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TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
INTO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND OTHER REGIONS:
A MODERN-DAY FORM OF SLAVERY

by

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Seton Hall University

Master's Thesis

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Reader: Professor Razavian

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TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS INTO THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND OTHER REGIONS:
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John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations
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Date Approved: _____

Advisor: _____

Reader: _____

ABSTRACT

In today's world, one of the most important freedoms is the personal freedom of a human being. People are born free and equal in dignity and rights¹. The world has combated slavery and made it illegal centuries ago, yet slavery still exists in the modern world in the form of trafficking in human beings.

For many people, the era of globalization and democracy brought along the ability to travel freely around the world, the freedom to conduct business globally, and the equality between men and women. Yet, this era has also brought along the globalization of crime, corruption, poverty and trafficking in human beings.

Trafficking in human beings is one of the biggest and fastest-growing problems in today's world. The numbers of people trafficked into the US and globally have increased immensely, and will continue increasing if left unnoticed.

Trafficking in human beings is the fastest-growing black market industry in the Eastern Europe, and the third most profitable after the drugs and arms trafficking worldwide. With globalization, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union has become the third most important region of origin for trafficking in human beings into the United States. In terms of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation, South East-Asia, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union Republics have become some of the primary regions of trafficking victims' origin in the US.

To combat this modern type of slavery one needs to understand the factors that influence the growth of this phenomenon. This study argues that such factors as poverty, corruption, lack of laws are the decisive variables that influence the problem of

¹ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 1

trafficking from Eastern Europe into the US. At the same time, the factor of education is not an important variable in this area, because more often than not educated men and women are trafficked from the areas with high literacy rates into the areas with lower literacy rates.

Thus, this work argues that the best way to solve the problem of women trafficking in human beings is to improve the economy in regions of origin.

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My family, for constant support and understanding, and my friends, for sharing the commitment to the cause of eliminating the crime of trafficking in human beings.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	ii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	iv
CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER TWO TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS INTO THE UNITED STATES	5
2.1 Definition of Trafficking in Human Beings.....	5
2.2 Types of Trafficking in Human Beings	6
2.3 The Push and Pull Factors of Migration	7
2.4 Dynamics in Types of Trafficking in Persons into the United States 1978-2005	9
2.5 Trafficking into Various Regions of the United States.....	12
2.6 Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and Their Origin	15
2.7 Victims of Trafficking and Their Gender	18
2.8 Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and their Age.....	19
2.9 Traffickers and Their Victims.....	20
CHAPTER THREE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND FORMER USSR	22
3.1 Testable Hypotheses	22
3.2 Analysis and Findings.....	23
3.3 Literacy and Trafficking	24
3.4 Government Cooperation.....	26
3.5 Economy and Trafficking in Human Beings	31
3.6 Counterproductive Work of International Organizations	35
CHAPTER FOUR POLICY LESSONS AND CONCLUSIONS	42
GLOSSARY	44
REFERENCES	45
APPENDIX: DATA DESCRIPTION	48

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

About 20 million people have been trafficked worldwide, bringing the traffickers about US \$ 7 billion operation annually.² About 800 thousand people, mostly women and children are being trafficked worldwide yearly.³ Approximately 18,000 men, women and children are trafficked into the US each year.⁴

Trafficking in human beings is one of the biggest problems in the US today. It is also the fastest-growing industry in the Central and South Eastern Europe, especially in the former Soviet Union and the former Communist bloc countries. Trafficking in human beings is the third most profitable black market industry worldwide, after drug and arms trafficking.

There are two types of trafficking in human beings: labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Out of these two, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is probably the most degrading. Victims of this kind of trafficking are most often women and young girls. Women and girls are also always an easy prey for the traffickers. Only in Moldova, a small country in Eastern Europe with a population slightly below five million, about 10 per cent of all women and young girls have become victims of sex trafficking.⁵ Europol estimates that the sex industry is worth several billion US dollars a year only in

² UN Trafficking Protocol

³ UN Trafficking Report, 2004 US Department of State Report on Trafficking in Persons <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2004/34021.htm>

⁴ 2004 US Department of State Report on Trafficking in Persons

⁵ MSNBC report on trafficking in human beings <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/3042166/>

the South-Eastern European region.⁶ About 90 per cent of all sex workers in the Balkans are victims of human trafficking.⁷

Sex trafficking is not only degrading and painful to the women, but has greater consequences for the whole society. In many parts of the world, severe epidemics of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases “can be significantly attributed to spread through commercial sex”.⁸ Besides, women often get physically and emotionally abused and are literally treated like slaves. Even if they manage to escape, the physical and emotional pain that they have experienced becomes deep-rooted and often stays forever. Women are the nucleus of the family, and to be able to have a healthy society we need to protect and save them from this kind of inhumane treatment.

In the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the Palermo Convention), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000, trafficking in persons, a modern form of slavery, was defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other means of coercion.” According to this definition, exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

The problem of trafficking for sexual exploitation is seen as the result of a confluence of variables. Many scholars and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) blame its emergence and growth on the lack of *education, laws and government*

⁶ UNDP Report

http://www.undp.ro/governance/Best%20Practice%20Manuals/docs/Police_Manual_Final.pdf

⁷ IOM Trafficking in Persons Quarterly Bulletin # 22, Autumn 2000, p. 2

http://www.iom.int/documents/publication/en/tm_22.pdf

⁸ Beyrer, p. 545

cooperation. As the UN report on women trafficking stated, “The majority of women and girls that are trafficked come from less educated rural areas.”⁹

Basing on data from the United States and South-Eastern Europe, this research argues that even though the aforementioned factors are vital in eliminating the problem, the most significant cause for women trafficking is the poor *economic* situation in the countries of origin. The other factors that also increase the problem are the *push and pull factors of migration, instability* and *war* in the countries of destination (such as Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the *counterproductive work* of some organizations, like in the case of NATO and UN peacekeeping troops; as well as *corruption* both in the countries of origin and of destination. This research is going to review all the mentioned independent variables and determine their significance in the problem of trafficking in persons in the United States and South-Eastern Europe.

It should be noted that due to the difficult matter of the research and to the international criminal activities of certain groups of people connected with the problem, it is extremely difficult to get the real numbers of women and children that are being trafficked to the US from South-Eastern Europe and other regions. This study is based on the data obtained from the US Department of Justice (USDOJ), the International Labor Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), La Strada, the United Nations, and the World Bank, as well as the CIA World Fact Book. These organizations have provided numbers and information about the real cases in the US, numbers of persons that have been rescued, as well as the data about the economical and political situation in various countries in the region. The abovementioned data provides the basis for this research.

⁹ UNOHCHR Report, p. 26

The estimated numbers of people trafficked into the United States in the fiscal year 2004 could be divided by the world regions, where about 5,000-7,000 people are being trafficked yearly from East Asia and the Pacific, 3,500-5,500 from Europe and former USSR, 3,500-5,500 from Latin America and another 1,000 from the rest of the world.¹⁰ In South-Eastern Europe, the problem is especially acute in countries like Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation and Ukraine. Women are being trafficked from Moldova, Ukraine, Romania, Russia and other former Communist Bloc countries (countries of origin) into the West, countries with developed economies and into the regions of instability and war zones, like Kosovo and Bosnia, in South-Eastern Europe and, increasingly, into the United States (countries of destination). In South-Eastern Europe, the problem is comparatively new and growing every day. “Trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation is the most prevailing form of trafficking in the Balkan region. Ninety percent of foreign migrant sex workers in the Balkan countries are victims of trafficking.”¹¹

The analysis of the problem of trafficking in human beings will be discussed in three major sections. Section one (Chapter Two) will overview the problem of trafficking in persons into the United States, will give the definition of trafficking, and will discuss major factors and results of trafficking. Section two (Chapter Three) will discuss the problem of trafficking in human beings from Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union, one of the biggest regions of origin of the victims of trafficking. This section will discuss major variables that cause trafficking in the region as well as major implications and findings. The third part (Chapter Four) will serve as an overview and a conclusion.

¹⁰ USDOJ Report, 2004 <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/humantraffickingconf/docs/non103055.pdf>

¹¹ UNHCHR Report, p. 1

CHAPTER TWO

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS INTO THE UNITED STATES

This chapter will give an overview the problem of trafficking in persons into the United States. It will give the definition of trafficking in persons, will discuss types of trafficking, the push and pull factors of migration, dynamics and types of trafficking in the United States, as well as other factors that define the problem of trafficking in human beings in this region. It will also discuss major factors and results of trafficking in human beings in the United States of America.

2.1 Definition of Trafficking in Human Beings

There are numerous definitions of trafficking in human beings. This research is based on the universally accepted definition of trafficking in persons as stated in the United Nations *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons*.

