

Migration viewed by a holocaust survivor and a proposal

Ivan Lefkovits

In Europe and elsewhere

What is a DP camp?

Displaced persons
camp 1945 – 1950 in
Bergen-Belsen



Bergen-Belsen (near Hannover)
after liberation by the British army



15 – 22. April 1945





Many mass graves like this one



Surviving children (here all of them orphans); several of them are still alive and some of them found refuge in Switzerland



Rebirth After The Holocaust:

The Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, 1945-1950

This exhibition honors the valiant story of brave men and women who emerged from destruction with a boundless determination to rebuild their lives. Their fortitude in overcoming terror and their vision for rebirth is a source of inspiration for all who are struggling with the aftermath of terrorism in our own time.





Survivors
six months
later

People who escaped death just by chance succeeded to organize their life in a meaningful way, they have built a temporary synagogue, schools, nurseries, they had their daily newspaper, they organized theatre performances, concerts, cabarets. The reason for staying in the DP camp was that these people had no place to go, their homes were burned down, they were anyway unwelcomed at the places from where they were deported.

In spite of the enormous diversity of the survivors, there was an overall compatibility of the roots of their culture

1945

New life in spite of millions of dead

**it is not money that matters – it is the will to
create a dignified future**

Freedom is not being free to do what you want, but rather the responsibility to do what you must.

Yehudi Menuhin



wedding



A few years later; all these kids were born in the DP camp

Present migration issue

○ 1,000.000

Arrived to Europe

○ 300,000.000

Are ready to come

These two entities are interrelated, nevertheless we have to approach them

differently

If we will be unable to master the migration issue now, it will end in an open aggression

○ 1,000.000

We have to treat this group with dignity

We have to rethink the concept of political asylum

○ 300,000.000

These potential migrants need a perspective similar to those of the DP camps 70 years ago

The reality is Europe the perspective is Africa

The concept of political asylum is an important moral imperative, nevertheless it is a thoroughly useless tool in the migration dispute

Requiring that the person presents birth certificates, travel documents and provide proofs that s/he came from a certain country is wrong and counter-productive

the fact that documents are examined for their validity and their truthfulness is damaging both for the migrants and to our society

It is highly probable that the refugee (migrant or asylum-seeker) is in possession of false and fabricated documents, and that he has been coached to deliver answers that would be beneficial for his application to stay in the country

s/he is maneuvered by the inquiry system to lie and to cheat

let's change this:
make cheating unnecessary by
changing the procedure

register and submit to an interview

some people are proud of their name, for others it is a burden

The only distinct marker is the “iris” of the man
(it is a more dignified identification than finger prints)

- in Foreign legion one could choose any name
- people moving to Israel receive new names
- actors often choose a “Künstlername”

Interviews with a psychologist (or other trained person) provide a much higher chance to uncover a terrorist or a delinquent than just checking documents

forget the birth certificate - "iris" is the true identification

**From the interview the person should have a single take home lesson:
“there exists a small set of rules and if the person breaks them he will
be expelled from the country without the right of return”**

- Identity card (name and iris recognition)
language of communication
date of arrival
constitution (Grundgesetz)
understood
principles of the democratic system
rights and obligations

- The person signs a consent (agreement) which is a binding contract between him and the guest country
He receives a permission to stay in the country

during the entire process there is not a single issue about which the person needs to lie; there will be no need to present fabricated documents, the person starts a new unobstructed life

since no lies are needed, people can act without a fear of future, in the same way as people did in the DP camps 70 years ago; it is very probable that people without the burden of false identity can be integrated much more easily than people who live under the pressure of lies

the person will not be judged by his convictions but by his deeds; if he has anti-Semitic views, nobody will care as long as it remains at that; but if he acts in an intolerant and undemocratic way, it will have consequences

Where do we find space for several millions of migrants?

It is not the numbers, it is the compatibility of cultures

850 Switzerlands fit to the space of Africa, some of that space might be compatible with the refugee's culture

Africa stands for the entire issue; Uganda may be considered as a specific example

For one single reason Europe should not be the destination for mass migration: The migrants have to **build** the country rather than to **move** into a country

Africa is only an example; the Globe is big enough

- get a trillion of dollars,
- rent a space of the size of Switzerland
- build 5 airports of size of Dubai airport
- start to build roads across the rented country
- build water supply & desalination plants
- create an administration to give out ID cards
- get architects, start up construction workers
- get involved Amazon, McDonald, Hilton, Emirates,
simply everybody who prefers to give money instead of
getting 200,000.000 new neighbours

- don't conquer the "needed" space
- rent the space
- make allies not enemies

- ensure that the neighboring countries profit as well
- convert the "schleppers" into guides

- people (I mean the would-be migrants) will que up to this new Utopia land, for them a land definitely better than Europe
- beside all this, the DP_Utopia will provide Absatzmärkte and work possibilities of unprecedented magnitude



DP camp map



DP camp map

DISCUSSION (1)

Any family has the right to have as many children as they want. Whether two children as one aims for in European countries, or eight, nine or ten as is the case in the developing countries. It is their problem as long as they stay in their cultural milieu, and find support there.

I consider it as a major threat and aggression if families with eight children move to another cultural milieu. They disrupt the existing system. It is not a win-win situation neither for this nor for future generations.

This issue was raised in the discussion, and one participant pointed out that what is true for families is also true for the entire migrating population.

DISCUSSION (2)

Uganda has as many as 1.25 million refugees on its soil, making it one of the most welcoming countries in the world, according to the United Nations.

And while Uganda's government has made hosting refugees a core national policy, it works only because of the willingness of rural Ugandans to accept an influx of foreigners on their land

Compatibility of migrants with the host population