

# Editorial / Editorial

This present World Tensions' issue is published a few months after the I International Congress on Law, Economics, Education and Geopolitics on the theme "Global Transformations and refugees". The event took place in Fortaleza from November 12 to 14, 2018, at the Federal University of Ceará. This dossier is a result of a selection of texts from six working groups, which addressed the situation of refugees in the global geopolitical context under various aspects and theoretical approaches.

The idea of launching this thematic edition comes from the growing relevance of migrations' studies, which take dramatic dimensions in the current international scenario. In addition, this issue requires a multidisciplinary view including expertise in law, international relations, history, human geography, economics, sociology and political science. To understand how the nation influences the study of human displacements, one needs to bear in mind the relationship between nationalism and internationalism, and how the social sciences, especially in the postwar period, came to understand these phenomena.

Immigrants generally challenge the unity between people and nation, as they appear as mixed points in the "pure" colors of the national environment, reminding nation builders and social scientists that ethnic minorities have been "absorbed" in the national context through a policy of forced assimilation and benevolent integration. It is in this sense that Benedict Anderson, in his article "Problems of contemporary nationalisms", published in the first issue of this journal, reflects on human migration and its ambiguous consequences for the future of nationalism. He focuses on intensification of migratory flows, the phenomenon of dual nationality and the national feeling of people who live abroad.

According to Oxfam - Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, there are more than 65 million people worldwide officially compelled to leave their homes because of conflict, violence and persecution.

This is the highest number recorded by the United Nations since the second world war. Most of these victims of forced displacement remain within their own country or migrate to neighbor countries, as in the case of Nigeria, as a result of the Boko Haram radical group attacks, Lebanon, due to civil war in Syria, and also South America countries, with thousands of Colombians fleeing the guerrillas, as well as those affected by the political crisis in Venezuela.

We start with the thought-provoking Hermann Voesgen Conference in Fortaleza, in October 2018, organized by the Master program in Social Services, Work and Social Issues, in partnership with the Graduate Program in Sociology, both from UECE. The Potsdam University professor tells how government, university and activist groups are facing the challenge of immigration in Germany. His presentation highlights solidarity and courage of those who have a commitment to the refugees and, with them, try to build a better life.

After that we present articles, mostly from young researchers, who bring a variety of approaches in content and methodology, giving readers a rich empirical and conceptual discussion on the topic of refuge.

Andreza Proença Kasprzak and Renan Cajazeiras Mojnteiro work with the protection of human dignity giving the increasing number of refugees. The study brings quantitative data connecting the conflicts in certain areas, particularly in the Middle East and Africa, with the growing displacement of populations, forcing them to seek acceptance in other countries. The authors' study of the complex reality of refugees reveals multiple violations of their human dignity by the state where they were born, by the state that closes its borders and prevent their entry, and by the state that hosts them, but does not provide the necessary conditions to ensure that these individuals can reestablish their integrity, as well as by the society that treats refugees with xenophobia, discrimination and racism.

Some issues not addressed in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees pose challenges to international law, as it is the case of migration by sea and those caused by environmental

disasters, both increasingly frequent. This is the research object of Lais Maria Belchior Gondim and Tarin Cristino Frota Mont'Alverne who discuss the conceptualization and the instruments that can be used for protecting this vulnerable group of people. The theme was chosen because of its contemporaneity, relevance and humanitarian vision, as well as the urgent need for serious academic reflection on the concept of environmental refugees in international treaties and on the risks of migrating by sea, often done in irregular ways that are profitable for smugglers.

Considering the sociocultural, economic and political problems affecting refugees, what to expect from policies in Brazil, a country of great cultural diversity, which receives migratory flows from various parts of the globe, although not always dealing in a gently manner with foreigners? Cristino Tomaz, Elizabeth Rodrigues and Tereza Cristina Rodrigues develop this subject showing that, according to UN reports, the number of refugees in Brazil increased from 5,157 in 2010 to 41,080 in 2017. So, there is an urgency for implementing public policies that guarantee the fundamental rights of this group. For the authors, equality is a basic principle of a democratic state and justifies the need to protect people's rights regardless of their condition. They ask if the current Brazilian Migration Law allows for greater protection of human rights, especially of refugees.