As the UN Protocol states, trafficking in persons “shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the

prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”¹²

Under the United Nations protocol, the consent of the victim of trafficking shall be irrelevant when the means described above are used. The recruitment, transportation and harboring of any child under the age of eighteen, even if the means described above are not used, is also considered trafficking in persons.

It should be noted that trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants are two different notions. Smuggling includes crossing the border, trafficking can happen within one and the same country. Traffickers use coercion, deceit and threat to force victims into involuntary servitude.

2.2 Types of Trafficking in Human Beings

There are two types of trafficking of human beings: trafficking for the purpose of *forced labor* and trafficking for the purpose of *sexual exploitation*.

Trafficking for the purpose of *forced labor* include such types of involuntary servitude as domestic labor (maids, babysitters, housekeeping, garden work), labor at sweatshop factories, forced agricultural work, labor at construction sites or restaurant. One case of forced labor in the United States included forced work in a doctor’s office, in another case victims from Latin America that were deaf and unable to speak were promised jobs in the United States, but were forced into begging on the streets of New York City. Most of the times the victims of trafficking are forced to work many hours

¹² United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, Article III, p. 2
http://www.uncjin.org/Documents/Conventions/dcatoc/final_documents_2/convention_%20traff_eng.pdf

and are not being paid or are being paid very little. Victims are almost always threatened and/or physically abused, taken their documents away and forced to pay off their smuggling fees. They often live in terrible conditions with very little food and poor hygiene.

Trafficking for the purpose of *sexual exploitation* is probably the most degrading type of trafficking in human beings. Victims of sex trafficking are forced into the commercial sex industry—pornography, prostitution, stripping, live-sex shows, illegitimate massage parlors or escort services. The U.S Department of State estimates that 70 per cent of all victims of international human trafficking are women, the majority of whom fall prey to commercial sex trade.¹³ In the United States, in one hundred percent of cases the victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation were women and young girls. About half of the victims of sex trafficking in the United States were juvenile.

2.3 The Push and Pull Factors of Migration

The *push and pull* factors of migration play a very important role in trafficking in persons and in human smuggling today. Push and pull theory of migration suggests that people migrate because the circumstances at the place of origin, mostly such as poverty and unemployment push people out of that place to other places that pull them for various reasons, such as a high standard of living or job opportunities. The majority of people migrate because of economic reasons.¹⁴

¹³ US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report, June 14th 2004
http://www.usembassy.bg/policy/tip_03.html

¹⁴ United States Population Reference Bureau
http://www.prb.org/Content/NavigationMenu/PRB/Educators/Human_Population/Migration2/Migration1.htm

As in the case of migration overall, people mainly get trafficked from the poorer areas into the more developed areas. The trends in trafficking in human beings into the United States also suggest that the push and pull factors of migration play a very important role in the development of the problem. Before 1992, most of the people that have been trafficked in the United States were either US citizens or people from Latin America. With the fall of the Berlin wall, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the growth in globalization, victims of trafficking increasingly come from other, poorer areas of the world (Table 1).

Table 1: Victims' Characteristics Through the Years: Before and After the Fall of Communism¹⁵

Victims' Characteristics	Before 1992	After 1992
<i>I. Country of Origin:</i>		
United States of America	89.5%	23.1%
Latin America	10.5%	34.6%
Eastern Europe and former USSR	0%	6.4%
Asia and the Pacific	0%	25.6%
Africa and Near East	0%	10.3%
<i>II. Gender</i>		
Female	13.63%	74.35%
Male	45.45%	10.25%
Female and Male	40.10%	14.10%
<i>III. Age</i>		
Juvenile	18.2%	35.9%
Adult	81.8%	64.1%
<i>IV. Destination in the U.S.</i>		
Northeast	9.1%	35.9%
Southeast	31.8%	21.8%
Midwest and Texas	31.8%	15.4%
West	27.3%	26.9%

¹⁵ This and the rest of the data comes from the USDOJ Report, 2005

As seen in the Table I, in the last thirteen years victims of trafficking in human beings increasingly come from more distant regions of the world. At the same time, these regions are also characterized by a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) much lower than in the United States. For example, trafficking in human beings from Asia and the Pacific increased by 25.6%, from Latin America by 24.1%, from Africa and Near East by 10.3% and from Eastern Europe and former USSR by 6.4 %. If victims from USA constituted 89.5% of all the cases before 1992, today they represent 23.1% of all the victims.

2.4 Dynamics in Types of Trafficking in Persons into the United States 1978-2005

Trafficking in human beings has become a serious problem in the United States. About 18,000-20,000 people are being trafficked into and within the United States yearly.¹⁶ As shown in Table 1, the estimated numbers of people trafficked into the US could be divided by the world regions. Today, about 5,000-7,000 people are being trafficked yearly from East Asia and the Pacific, 3,500-5,500 from Europe and former USSR, 3,500-5,500 from Latin America and another 1,000 from the rest of the world.¹⁷

These numbers show new trends in the nature of trafficking in human beings—globalization of trafficking. If before 1992 most victims of trafficking in human beings in the United States were from the US and the neighboring Mexico and other Latin American countries (see Table 1), today traffickers find ways to lure victims from all over the world.

This research is based on the data provided by the US Department of Justice (USDOJ). The USDOJ data provides all the federal cases in human trafficking from 1978

¹⁶ USDOJ Report, 2004

¹⁷ USDOJ Report, 2004

to 2005, and their description. It also shows the dynamics in the types of trafficking in human beings into the United States.

Table 2: Victims Characteristics by Type of Trafficking: Sex versus Labor¹⁸

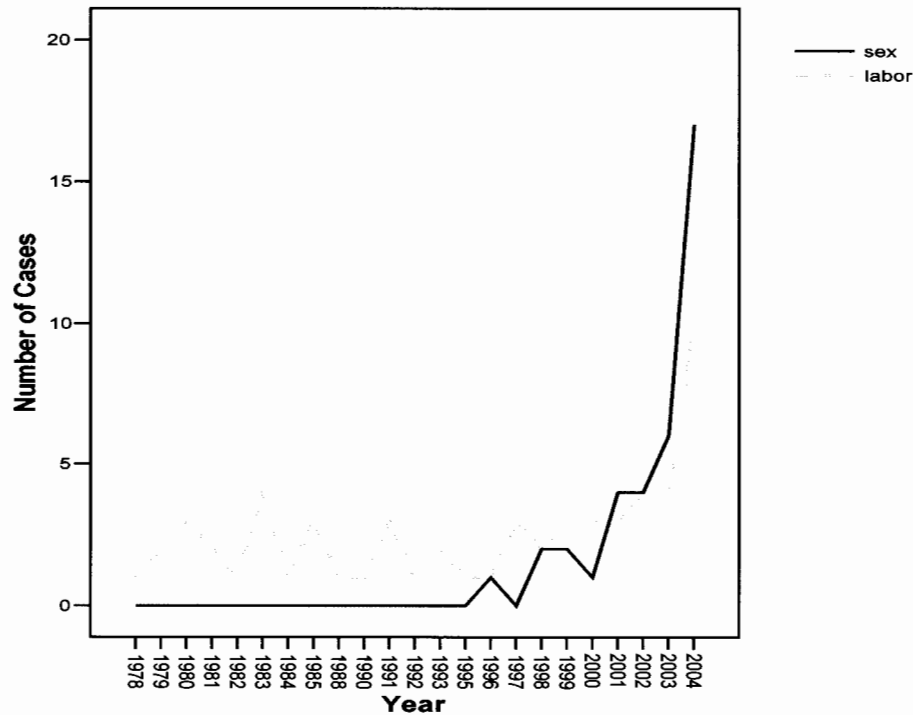
Victims' Characteristics	Sex Trafficking	Labor Trafficking
<i>I. Country of Origin:</i>		
United States of America	9%	11%
Latin America	17%	26%
Eastern Europe and former USSR	5%	0%
Asia and the Pacific	8%	13%
Africa and Near East	0%	11%
<i>II. Gender</i>		
Female	39%	23%
Male	0%	18%
Female and Male	0%	20%
<i>III. Age</i>		
Juvenile	20%	14%
Adult	19%	47%
<i>IV. Destination in the U.S.</i>		
Northeast	14%	16%
Southeast	8%	16%
Midwest and Texas	6%	13%
West	11%	16%
<i>V. Number of Victims in a Case</i>		
Single Victims	7%	19%
Multiple Victims	32%	42%
<i>VI. Relationship of Traffickers</i>		
Single or Unrelated	19%	33%
Related	13%	11%
Husband and Wife	7%	17%

As shown in Figure 1, before 1995 all the known cases of trafficking in persons were for the purpose of labor exploitation. After 1995, cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation started to appear, and in the last few years they skyrocketed so that the

¹⁸ This and the rest of the data comes from the USDOJ Report, 2005

number of persons trafficked for sexual exploitation today exceed the number of those trafficked for labor exploitation. The number of cases of people trafficked for labor exploitation also went up and today they far exceed the number of victims in previous years.

