 2015 <https://ivn.us/2015/09/14/no-u-s-not-blame-refugee-crisis/>

In short, Ben Swann is incorrect to argue that the U.S. is to blame for the refugee crisis: rather, it is social unrest following political revolutions — in Iraq in 1991 and in Libya and Syria starting with the Arab Spring — that is responsible.

2. Trump restrictions aren't a crisis

Increases in refugee numbers under Obama administration was unusual, now we're just going back to a “historic norm.”

James Carafano, Steven Bucci, David Inserra, 2015. (Carafano, a leading expert in national security and foreign policy challenges, is The Heritage Foundation’s vice president for foreign and defense policy studies. Bucci - served America for three decades as an Army Special Forces officer and top Pentagon official, is a visiting research fellow at The Heritage Foundation. Inserra specializes in cyber and homeland security policy, including protection of critical infrastructure, as policy analyst in The Heritage Foundation.) November 17, 2015. “What a Responsible Syrian Refugee Policy Looks Like for US After Paris Attacks” <http://dailysignal.com/2015/11/17/what-a-responsible-syrian-refugee-policy-looks-like-for-u-s-after-paris-attacks/>

The U.S. for the past several years has accepted around 70,000 refugees a year from around the world. Obama has announced that he will increase the refugee quota to 85,000 in 2016 and 100,000 in 2017, with 10,000 slots reserved for Syrians.

US still resettles more refugees than any other country, even with the lower Trump numbers

USA TODAY, 2017. (journalist Gregory Korte) Sept. 29, 2017 “Trump signs order cutting refugee quota to lowest level since 1980” <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/09/29/trump-set-cut-refugee-quota-lowest-level-since-1980/713463001/>

President Trump signed an order Friday lowering the number of refugees allowed into the United States next year to 45,000 — the lowest cap since Congress passed the Refugee Act in 1980. That's a 59% reduction from the ceiling set by President Barack Obama just a year ago, and the largest one-year change in history. And it comes amid a global refugee crisis that international relief groups have called the worst since World War II. Even under Trump's numbers, the United States permanently resettles more refugees than any other country.

US prioritizes resettling refugees close to home

USA TODAY, 2017. (journalist Gregory Korte) Sept. 29, 2017 “Trump signs order cutting refugee quota to lowest level since 1980” <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/09/29/trump-set-cut-refugee-quota-lowest-level-since-1980/713463001/>

Beyond those numbers, a State Department report to Congress this week outlined other changes to refugee polices that prioritize the resettlement of refugees in their country of origin, or in third countries where the refugees first flee. The report, which hasn't been released but was obtained by USA TODAY from congressional staffers, justifies the lower numbers as a resource issue. The Trump administration cites the need for more enhanced screening and other priorities, including political asylum claims. At a speech at the United Nations last week, Trump insisted that the United States "is a compassionate nation and has spent billions and billions of dollars" to support refugees. But he said the goal should be to host refugees "as close to their home countries as possible," eventually returning them to their homes. "This is the safe, responsible, and humanitarian approach," he said.

Reduced quota is only a temporary measure

USA TODAY, 2017. (Gregory Korte) Sept. 29, 2017 “Trump signs order cutting refugee quota to lowest level since 1980” <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/09/29/trump-set-cut-refugee-quota-lowest-level-since-1980/713463001/>

A year ago, President Obama had set the refugee ceiling for 2017 at 110,000, the highest number since 1995. But seven days after taking office, Trump signed an executive order reducing that number to 50,000. That number was cast as a temporary measure while the Trump administration could institute "extreme vetting" procedures focused on countries it said were hotbeds of terrorism.

SOLVENCY / REVERSE ADVOCACY

30 governors don’t support

James Carafano, Steven Bucci, David Inserra, 2015. (Carafano, a leading expert in national security and foreign policy challenges, is The Heritage Foundation’s vice president for foreign and defense policy studies. Bucci - served America for three decades as an Army Special Forces officer and top Pentagon official, is a visiting research fellow at The Heritage Foundation. Inserra specializes in cyber and homeland security policy, including protection of critical infrastructure, as policy analyst in The Heritage Foundation.) November 17, 2015. “What a Responsible Syrian Refugee Policy Looks Like for US After Paris Attacks” <http://dailysignal.com/2015/11/17/what-a-responsible-syrian-refugee-policy-looks-like-for-u-s-after-paris-attacks/>

For starters, we know the White House has not dealt with the issue in a responsible manner. Even though upward of 30 governors have announced they don’t want new Syrian refugees in their states, the president has dismissed such concerns as “un-American.”

