

the Vietnamese boat people. The author's impressionistic observations on England's role in receiving people does a disservice to both the immigrant community and their hosts.

There remains a need to hear from the refugee-immigrant community, wherever they are. It is an extremely fertile field to plough. Perhaps the answer lies in having fewer people share the emotional events involved with someone familiar with the refugee-immigrant regime in the country concerned. In this way, like biography or oral history in general, the individual's story will be placed in a clearly understandable context.

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The World Refugee Problem. By Harto Hakovirta. Tampere, Finland: Hillside Publications, 1991. 109 pp. £14.95/FM125. ISBN 951-95484-1-6.

The author holds a dual appointment in International Politics at the University of Tampere north of Helsinki and at the University of Lapland, at Rovaniemi, on the Arctic Circle. The latter may account for the brevity, clarity of thought and originality in this slim volume. Indeed, I understand that the final revision of the original Finnish text was carried out in minus 40 degree weather — Springtime in Lapland. One of his earlier books, *Third World Conflict and Refugeeism*, is a pioneering analysis, graphically detailing the linkage between refugee and guerrilla movements, prompting the observation, in this book, on the 'clear tendency for most refugee organizations to transform sooner or later into warring factions'. While everyone may know this, he offers the intellectual-scientific evidence for the statement. More recently Hakovirta has turned his thoughts towards 'Reforming the Global Refugee Regime — Application and Test of a Regime Theory', a preliminary study on a vitally important subject scarcely treated in the literature.

Thus, because of earlier research and writing, the author is able to provide in *The World Refugee Problem* a concise, accurate and extremely readable summary of the current worry about refugees. One suspects that he may have had the Finnish population in mind, writing so that the complex issues are easily understood by the Finnish reading public. While the influx of refugees into that country can hardly be compared to mainland Europe, there is growing concern among the body politic that an 'invasion' is taking place.

But the book is timely in yet another sense. Finland shares a 1,300 kilometre border with the former Soviet Union although it sends two-thirds of its exports to Western Europe. The on-going domestic discussion about full membership in the European Community, a clear break in the nation's traditional neutrality, raises dual fears about foreigners from the East and from the South. First, there is the threat of massive numbers of starving Russians crossing the border — after all, Helsinki and St. Petersburg are on the same latitude separated by a boatride across the Gulf of Finland. Second, EC membership would mean the unrestricted movement of people within the Community — an invasion from the South and its 'standard of living refugees'. These are real fears! The author in the best tradition of 'town and gown' explains to his countrymen that 'refugeeism' — as he is fond of calling it, is a worldwide drama in which Finland is a bit actor. He has done this extremely well. The bonus is that he has a first class translator in David Kivinen, permitting a wider audience to benefit. This is a book that an enterprising publisher could bring out in a low cost paperback edition for popular distribution. There is a vital need for the reading public, but particularly secondary school students, to learn about refugee issues.

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