Figure 1: Trafficking for Sex and Labor 1978-2004



In the last few years we see a vast growth in the numbers of victims trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation into the United States over the years have only been female. Out of all the cases of trafficking in human beings, 39% constituted trafficking of women for the purpose of sexual exploitation; whereas there has not been a single known case of male victims trafficked for sexual exploitation into the United States (Table 2).

There was an increase in the overall number of female victims of trafficking in human beings, both for sex and labor purposes, after 1992. If before 1992 only 13.6% of

all the victims were female, after 1992 the vast majority, 74.4% of all the victims was female (see Table 1). This leads us to believe that there has been a sharp increase in the trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation into the United States in the last thirteen years.

As can be seen in Table 2, victims of labor trafficking are persons of both sexes. In some cases, traffickers would recruit male victims, in other cases—female, and sometimes people of both sexes. Yet, in all the known cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation, victims of trafficking in the United States have been young girls and women.

Over the years there have also been significant changes in the age of the victims of trafficking. If before 1992 most victims were adult (81.8%), in the last thirteen years the numbers of adult victims went down to 64.1% of all victims. At the same time, numbers of juvenile victims rose steadily from 18.2% to 35.9% today (see Table 1). In trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, more than half of the victims are juvenile.

2.5 Trafficking into Various Regions of the United States

Trafficking in human beings also varies by the area of destination in the United States. Before 1992 the biggest areas of destination in the US were Midwest and Texas (31.8%), Southeast (31.8%) and California (27.3%). Trafficking in human beings into the Northeast made up only 9.1% of all the cases of trafficking (see Table 1). This is due to the fact that most victims of trafficking were either of the US or Latin American origin. It was easiest to traffic victims of Latin American origin through the Mexican border to California and Texas, bordering with Mexico states.

However, after 1992 we see a sharp rise in trafficking of victims into the Northeastern region of the United States, mostly New York City and the metropolitan area. Trafficking into this area today constitutes 35.9% of all the cases of trafficking, followed by California and the Western States (26.9%) and Southeast (21.8 %). Whereas Midwest and Texas was the primary area of destination before 1992 (31.8%), today it has the lowest percentage of the cases of trafficking in human beings (15.4%). The numbers in the Northeast, on the contrary went up from 9.1% in 1992 to 35.9% today to turn it into the primary area of destination for trafficking in the United States (see Table 1).

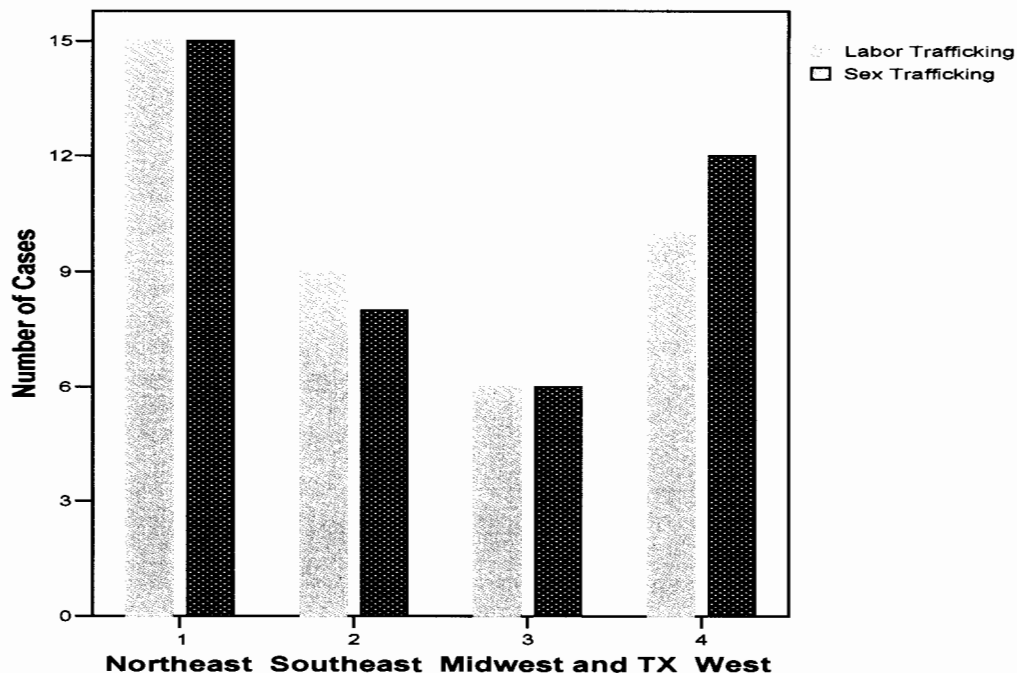
The fact that trafficking has become global, and many victims of trafficking were brought from Eastern Europe and former USSR, Africa, Asia into the US through the entrance ports of New York City has had a great impact on the shift in the pattern of trafficking. In the last few years we see a sudden rise in the numbers of victims trafficked into the North-East region of the United States (Table 1). Since in the last few years we have also seen a rise in the trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation (Table 2), this also means that Northeast of the United States has become the primary region for trafficking of persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

At the same time, because the known victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation are only women and girls, we can conclude that there are increasingly more women and girls trafficked into the Northeast of the United States for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Through the years, more victims have been trafficked into the Northeast region of the US for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Even though labor exploitation has been prevalent all throughout the US territory in years 1978-2005, sex exploitation found the

biggest market in the North-East and labor exploitation was more prevalent in the South-East of the United States. Labor trafficking has found the most fertile places of destination in the Midwest and Texas and in the West. Yet, after 1992 Northeast region has become the primary destination both for the labor and sex trafficking (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Victims of Trafficking in US Regions: Sex and Labor Trafficking, 1992-2005.



Because of the globalization of trafficking in human beings, more and more victims started to be trafficked into the North-East region of the US. Whereas before the fall of the Berlin wall most people were trafficked into the Southern and Western regions of the United States, with the globalization of trafficking the majority of victims were brought into the US from more remote parts of the world through New York City and other Northern entrance ports in the United States.

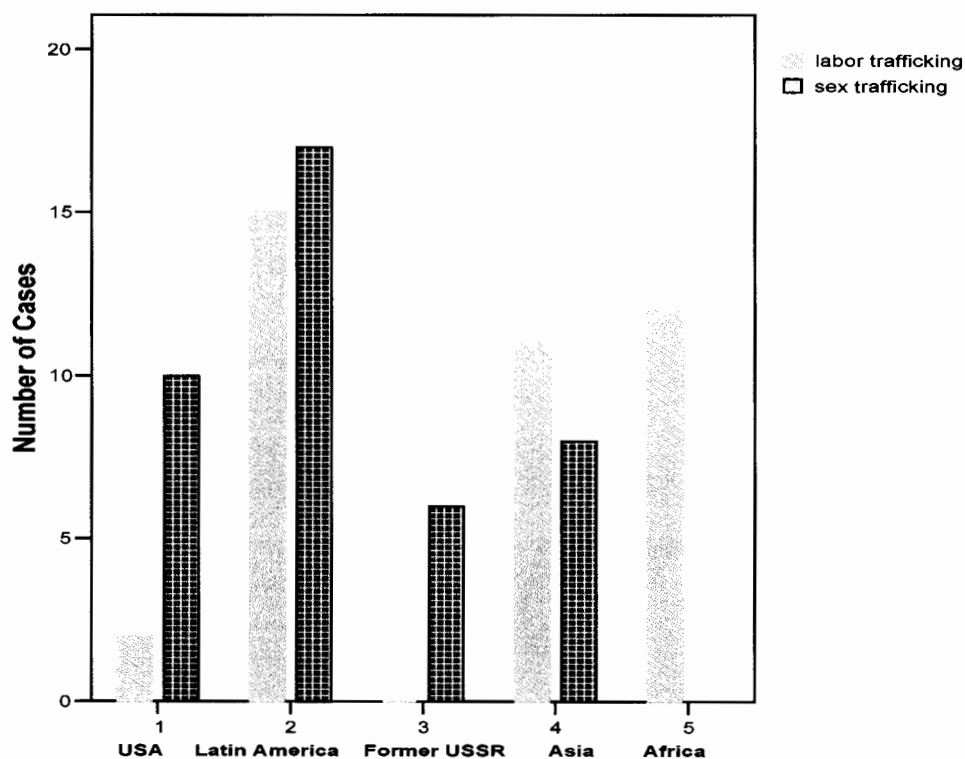
This pattern in trafficking for sexual exploitation is also connected to the fact that victims from Latin America that are mostly trafficked to the Southern US, Texas and California are both male and female. Male victims in all the known cases are only used

for labor exploitation, while female could be used for both labor and sex exploitation. Victims brought to the United States through the northern entrance ports, such as New York City, are mostly female victims from Eastern Europe and Asia. Female victims from Eastern Europe and former USSR have been trafficked into the US exclusively for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

2.6 Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and Their Origin

It is significant to know what type of trafficking women, men and children from various areas of the world could fall prey to. As shown in Figure 3, victims' origin plays an important role in determination of the type of trafficking.