Taking in refugees not the solution. Turn: It masks the problem and distracts us from finding solutions to the root causes

James Carafano, Steven Bucci, David Inserra, 2015. (Carafano - leading expert in national security and foreign policy challenges, The Heritage Foundation’s vice president for foreign and defense policy studies. Bucci - served America for three decades as an Army Special Forces officer and top Pentagon official, visiting research fellow at The Heritage Foundation. Inserra - specializes in cyber and homeland security policy, including protection of critical infrastructure, as policy analyst at Heritage Foundation.) 17 Nov 2015. “What a Responsible Syrian Refugee Policy Looks Like for US After Paris Attacks” <http://dailysignal.com/2015/11/17/what-a-responsible-syrian-refugee-policy-looks-like-for-u-s-after-paris-attacks/>

Conversely, what we should not do is believe that simply taking refugees is a solution to the problem. Refugee programs are an emergency measure to protect those “persecuted or have a credible fear of persecution based on their religion, race, political beliefs, or membership in a social group.” They are not a substitute for a policy that deals with the source of instability. Part of the great dissatisfaction with the Obama administration is the general belief that it has no plan on how to deal with the root causes of the conflict.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Social cost

Link: Most refugees are on welfare

Ali Meyer, 2015. (staff writer with the Washington Free Beacon covering economic issues that expose government waste, fraud, and abuse.) “Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees Costs Taxpayers $64,370 Per Refugee” November 19, 2015. <http://freebeacon.com/issues/resettling-middle-eastern-refugees-costs-taxpayers-64370-per-refugee/#ampshare=http://freebeacon.com/issues/resettling-middle-eastern-refugees-costs-taxpayers-64370-per-refugee/>

Because refugees are eligible for all welfare programs they have very high rates of participation in government assistance programs. The report finds that 91.4 percent of refugees receive food stamps, 73.1 percent are on Medicaid, 68 percent receive cash assistance, 36.7 percent receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, 32.1 percent receive Supplemental Security Income, and 18.7 percent live in public housing.

Link and Impact: Poorly educated immigrants have negative fiscal impact on country

Olivia Enos, David Inserra and Joshua Meservey, 2017. (Enos is a Policy Analyst in the Asian Studies Center, of the Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy, at Heritage Foundation. Inserra is Policy Analyst for Homeland Security and Cyber Policy, in the Allison Center for Foreign Policy, of the Davis Institute. Meservey is Senior Policy Analyst for Africa and the Middle East, in the Allison Center.) “The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program: A Roadmap for Reform” July 5, 2017. <https://www.heritage.org/immigration/report/the-us-refugee-admissions-program-roadmap-reform>

There are also assimilation challenges that are exacerbated by the fact that refugees usually hail from underdeveloped countries wracked by violence, and as a result are frequently poorly educated and poorly skilled. Such disadvantages make it harder for refugees to prosper economically in a skills-oriented and technology-based economy. Research also suggests that poorly educated immigrants have, on average, a negative fiscal impact and an unclear economic impact on receiving countries.

Impact: Refugees use more welfare than they pay in taxes

Ali Meyer, 2015. (staff writer with the Washington Free Beacon covering economic issues that expose government waste, fraud, and abuse.) “Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees Costs Taxpayers $64,370 Per Refugee” November 19, 2015. <http://freebeacon.com/issues/resettling-middle-eastern-refugees-costs-taxpayers-64370-per-refugee/#ampshare=http://freebeacon.com/issues/resettling-middle-eastern-refugees-costs-taxpayers-64370-per-refugee/>

"Refugees have the most generous access to welfare programs of any population in the country," explains the analysis. "Very heavy use of welfare programs by Middle Eastern refugees, and the fact that they have only 10.5 years of education on average, makes it likely that it will be many years, if ever, before this population will cease to be a net fiscal drain on public coffers—using more in public services than they pay in taxes." Refugees aren’t expected to be self-sufficient because they are admitted for humanitarian reasons. The report explains that careful consideration should be given to alternatives, since many more refugees could be helped in a neighboring Middle Eastern country.

“Time will correct high cost” RESPONSE: 5 Years in, Still over half on welfare

Ali Meyer, 2015. (staff writer with the Washington Free Beacon covering economic issues that expose government waste, fraud, and abuse.) “Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees Costs Taxpayers $64,370 Per Refugee” November 19, 2015. <http://freebeacon.com/issues/resettling-middle-eastern-refugees-costs-taxpayers-64370-per-refugee/#ampshare=http://freebeacon.com/issues/resettling-middle-eastern-refugees-costs-taxpayers-64370-per-refugee/>

After settling in the United States for five years, refugees still have a high rate of participation in government assistance programs. "If you look at all refugees who have been in the United States for 12 years, forget about food stamps, and public housing and Medicaid, the report is clear half of them are still on cash assistance," Camarota says. "The majority who have been here for five years, which doesn’t mean they just got here on various forms of welfare, it’s like 70 percent on various forms of welfare but half are on cash welfare."