Still looking at South America, Fernanda Claudia Araujo da Silva and Estevão Mota Sousa discuss the social and administrative effects of the migratory flow from Venezuela to the cities of Pacaraima and Boa Vista. The article analyses discrimination, stigma and vulnerability of immigrants from the neighboring country, seeking to answer the question of a possible correlation between the increase in Roraima poverty and the arrival of Venezuelans. This situation is far from a solution. Besides competition for jobs, there is a growing anti-immigrant sentiment due to differences in ethnicity, language, religion and behaviors, which would be seen as a threat to Brazil's social and political stability and security.

Susi Castro draws a panorama of Colombia human rights violations in the context of the "Havana Peace" agreement in order to investigate the possibility of either the permanence of Brazil's

granting refuge to Colombians or the formal declaration of ceasing the refugee status. Her focus is directed to the thousands of children, victims of cruel strategies undertaken by the parties involved in more than 50 years of conflict between the government, paramilitaries and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The researcher emphasizes that the Colombians were the majority among those seeking refuge in Brazil, but the country's admission to the Mercosur Residence Agreement reduced their numbers as refugees. In conclusion, she says that legal and bureaucratic aspects should not prevail over the humanitarian duty to provide full protection to children (unaccompanied, separated or with their relatives).

Nothing more sad in this moment in human history. The image of a baby Syrian refugee killed on a beach in Turkey shocked the world for a few hours. Photos of hundreds of refugees piled into precarious vessels have become commonplace in major news portals around the world. In the context of media monopoly of information, images represent a powerful language that touches human sensitivity. This is the theme of our next article. Provoked by their training in social communication, Maria Damasceno Jales and Felipe Mendes undertook an extensive research on the construction of Syrian refugees' image by international media, with conceptual support of the concept of photo-shock created by Susan Sontag. The work stimulates a critical reflection on images that depict the suffering of others while objectifying and reinforcing social stigmas as a function of social withdrawal but can also trigger actions of mobilization.

The next contribution to this thematic dossier comes from experts in their respective fields of knowledge, José Antonio de Lima and Peter Rosset, who talk about the history of movements that have an anti-occidental and anti-imperialist worldview.

The Muslim Brotherhood was born in opposition to colonial domination in the Middle East, especially in Egypt. In the 1970's, the Islamic resurgence was fueled by the failure of liberalism, nationalism and pan-Arabism, as José Antonio observes. Under Mubarak, the brotherhood stands as a political force opposing the regime, a position it would enjoy in 2011, when the "Arab spring"

caused the fall of the regime, opening an opportunity for the election of Muslim Brothers' representatives and their subsequent overthrow in 2013.

La Via Campesina originated from struggles over the past 25 years, when major changes occur in the organizing of rural social movements, with respect to land reform and territory. The evolution of these ideas, dialectically produced as a result of changes in the outside world and to interchange of experiences and knowledge within La Via Campesina as a transnational social movement, demonstrates important learnings. Militant researcher, Peter Rosset, describes the current context of disputes with capitalism in terms of both material aspects and ideas, with an emphasis on the diversity of actors in the struggle, including the role of the state in the advocacy for new rights.

We finish this publication with Uriel Erlich's article about an explosive subject that shows the persistence of colonialism by major powers: the Malvinas war. Author of a book on the pendulum movement of Argentina's foreign policy, this professor of sociology at the University of Buenos Aires reports with rich historical facts the process of domination of the Malvinas Islands since the 19th century. His research concentrated on the restoration period of diplomatic relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom, since 1989, having as theoretical framework the debate on sovereignty.

We wish all an excellent reading!

The editors