Figure 3: Victims Origins and Types of Trafficking, 1992-2005



Victims from Eastern Europe and former USSR have been trafficked into the United States solely for the purpose of sexual exploitation, whereas victims of African

and Near Eastern descent have been trafficked into the US solely for the purpose of labor exploitation. Latin America, which due to its proximity to the US makes up the largest numbers of people trafficked into the United States, provides the largest numbers for both labor and sex trafficking, with a prevalence in labor trafficking.

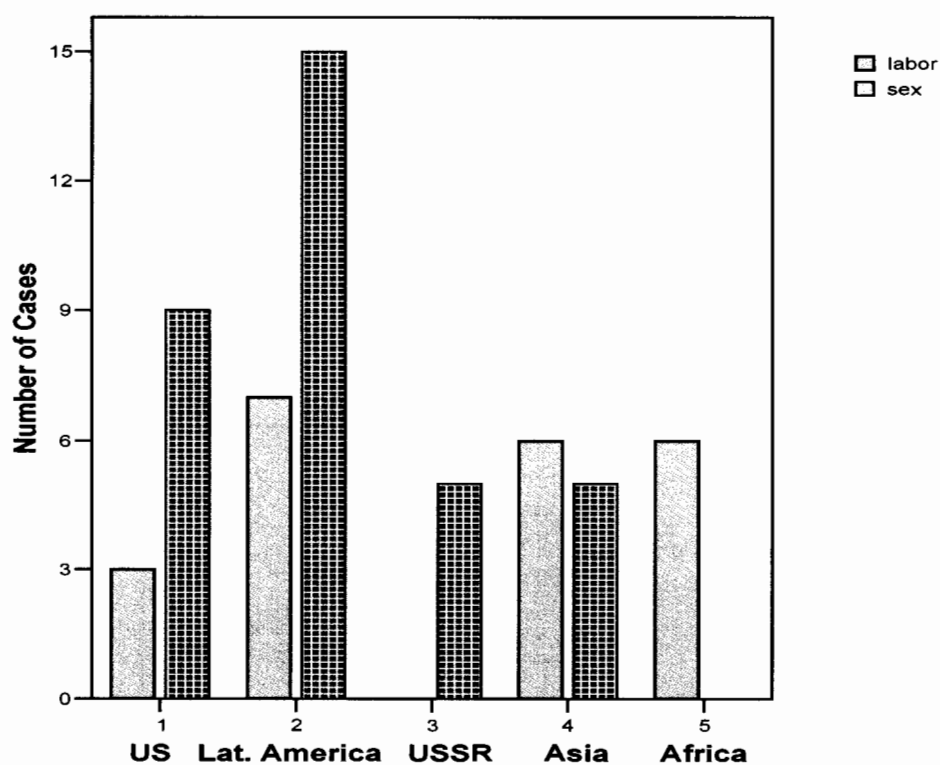
Over the years there have been significant changes in the trends of trafficking in human beings. If before 1992 there were no known cases of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, after 1992 most female victims from the US, Latin America and all the victims from Eastern Europe have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Only the victims from Africa and Near East were continued to be trafficked solely for the purpose of forced labor. Out of all the cases of trafficking in human beings, 17% of all the victims came from Latin America and were trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, 9% from the US, 8% from the Asia and the Pacific and 5% from the former USSR. There have been no known cases of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation from Africa and the Near East regions (see Table 2).

In addition, out of all the cases of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labor exploitation, 26% were persons from Latin America, 13% from Asia and the Pacific, 11% from Africa, 11% from the United States and no cases from the former USSR (see Table 2).

Before 1992, there have been no known cases of trafficking of victims from Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union. After the fall of the Soviet Union they have become the main prey in sex trafficking worldwide. Today, Eastern European women have become the fourth main group of victims of sexual exploitation in the United States.

As can be seen in Figure 4, number of victims trafficked from Eastern Europe and former USSR has risen immensely in the last five years. Between 2001 and 2005 they have gone up to the third place in the numbers of cases trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Figure 4: Victims of Trafficking 2001-2005



The largest numbers of victims trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation in the United States is of Latin American origin, followed by the domestic victims. The third highest number of sex victims is shared by the victims from Eastern Europe and those from Asia. Considering the far proximity of the victims' region of origin, the comparative difficulty in getting the visa and the comparative high costs of traveling to the United States, this is a big rise in the figures of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. These numbers show the importance and acuteness of the problem of trafficking in human beings in Eastern Europe today.

2.7 Victims of Trafficking and Their Gender

Gender plays a significant role in determining the type of trafficking for a victim. Victims of labor trafficking are persons of both sexes. In the United States, out of all the known trafficking cases, the cases where female victims have been trafficked for labor constitute 23%, male labor trafficking victims constitute 18%, and cases where both men and women have been trafficked by a single individual or group for labor exploitation, 20% of all the trafficking cases. Yet, in all the cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation, victims of trafficking in the US have been exclusively young girls and women, making up 39% of all the cases of trafficking in the United States (see Table 2).

These patterns appear mainly because of the demand in the countries of destination, and the feminization of poverty in the countries of origin, or the push and pull factors of migration. In many countries of the world, women constitute up to 70% of the poor. Worldwide, women make about 50% of the money men make for the same job.¹⁹ These two crucial factors: demand and poverty, make women and girls an easy prey for the traffickers.

Eastern Europe and former USSR has become one of the brightest examples of feminization of poverty in the last years. Besides, Eastern Europe has some of the highest divorce rates in the world. In Russia, for example, the divorce rates are 5.3 divorces per 500 couples.²⁰ With the feminization of poverty and high divorce rates women from Eastern Europe and former USSR are often forced to search jobs abroad, sometimes for such simple reasons as to provide for their children. These are just some of the reasons

¹⁹ UN Habitat Report on Feminization of Poverty
<http://www.unhabitat.org/mediacentre/documents/sowc/Featurewomen.pdf>

²⁰ UNECE Report *Trends in Europe and North America*
<http://www.unece.org/stats/trend/ch2.htm>

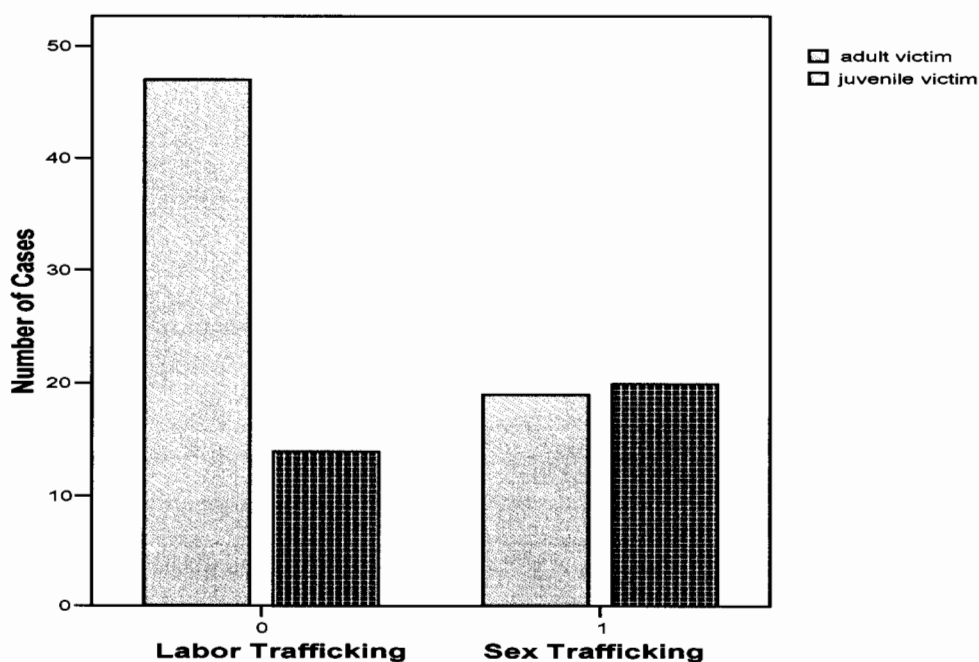
why victims of trafficking in human beings from Eastern Europe are only women, and from the rest of the world they are both men and women. Overall, Table 2 clearly shows that women are easier prey for the traffickers than men.

