

Notes on Chapter 4-"International Migration" - 4/20/16

Q. How should we understand the character of the issues from our previous class, 'The Future of Kurdistan', as compared with those of today's subject: "International Migration"?

*First, do we care if the Kurds achieve their aim of independence and sovereignty or not? Probably not, it is rather as to their viability as a 'force' in the settlement of the region's peace that we are concerned with their internal welfare. Our interest is in other words is *instrumental* to achieving a more stable Middle East; that is predominant.*

*Second, are American interests the same or nearly so with regard to (the recent surge in) refugees and others leaving that region (leave aside others for the moment) that are the subject of Chapter 4? *Quaere*.*

-On the one hand, the huge dislocation of millions of people from the ME certainly reflects the reality of widespread INSTABILITY in the region about which we are concerned ... as a matter of our own national interest.

But the problems are arguably more direct because the whole adjacent continent of Europe is under siege!!

Q. What is the nature of the challenge to US policy in the large scale movement of people from some countries to others?

-in the abstract, wouldn't you say, it is not something for our country to be concerned with..?

(There have been other dislocations around the world such as ones in central Africa in the '90s and in South East Asia in the '80s that have concerned us a lot less!)

Yes, but in terms of swarms of people coming into our own country in short periods of time, we do have concerns: WHAT ARE THEY?

-they are both matters of foreign and domestic policy, are they not? See the list of "Cons" on page 48 of the text.

-here we even see the emergence of something very central to what it means to be a sovereign nation!

Q. In the case of Europe, though, what exactly are America's foreign policy concerns? (Since 2015, the text tells us, the estimate is 900,000 migrants have come to the EU.)(page 44)

-plus even larger numbers in Turkey: nearly two million; Labanon, over a million and Jordan, about 600,000. All of these are more or less friendly to the US.

Q. What can be done, what can we do?

-the text suggests only small steps, e.g., distinguish refugees from other kinds of migrants; accommodate those who are refugees, try to integrate them into civil society; return those who are not; and prosecute human smugglers.

Quare: is there an international right to enter another country if it doesn't want you?

where would we suggest that the EU send those from Syria they don't want?

Q. Are there any precedents for larger international cooperation than say, a treaty here and there between the EU and 'sending' countries like Turkey as at present?

-Yes, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (UNRRA) from 1943-47: dealt with resettlement of almost a million refugees from WWII; then that job was taken over by the IRO in 1952 which at its height had in the range of one million 'displaced persons' (DPs), they were called, to resettle.

Most of these were within Europe but a significant number went to North African countries from places like Greece where people were fleeing civil war leading on to the Cold War.

-And today, that agency has been replaced by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) which, according to the text, has now a staggering 14 million people under its auspices!! (page 43) Seems safe to conclude that this number does not include those more recent arrivals in EU country since the onset of the Syria civil war.
