

Rystad, Göran, ed. 1990. The Uprooted: Forced Migration as an International Problem in the Post-War Era, Lund: Lund Univ. Press. 340 pp.

This edition of 11 conference papers introduces refugee history as a field of historical inquiry, and provides a useful background to the refugee problems confronting the world today.

The authors follow two different courses of inquiry. Aristide R. Zolberg's contribution is an example of the first: he gives an overview of post-WW2 military conflicts in order to explain how the refugee problems came about. Sven Tägil takes the other course, reflecting on mass deportations from Nebuchadnezzar to Hitler in order to see what this particular phenomenon can contribute to our general understanding of history.

The refugee policies of international organisations, and of host countries like Sweden, West Germany and the United States are analysed. Rystad's article on the USA can be recommended. Most of the authors deal with refugee problems rather than the refugees themselves. Refugees, however, are not just pawns; they are historical actors. This is best reflected in the contributions from Wolfgang Jacobmeyer and Rainer Schulze on how refugees were treated in West-Germany during the first years after WW2. Their contributions are highly interesting as a historical background for today's relationship between Germans from east and west, and the way they treat refugees from other East European countries.

Refugee history is a field in need of being much further explored.

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