2.8 Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and their Age

More than half of the victims of trafficking into the United States for sexual exploitation are children (see Figure 5). Throughout the years, out of all the known cases of trafficking, the numbers of juvenile victims of trafficking for both labor and sexual exploitation rose steadily from 18.2 % before 1992 to 35.9% today (see Table 1).

When looking at the total number of cases of trafficking into the United States for both sex and labor, trafficking of adults for sexual trafficking constitutes 19% of all cases, whereas trafficking of children for sexual exploitation is 20%. Out of all the victims of sex trafficking in the US, children make up 52% and adults 48% of all the victims.

Figure 5: Type of Trafficking and Victims' Age



Juvenile victims are most attractive to the traffickers not only because of the fact that they are more easily lured into it, but also because of the demands of the market. About half of all the victims of trafficking of human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation are children under eighteen years of age.

2.9 Traffickers and Their Victims

Victims of trafficking in the United States are mostly trafficked by their countrymen and women or naturalized immigrants from their own countries in the United States. Out of all the cases of trafficking in human beings from 1978 to 2005, 20% of all the victims were from the United States, and all of them have been trafficked by the US citizens. Victims from Latin America constitute 44% of all the cases of trafficking in human beings; 29% of which have been trafficked by their own people and 15% by the US citizens. From Asia and the Pacific, 20% of the victims have been trafficked by people from their own countries and 1% by the US citizens, from Africa and the Near East 8% and 2% respectively, and from the former USSR all 5% of the victims have been trafficked by citizens of the former USSR or naturalized immigrants (see Table 3).

Table 3: Characteristics of Relationships between the Victims and the Traffickers.²¹

Country of Origin	Defendants' Origin Same as Victims'	Defendants' Origin Different from Victims'
<i>I. Country of Origin:</i>		
United States of America	20%	0%
Latin America	29%	15% (USA)
Eastern Europe and former USSR	5%	0%
Asia and the Pacific	20%	1% (USA)
Africa and Near East	8%	2% (USA)

Most victims of trafficking into the United States have been brought into the country in groups of two or more. In one of the cases, there have been 250 victims of

²¹ This and the rest of the data comes from the USDOJ Report, 2005

human trafficking from Southeast Asia working at a factory for no pay and in terrible conditions. In another one, 60 victims from Mexico that were death and unable to speak, were forced to beg on the streets of New York City. Overall, 19% percent of all the trafficking in human beings cases were single victims of labor trafficking and 42% were multiple victims of labor trafficking. In the cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation, 7% of all the victims were single victims, and 32% of all the victims were multiple victims (see Table 2). Percentage wise, the possibility of victims being brought to the US as victims of sexual trafficking in multiple groups is almost five times higher than a single victim. For labor trafficking, this relationship is two to one.

Most often traffickers operate in groups of two or more and in the case of trafficking from countries other than the US, have connections with people that recruit victims in the countries of origin. In one of the cases, a whole family of Chinese naturalized immigrants into the US (husband, wife and son) trafficked young Chinese girls to California for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The husband's mother-in-law still lived in China and was the one to recruit the victims of trafficking. In another case, a husband and wife, Russian and Lithuanian, recruited Russian and Lithuanian girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation under the pretense that they would be involved in Russian folk dance shows in the United States. Overall, out of all the cases of trafficking in human beings into to US, 52% of all defendants were unrelated, and 48% were families. Out of the latter, 24% (half) of all the defendants were husbands and wives, and 7% were husbands and wives trafficking women for the purpose of sexual exploitation (see Table 2).

CHAPTER THREE

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND FORMER USSR

This chapter will discuss the problem of trafficking in human beings from Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union, one of the leading regions of origin of the victims of trafficking worldwide. This section will look at major variables that cause trafficking in the region and how they are different from the rest of the world, as well as major implications and findings.

3.1 Testable Hypotheses

This chapter argues that the problem of women trafficking, even though it is global, has different causes in many parts of the world. It is important to understand the real root of the problem to be able to combat it successfully. While in many parts of the world, women are trafficked from less educated rural areas, and the problem is often seen in their naiveté, it is not the case in South-Eastern Europe. In this region, most countries have recently experienced a change in the political regime, and are referred to as countries with economies in transit. According to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) data, in these countries, the literacy rates and the numbers of highly educated people are very high. Even though it is important to raise the awareness about the problem of trafficking, the most significant cause for trafficking in persons in South-Eastern Europe is the poor *economic* situation in the countries of origin. The economies in most of the countries studied in this research have suffered greatly after the fall of the communism, and women have become the most vulnerable victims of the economic transition. While

the feminization of poverty is a worldwide factor, it is especially acute in the newly emerged democratic states. Women throughout this region constitute more than 70 per cent of all the unemployed population. Thus, only with the improvement of the economic situation of women in this region can the problem of women trafficking be eliminated.

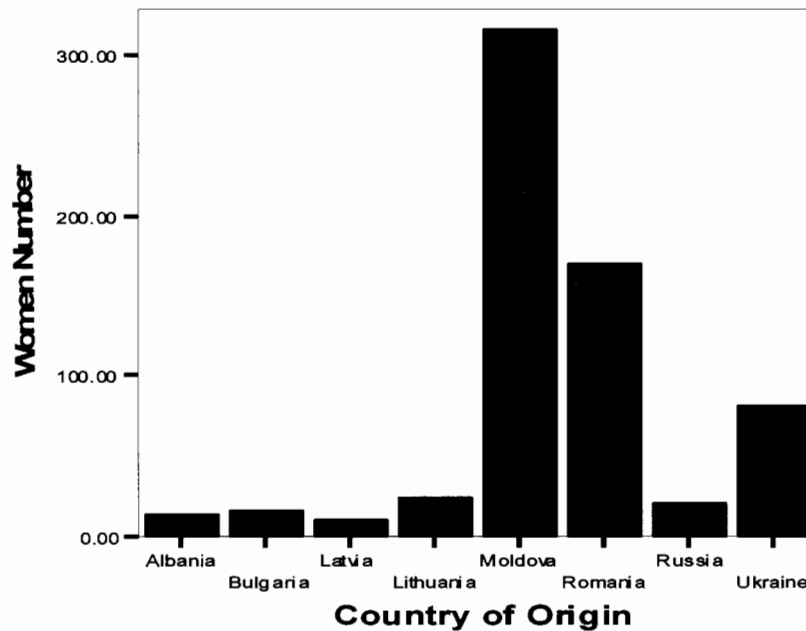
The other factors that also increase the problem are *instability* and *war* in the countries of destination and the *counterproductive work* of some organizations, like in the case of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping troops, as well as *corruption* both in the countries of origin and of destination.

3.2 Analysis and Findings

The numbers provided in this chapter are the real numbers of women returned to their home countries with the assistance of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). As it is shown in Figure 6, the major countries of origin for the trafficked women are Moldova, Romania, Ukraine and Russia.

It is evident that most women are being trafficked from the former Communist bloc countries (countries of origin) into the Western Europe, the USA, countries with developed economies and into the unstable regions and war zones in South-Eastern Europe (countries of destination). The major countries and regions of destination are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria Germany, Italy, Kosovo, Turkey and the USA, not to mention Arab countries of the Persian Gulf.

Figure 6: Numbers of Women Returned Home.



In Eastern Europe and former USSR, the trafficking problem is comparatively new and growing every day. “Trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation is the most prevailing form of trafficking in the Balkan region. Ninety percent of foreign migrant sex workers in the Balkan countries are victims of trafficking.”²²

Since the problem is fairly new, it is reasonable to ask why women trafficking appeared and grew so strong in the last decade in the South-Eastern Europe.

3.3 Literacy and Trafficking

Despite the common belief that most of the trafficked girls and women are *less educated* and naïve girls from rural areas, the results of this research show that education

²² UNHCHR, p. 1

is not a very important factor that influences the problem of women trafficking. It is true that a lot of the trafficked women are very young “Over 10 percent [of trafficked girls] are under 18 years old, some as young as 12 years old.”²³ However, most of the trafficked women and girls in South–Eastern Europe come from the countries with almost full literacy. Literacy here is viewed as the ability to read and write in the population above fifteen years of age. According to the CIA, literacy in the main countries of origin is very high: in Moldova it is 99.1%, in Ukraine 99.7% and in Russia 99.6%.

The variable of literacy is completely irrelevant in this case, because percentage of educated people is very high in the test group. More often than not, literacy in the countries of origin is higher than in the countries of destination. The literacy rate in Germany and Serbia and Montenegro, the two countries of destination is 99% and 93% respectively. In the United States literacy is 97%. In Russia, Ukraine and Moldova, the countries of origin, it is 99.6%, 99.4% and 99.1%.²⁴ More often than not in South-Eastern Europe women and girls from areas with high literacy rate get trafficked into the areas with a slightly lower literacy rate, which means that education is not an important factor in the problem of women trafficking. It is safe to say, that is South-Eastern Europe women are being trafficked despite their high literacy rates and good primary or secondary education.