1. Terrorism

LINK: War-torn countries have worse background checks

Olivia Enos, David Inserra and Joshua Meservey, 2017. (Enos is a Policy Analyst in the Asian Studies Center, of the Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy, at Heritage Foundation. Inserra is Policy Analyst for Homeland Security and Cyber Policy, in the Allison Center for Foreign Policy, of the Davis Institute. Meservey is Senior Policy Analyst for Africa and the Middle East, in the Allison Center.) “The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program: A Roadmap for Reform” July 5, 2017. <https://www.heritage.org/immigration/report/the-us-refugee-admissions-program-roadmap-reform>

As senior U.S. government officials acknowledged is the case with Syria, it is even harder to check people from war-torn or adversarial countries. States wracked by violence are unlikely to have thorough, if any, terrorism and criminal databases. Similarly, refugees fleeing violence are understandably less likely to have documents verifying their identities or flight stories, and people can sometimes easily acquire forged identity documents in unstable countries.

A/T “Muslim Immigrants don’t radicalize” – The next generation, or "1.5 generation," does radicalize

Olivia Enos, David Inserra and Joshua Meservey, 2017. (Enos is a Policy Analyst in the Asian Studies Center, of the Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy, at Heritage Foundation. Inserra is Policy Analyst for Homeland Security and Cyber Policy, in the Allison Center for Foreign Policy, of the Davis Institute. Meservey is Senior Policy Analyst for Africa and the Middle East, in the Allison Center.) “The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program: A Roadmap for Reform” July 5, 2017. <https://www.heritage.org/immigration/report/the-us-refugee-admissions-program-roadmap-reform>

The larger security challenge associated with resettling refugees is the heightened chance of Muslims in the “one-point-five” generation (those resettled to the U.S. at a young age) or the second generation radicalizing. Biographic data on people involved in extremist activities in the U.S. is patchy, so it is difficult to know how pronounced this phenomenon is. It exists, however, and fits with trends in Europe.

Link: Terrorists are trying to infiltrate refugee system to get into the US, and several terrorists have been brought in as refugees

Olivia Enos, David Inserra and Joshua Meservey, 2017. (Enos is a Policy Analyst in the Asian Studies Center, of the Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy, at Heritage Foundation. Inserra is Policy Analyst for Homeland Security and Cyber Policy, in the Allison Center for Foreign Policy, of the Davis Institute. Meservey is Senior Policy Analyst for Africa and the Middle East, in the Allison Center.) “The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program: A Roadmap for Reform” July 5, 2017. <https://www.heritage.org/immigration/report/the-us-refugee-admissions-program-roadmap-reform> (Brackets added)

Nonetheless, there are concerns that the next terrorist may come to the U.S. on a refugee visa. According to the National Counterterrorism Center, individuals with ties to Syrian terrorist groups have already attempted to infiltrate the refugee system, and in the past USRAP [US Refugee Admissions Program] resettled several terrorists to the U.S.

Impact: 142 deaths from terror attacks in Europe in 2016.

Peter Cluskey, 2017. (third-generation journalist and broadcaster based in The Hague. He has reported extensively from the Middle East, particularly Israel and Lebanon; is an editorial consultant to UNESCO.) “Deaths from terrorism in Europe have spiked since 2014” Jun 16, 2017. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/europe/deaths-from-terrorism-in-europe-have-spiked-since-2014-1.3122948>

A total of 142 people died in terror attacks across Europe in 2016, a death toll on a par with the 148 fatalities the previous year – but a striking increase on the four people who died in 2014, according to new figures from the EU’s law enforcement agency, Europol. The vast majority of the 2016 fatalities – 135 of the 142 – resulted from 13 separate jihadist attacks, six of which were linked to Islamic State, according to the annual Terrorism Situation and Trend report, which calls for closer cross-border co-operation on intelligence sharing.

Impact: Life-changing injury and death in European terror attacks from radicalized youth immigrants

Peter Cluskey, 2017. (third-generation journalist and broadcaster based in The Hague. He has reported extensively from the Middle East, particularly Israel and Lebanon; is an editorial consultant to UNESCO.) “Deaths from terrorism in Europe have spiked since 2014” Jun 16, 2017. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/europe/deaths-from-terrorism-in-europe-have-spiked-since-2014-1.3122948>

In each of those two years hundreds of victims were left with life-changing injuries. In 2015, says the report, 379 people were injured, many of them seriously – again, on a par with some 350 people who were hurt or badly hurt in 2015. The large increase in the numbers killed since 2014 reflects the elevated threat from jihadist groups such as Isis, and to a lesser extent a resurgent al-Qaeda, combined with the coming-of-age of radicalised young supporters “born and raised in the EU”.

3. Hate crime

Germany had a big spike in anti-Christian hate crimes caused by refugees

Ben Knight 2018 (journalist) 2 Feb 2018 "Anti-Christian crime causes increasing concern in Germany" <http://www.dw.com/en/anti-christian-crime-causes-increasing-concern-in-germany/a-42430403>

Germany's federal police recorded almost 100 attacks on Christians or Christian institutions in Germany in 2017. Most violent incidents occurred among asylum seekers living together in refugee homes. German conservative politicians have expressed shock after figures leaked by the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) revealed 97 anti-Christian hate crimes in the country last year.

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