Thus, even though education could be an important variable influencing the trafficking in persons in other parts of the world, in South-Eastern Europe it is irrelevant. This is due to the fact that most countries of origin in this area are the former Communist block countries with a high literacy rate.

²³ UNHCHR, p. 26

²⁴ CIA World Fact Book

Even though many scholars believe that “the majority of women and girls that are trafficked come from less educated *rural areas*,”²⁵ this research proves that the percentage of people in the country involved in agriculture does not significantly influence the number of women being trafficked.

The factor of agriculture is also not significant in influencing the number of women being trafficked. Even though Moldova, the major country of origin is 28% agricultural, Albania, the major country of destination, is 49% agricultural.²⁶ Thus, in the case of women trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, the factor of agriculture is not significant in increasing the number of victims. Women are being trafficked independent of the fact that they originate from rural or urban areas.

3.4 Government Cooperation

Government cooperation is crucial to the solving the problem of women trafficking. It is very difficult for various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Government Organizations, like the United Nations (UN) to implement their decisions and do its work effectively when the states involved are not cooperating. The UN cannot impose a decision upon a State, unless this decision goes along with the State’s domestic laws. As stated in the UN Charter, “Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the state to submit such matters to settlement under the preset Charter; [...]”²⁷

²⁵ UNOHCHR, p. 26

²⁶ CIA World Fact Book

²⁷ UN Charter, Chapter 1, Article 2:7

That is why it is very important that the countries implement laws dealing specifically with the women trafficking problem. In countries, where state legislation deals directly with women trafficking, the problem is a lot easier to solve. China, for example, a country where women trafficking has a long history, has adopted an anti-trafficking law in 1991, “woman trafficking is strictly illegal under sections 140 and 141 of the penal law”.²⁸ This law significantly lowered the number of Chinese women being trafficked and raised the opportunity for the UN to get involved in solving the problem. The government has recently launched a campaign against abduction and slavery trade by declaring it as one of ‘six evils’. As a result, “in 1996, in regard to the prostitution trade, 209,600 cases have been cleared in which 411,700 offenders were pursued.”²⁹

Even though the situation in China today is far from being perfect, the law adopted by the government of China shows its cooperation and understanding of the importance of the problem of the rights of the women and gives the UN and other organization a legal ground for operations in eliminating the problem of trafficking.

However, in most countries in the South-Eastern Europe (SEE) there are no laws against trafficking in person, or the laws that exist are being poorly implemented. This is one of the main reasons why the UN and NGOs cannot work as effectively in SEE as they do in China. Not only did the governments of the South-Eastern European states not implement anti-trafficking laws, but also most of them did not recognize the problem as existing until only very recently. In Romania, for example, trafficking across the border is still not considered to be a crime under existing law: “As trafficking across the border is not a crime under the existing [Romanian] law, traffickers are prosecuted for other crimes

²⁸ Ren, p. 72

²⁹ Ren, p. 78

related to prostitution, smuggling of migrants and violence. The existing law enforcement agencies and judicial systems lack the expertise to deal with this problem effectively. As prostitution is illegal, the victim is still more often targeted in the legal process than the perpetrator.”³⁰

In many South-Eastern European countries there are no laws against traffickers, whereas prostitution is considered illegal. Girls are often afraid to report that they were trafficked in the fear that they will get prosecuted for prostitution. In Moldova, for example “Women are also not willing to testify due to fear of being accused of prostitution. Prostitution was made a criminal offence in Moldova in 1998 under Article 105-1 of the Criminal Code and is punishable by imprisonment from six months to one year. In 2000, there were 50 women charged with prostitution.”³¹

In places like Montenegro, Romania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, there are also no specific laws that deal with prosecution of trafficking in persons. “Montenegro has two criminal codes, Federal and Republic, both of which can be applied to the prosecution of trafficking. However, since neither has specific provision for the prosecution of trafficking, it is interpreted under other relevant articles regarding slavery, prostitution and juvenile abuse.”³² In most cases state officials, such as policemen are not instructed on how to help the trafficked women. More often than not women are treated as criminals, instead of victims.

The fact that most government officials are corrupt also aggravates the problem of women trafficking. Government officials often accept money from the traffickers and take their side, punishing and criminalizing the victims, instead of helping them. In

³⁰ UNOHCHR, p. 41

³¹ UNOHCHR, p. 29

³² UNOHCHR, p. 89

Albania, Moldova, and often in Ukraine and Romania, due to the corruption of government officials and police, traffickers can operate with no fear of being caught. “Traffickers are well known in the community and to the police and operate with impunity.³³” Traffickers can operate with impunity because of the prevailing corruption and also the oft-mentioned involvement of the authorities in organized criminal activities. Another impediment is that the girls and women receive threats from the offenders at home and they still “have little hope that their testimonies will result in a prosecution, much less a conviction.”³⁴

Even though some countries have implemented laws against trafficking in persons, the laws do not always work the way they should, and some of them appear to even be counterproductive. According to the UN report on women trafficking, even though in Bosnia and Herzegovina the law against trafficking was implemented, it is still very difficult to prove that the person has been trafficked. “In October 2001 a new Criminal Code entered into force in RS, which now includes a distinct crime of ‘trafficking in persons for the purpose of prostitution’ and penalizes it with six months to twelve years imprisonment. In order to prosecute the person under this provision, it has to be proven that money has been given for the services of a woman, which is very difficult.”³⁵ The new law, instead of making it easier for the trafficked women to defend themselves, became more protective of the traffickers: “This new Herzegovina law replaced the old one related to the prohibition of slavery and mediation in the exercise of prostitution.

³³ UNOHCHR, p. 130

³⁴ UNOHCHR, p. 67

³⁵ UNOHCHR, p. 67

Paradoxically, the change in the law has complicated the situation and made it rather more difficult to penalize the crime of trafficking.”³⁶

The inability of the UN to influence the governments of different states to implement changes in their laws is often viewed as a UN and NGOs’ failure. “The UN has not succeeded in motivating governments to prosecute the perpetrators of trafficking, either in Bosnia and Herzegovina or (where applicable) in their home countries.”³⁷

It is not easy to get the governments of the states to collaborate, but the increased cooperation of the States with the UN brings substantial positive results. In Bulgaria, for example, “Since the beginning of 2000, there have been 16 police operations against traffickers/smugglers. In the first half of 2001, ten organized groups have been detected and 14 legal proceedings initiated. The Ministry of the Interior’s New Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking has already started initiatives to co-operate with neighboring countries as well as the SECI Center. This improved co-operation has resulted in several joint investigations and in increase in the sharing of law enforcement information.”³⁸

Thus, without the cooperation of the governments in both the countries of origin and countries of destination, traffickers are able to operate without being punished. As long as there are high profits and low risks for the traffickers, they will continue their operations. The cooperation of the governments of the states with the UN and with each other, implementation of new and constructive anti-trafficking laws, government recognition of the trafficking issue as a human rights issue and the elimination of the corrupt elements of the state, as seen on the example of the successful work in China, will

³⁶ UNOHCHR, p. 67

³⁷ Human Rights Watch report, p. 12

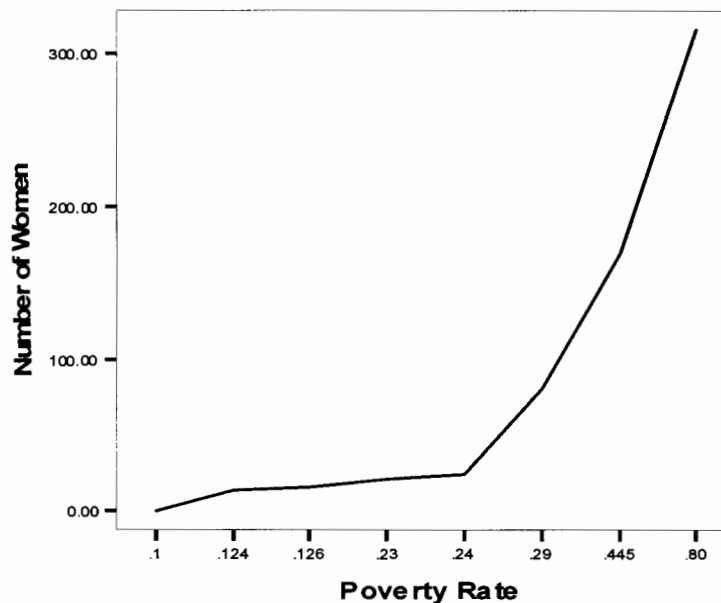
³⁸ UNOHCHR, p. 54

greatly improve the situation of women and will help various organizations in fighting trafficking in persons in South-Eastern Europe.

3.5 Economy and Trafficking in Human Beings

The factor of *economy* is one of the most important factors that influence trafficking in persons. In search of a better life, “International women are trafficked from economically unstable countries to economically stable ones; from developing countries to industrialized countries; from rural to urban centers within developing countries; from developing countries to adjacent ones with sex industries; through developed countries and regions, such as Western Europe and Canada, to the United States.”³⁹

Figure 7: Poverty and Numbers of Women



As seen in Figure 7, the variable of poverty has a strong significance in influencing the problem of women trafficking. According to the CIA data, in the main

³⁹ Hynes, P., Raymond, J., p. 199-200

country of origin, Moldova, about 80% of the population lives below the poverty line. In Romania 45%, in Ukraine 29%, in Lithuania 30%, and in Russia 25% of the population is extremely poor.

In underdeveloped countries scores of trafficked women are re-trafficked shortly after their return, because they are unable to find a job at home. This means that the work of the NGOs and other international organizations often becomes futile in a state with a poor economy. In Moldova, for example, "According to NGOs, it is estimated that up to 50 percent of trafficked women who are returned, leave Moldova shortly after their arrival and are re-trafficked. Without any prospect of a job or means to support themselves and their families at home, some women believe that the next time will be better and that they will be able to work abroad on their own and keep the money, while others simply do not see any other choice."⁴⁰

With the fall of the Soviet Union there was a sudden and quick drop in the economy: "Moldova is a former Soviet republic, where the collapse of communism in 1991 still reverberates today. With almost no exports and natural resources to cushion the loss of Kremlin subsidies, the country's economy is in a free fall. A quarter of the population is unemployed."⁴¹

Due to the fact that a lot of countries have extensive foreign debt, the governments of the states encourage their citizens, both explicitly and implicitly, to find jobs abroad, thus knowingly or unknowingly stimulating and supporting the trafficking in persons. According to the CIA data, 25% of all Moldovan citizens are currently working abroad, both legally and illegally. It is unknown how many of these 25% are trafficked

⁴⁰ UNOHCHR, p. 28

⁴¹ Mendenhall, p. 3

women, but it is clearly known that Moldova is one of the main countries of origin of trafficked women. “The pull of employment elsewhere is augmented by the sending country's policy, implicit and explicit, to export labor for remittance because of numerous, well-documented factors: exorbitant national debt, high unemployment, the displacement of agricultural workers with the industrialization of agriculture, and imposed re-structuring of national economies by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, both dominated by US influence.”⁴²

The governments of the states hope that the money that people are making abroad would improve their country's economy. “The economic development policies of many countries are locked into repaying foreign loans, often to industrialized countries that have freely plundered the resources of the very nations that are in debt bondage. Many countries encourage their citizens to leave the country for work so that the payments, which workers send back to families, can stimulate and stabilize the economy.”⁴³

Due to the feminization of poverty, the economical situation of women is often much worse than that of men, which makes them more vulnerable to trafficking: “Sixty-eight percent of the unemployed are women, despite having the same level of training as men, and when in paid employment, they are only paid 70-80 percent of the salary a man would receive for the same job.”⁴⁴

Besides, women also have the burden of taking care of their families and the household, especially in the countryside, where it is traditional that a woman does the entire job around the house. Economical conditions in the countryside are significantly more difficult than in the cities. Young girls and women come to the cities in search of a

⁴² Hynes/Raymond, p. 201

⁴³ Hynes/Raymond, p. 201

⁴⁴ UNOHCHR, p. 25

better life, and become the main target of traffickers. Without any hope for a job or resources to support themselves and their families, some women get re-trafficked several times. They suppose that the next time will be easier for them to find a good job and keep the money. “The very traditional attitudes toward women prevailing in society, extreme poverty and violence are behind the young women’s desire to migrate. Those who have contacts and money use safe, though still illegal, ways to pay for the services of legitimate ‘travel agencies.’ Young women, who do not have money, make arrangements with traffickers.”⁴⁵

Table 4: Regression Results: Influence of Agriculture, Literacy and Industry on Poverty (Dependent Variable = Poverty Rate)

	Estimated Coefficient	Standard Error	t-Statistic	Significance Level
(Constant)	-6.739	1.563	-4.312	.005
GDP Growt	3.682	2.099	1.754	.130
Agriculture	1.857	.391	4.744	.003
Industry	-1.458	.595	-2.451	.050

As it is clearly shown in Table 4, the variables of agriculture, industry and literacy are very significant in influencing the country’s national economy and on the percentage of poverty. The more agricultural the country, the greater is the possibility for it to be poor. For example, Moldovan economy is 28% based on agriculture, and according the CIA data 80% of the whole population lives below the poverty line. Ukraine is 23% agricultural, with 29% of people living below poverty line. In the developed countries, like the US, Germany and Japan agriculture makes up for less than 2% of GDP, poverty

⁴⁵ UNOHCHR, p. 30

is very low. In Japan, according to the CIA, only 5% of the population lives below the poverty line. The development of industry and services is crucial to the development of the economies of the countries in South-Eastern Europe. This happens due to the fact that there is a high value-added price in industry, which does not exist in agriculture. It is much more profitable for a country to sell computers than to sell apples, for example.

Even though agriculture does not directly influence the problem of women trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, it acts as an intervening variable, because it influences the countries' economies. Thus, improving the economy by the growth of industry and services in the countries of origin will bring a sharp decline in the numbers of women being trafficked.

All the work that is being done on helping these women becomes ineffective because of the fact that many women will get re-trafficked upon their return and because they are unable to find jobs at home to support themselves and their families. One of the most effective ways to eliminate trafficking in persons and to make the work on solving the problem of trafficking more effective is to improve the economical rights of the women. "Eradicating poverty among women was an important task for sustainable development and that environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters represent a fundamental guarantee for sustainable development."⁴⁶

3.6 Counterproductive Work of International Organizations

The *counterproductive work* of many International Organizations and their employees often aggravate the problem of women trafficking in South-Eastern Europe. Many critics of the international organizations have noticed, that the IOs often fail in

⁴⁶ Meifang, p. 1

their work and “its failures make international problems worse or generate new problems—that is, when IO itself is a destabilizing force in world politics.”⁴⁷ Even the Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar admitted the adverse effects that “the UN resolution can have on international security,” and that “the misuse of the UN has contributed to the global problems facing the organization.”⁴⁸

The counterproductive work of the UN, its employees, governments of the states and some NGO’s worsens the condition of the trafficked women. There have been reports that the UN peacekeeping troops in the war zones are frequent visitors of the brothels with trafficked girls. They unknowingly perpetuate the problem of trafficking by providing a customer base. “In war the majority of population is transformed into victims and most of them are women.”⁴⁹ Women are being trafficked to the war zones where peacekeeping troops operate, thus peaceful women become victims of war. One of the trafficked girls from Moldova, Natasha, in an interview with the MSNBC reporter said she was forced to sleep with more than 1,000 men during her nine months in Velesta. “Besides the Albanians and Macedonians, there were men from ‘France, Germany and the United States,’ Natasha said, referring to soldiers from the NATO and UN peacekeeping missions in Macedonia and nearby Kosovo.”⁵⁰

Not only have the victims of trafficking, but also the UN officials, recognized the existence of the problem. According to the AFP News, the UN expert on violence against women, Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy voiced concern “over reported increases in the trafficking in persons for prostitution in areas where United Nations peacekeepers are

⁴⁷ Gallarotti, p. 366

⁴⁸ Gallarotti, p. 366

⁴⁹ Morokvasic, p. 77

⁵⁰ Mendenhall, p. 3

stationed.”⁵¹ She also underlined that cases of direct violence against women by peacekeepers had taken place although she said the number was not high. Dr. Coomaraswamy pointed out that “It is absolutely essential that all UN forces are held to the same standards of international human rights law as are nation states, to do otherwise creates a climate of impunity in which offences proliferate. Now especially where UN is running administrations such as in Kosovo and East Timor we feel it’s absolutely essential that some kind of structure be in place to deal with these kinds of issues, [trafficking in women and children for prostitution].”⁵²

According to the IOM data, the main countries and regions of destination for the trafficked girls in South-Eastern Europe are Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo. These are exactly the regions where the UN and NATO peacekeeping troops are stationed. These main points of destination are generally poor and undeveloped, thus the local population cannot provide the money for the traffickers. The peacekeeping troops generally make much more money than the local population, and they are the ones who can afford frequent visits to brothels. Thus, despite all the counterarguments, the UN and NATO peacekeeping troops play a major role in the problem of women trafficking in South-Eastern Europe.

Government officials, NGOs and police in Kosovo also argue that the trafficking in persons in the region only appeared with the introduction of the UN peacekeeping troops. The UN peacekeeping soldiers can bring a lot more money into the brothels than anybody else in the poor neighborhood. “According to local NGOs, prior to the war in 1999 and the consequent international presence in Kosovo, not only trafficking but also

⁵¹ AFP News, p. 4

⁵² AFP News, p. 4

prostitution was very uncommon. As in other countries in the region, even if the international clients are a minority of customers, they bring the bigger profit, by spending much more money in brothels.”⁵³

According to the official data, international peacekeepers constitute as much as forty percent of all brothel clientele, bringing in most of the income and helping the trafficking business to flourish: “According to the police, members of the international community constitute a sizeable 40 percent of the clientele, mostly KFOR soldiers. There is a suspicion that UNMIK international police officers might be involved in trafficking - some members of the international police were repatriated for suspected involvement in trafficking.”⁵⁴

An NGO working with the issue of women trafficking in SEE, The Human Rights Watch found other evidence of involvement in trafficking-related offenses by individual members of one of the UN’s bodies, the International Police Task Force.⁵⁵ The unarmed IPTF monitors do not have an executive mandate to carry out police work, but the UN Security Council has mandated that the IPTF supervise local police and ensure that investigations into police violations of human rights receives the appropriate attention. “Deployed to promote the rule of law, a small number of IPTF monitors instead have engaged in illegal activities, either as customers of trafficked women or as outright purchasers of trafficked women and their passports. Rather than request that UN headquarters waive the immunity from criminal prosecution enjoyed by IPTF monitors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNMIBH has merely repatriated police monitors accused of

⁵³ UNOHCHR, p. 96

⁵⁴ UNOHCHR, p. 96

⁵⁵ IPTF

involvement in trafficking, acting under the legal fiction that countries would prosecute or reprimand their own nationals.”⁵⁶

According to the observations of the Human Rights Watch, eighteen monitors who purchased trafficked women, visited brothels, or faced trafficking-related charges have returned home, either voluntarily or through disciplinary repatriation for “sexual misconduct.” However, as the report went to press in November 2002, Human Rights Watch “has not yet confirmed a single case in which an IPTF officer accused of activities related to trafficking faced criminal investigation or prosecution.”⁵⁷

Not only the UN, but also the states involved make decisions that are counterproductive to solving the problem of trafficking in persons. Many states refuse to give visas to young women, hoping that it will stop trafficking. However, this practice does not prove to work. Women or traffickers are able to purchase illegal documents to pass the borders, bribe the corrupt government officials, or find other ways to avoid this obstacle. The refusal of different states to give visas to women makes it even more difficult to keep track of the trafficking and to estimate the effectiveness of the efforts of various organizations against it. As well, trafficked girls without any documents are more vulnerable to the abuse from traffickers and less likely to escape from them: “Undocumented immigrants are more vulnerable to abuse and coercion by smugglers, traffickers, and employers, out of fear of deportation. Furthermore; recent US anti-immigrant legislation, subjecting even legal immigrants to harsh and discriminatory practices, increases the vulnerability of all immigrants.”⁵⁸

⁵⁶ Human Rights Watch, p. 4

⁵⁷ Human Rights Watch report, p. 5

⁵⁸ Silliman, p. 83

The counterproductive work of the UN, its employees, governments and their officials, and some NGOs, not only enhance the problem, but sometimes are in themselves the main reason of the trafficking in persons.

Table 5: Regression Results: Women Trafficking and Independent Variables. (Dependent Variable = Numbers of Women Trafficked)

	Estimated Coefficient	Standard Error	t-Statistic	Significance Level.
(Constant)	248.137	698.260	.355	.737
Poverty	537.393	118.436	4.537	.006
Litracy	-462.910	970.682	-.477	.654
GDP Growth	-1269.940	748.907	-1.696	.151
Industry	300.648	453.938	.662	.537
Service	143.946	247.550	.558	.586

As shown in Table 5, *poverty and poor economic situation* in the countries of origin are significant variables in influencing the problem of women trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, whereas *education and agriculture* do not have a direct influence on the number of women trafficked. The other significant variables are *lack of government cooperation* in the countries of origin and destination, the *instability and war* in the countries of destination and the *counterproductive work* of the government officials, the UN and other organizations.

Table 6: Regression Results: Corruption, Poverty, Literacy and Trafficking

	Coefficients	Standard Error
Intercept	2320.769	1166.324
Corruption Index	-11.6903	22.70253
GDP Index	-232.4818	221.8357
Poverty	395.5002	74.52781
Literacy	-21.563	1151.951

As seen in Table 6, the most important variable in the problem of women trafficking is the variable of poverty. When poverty goes up by 1%, the estimate number of trafficking victims increases by 395.5002. Corruption index (the higher the number, the lower the corruption) shows that when the country becomes more corrupt by just 1 point, the number of women trafficked increases by 11.9603.

CHAPTER FOUR

POLICY LESSONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The result of this study clearly shows that the best way to solve the problem of women trafficking in South Eastern Europe is to *develop the economies* of the countries in the region. As a result of attracting foreign investment, developing industry and services and eradication of poverty in the countries of origin, women would become empowered and would not search for jobs abroad, thus becoming targets of traffickers.

It is also important to fight the *corruption* in the government to help prevent the traffickers and punish those at fault.

Education and punishment of the employees of the International Organizations that knowingly and unknowingly support women trafficking by frequenting the brothels would be another important step in the elimination of the problem of trafficking in South Eastern Europe.

Education is not a significant variable that influences women trafficking in South-Eastern Europe. Due to the fact that the biggest countries of origin are the former Communist block countries with high literacy rates, most of the victims of trafficking are highly educated. Thus, the problem in this area is different than it might be in other areas of the world, and should be dealt with differently. The most important factor in women trafficking in South-Eastern Europe is the extreme poverty in the countries of origin. Most of the countries' economies have been in the free fall after the dissimilation of the Soviet Union. The feminization of poverty forces a lot of women to go abroad in the search of jobs to support themselves and their families, and this is when they get

trafficked. Poverty breeds many vices, and the lack of education can be caused by it too. Thus, if the economies of the countries of origin will not be improved, in the long run the literacy could go down. However, as shown in this study, education is only another result of economic difficulties, and would not significantly influence the problem of trafficking in persons in South-Eastern Europe.

The fact that trafficked women and girls come from rural areas is also not a significant variable in influencing women trafficking. As this research has shown, agriculture is only significant in influencing the economic development of any given country in the South-Eastern Europe. Countries that are more agricultural tend to be poorer, and women are mostly trafficked from poorer areas into the more developed countries or war zones in South-Eastern Europe. Therefore, it is vital that the countries of origin improve their economies by increasing the percentage of industry and services in their national economies.

The most important factor in the problem of women trafficking is the economic factor, and unless the economic situation of women in the countries of origin improves, there will be no real changes in the problem of women trafficking in South-Eastern Europe.

GLOSSARY

CIA—Central Intelligence Agency

EUROPOL—The European Police Office

GDP—Gross Domestic Product

ILO—International Labor Organization

IOM—International Organization for Migration

ITPTF—International Police Task Force

KFOR—Kosovo Force

MSNBC—Microsoft National Broadcasting Company

NATO—North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NGO—Non-Governmental Organization

SECI—Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (Combating Cross-Border Crime)

SEE—South-Eastern Europe

UN—United Nations Organization

UNDP—United Nations Development Programme

UNECE—United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNHDR—United Nations Human Development Report

UNMIBH—United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

UNMIK—United Nations Mission in Kosovo

UNODC—United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNOHCHR—United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

USDOJ—United States Department of Justice

USDOS—United States Department of State

USPRB—United States Population Reference Bureau

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APPENDIX: DATA DESCRIPTION

The following data, provided by the International Organization of Migration (IOM), International Labor Organization (ILO), CIA World Fact Book, and UN Human Development Report has become the basis for this report.

<i>Country</i>	Women Number	Poverty Rates	Literacy Rates	GDP Growth	Agriculture	Industry	Service	Corruption Index	GDP Index
Moldova	316	.80	99%	.04	.28	.23	.49	2.60	.51
Romania	170	.45	98%	.05	.15	.35	.50	3.30	.69
Ukraine	81	.29	100%	.04	.23	.42	.35	2.60	.61
Lithuania	24	.30	100%	.07	.08	.31	.61	3.80	.71
Russia	21	.25	100%	.04	.06	.35	.60	2.40	.74
Bulgaria	16	13	98%	.03	.14	.29	.58	3.30	.68
Albania	14	30	87%	.08	.49	.27	.24	2.30	.59
Latvia	10	16	100%	.00	.08	.29	.63	3.40	.71
Germany	0	06	99%	.02	.01	.30	.68	8.00	.92
Norway	0	04	100%	.01	.04	.22	.74	8.90	.95