

# **Trend and Pattern of Refugees in Arab World**

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## **Introduction**

The history of human beings is the history of mass migration. Every year millions of men and women and children flee from their own homeland due to war, violence, environmental disaster and repression which have overtaken their land. These people take shelter in foreign countries where they are isolated and impoverished. Although, the problem of refugees is as old as history, it is only at the end of the First World War that the international community began to take serious note of it. Today, the problem has become a matter of international concern, because of tremendous increase in the number of refugees. The twentieth century has been called the century of the homeless people. Large number of people have been permanently displaced for political reasons as a result of wars, treaties sometimes obscure reason. The first moment has started since World War first and second. (Ahmad 2004). In the Arab world, many countries are at war due to inter-state and intra-state conflicts. This has led the people to flee from their country. Arab-Israeli conflict (1948-1990), Iraq-Iran war (1980-1988), Gulf war (1990-1991) are some prominent examples. Due to intra-state conflicts, Sudan was divided; the northern part are largely Muslims, ethnically closer to the Arabs and southern part are inhabited predominately by Christians with some Nilotic and Equatorial people coming from different ethnic groups. Iraq, Iran ,Lebanon Yemen (1962-1972) South Yemen (1986-1987)Syria, Morocco, Somalia are still fighting to gain control over the people as well as the resources. Over the period of time Arab refugee trends and patterns have been changing with the maximum concentration of the refugees towards Europe since 1990s and Asia since 2010. Within Arab refugee migration figures are around 3495356 while in Europe the share is about 241315 and Asia 611996. Majority of the refugee originating countries such as Palestine, Iraq and Iran and Somalia have been so since the 1980s. Moderate refugee originating countries include Sudan (11462) Lebanon (6706) Syria (586990) by the end of 2013. And low originating refugee countries which are having greater concentration are Mauritania and Morocco.

## **Statement of the Problem**

The issues of refugee from Arab countries has gained wide coverage in mass media in the recent past and continue to do so. The situation of refugee in Europe in much highlighted. However the country of origin, from where refugee belongs is less explored .The Arab world characterized by diverse ethnic and cultural group. Pure verses Arabized and orthodox verses

Liberal and Shiite verses Sunni. This has led to disputes among Arab countries. Several other factors are playing a role. Internal and external forces are also working to divide people on the basis of belief and ideology. In that way third party (government) can fulfill his interest. Trends on all major indicators have since the late 1970s pointed towards an increasingly serious world refugee situation. To promote the understanding of this problem, the basic components are refugee situations, the conflicts from which they mainly arise, and the efforts to manage and resolve these situations. For understanding the dynamics of the problem, the political and military activities of the refugees and the processes through which refugee situations are internationalized are also singled out for particular consideration. Many global issues that increasingly occupy international political decision makers and theorists, the world refugee problem is perhaps the most complex. Unlike the others, it has no dominant trait. Basically, it is a problem of individuals, but it also manifests itself in various forms on the societal, governmental and international levels. It is a humanitarian and moral issue, a security issue, a development issue and to a growing extent also an environmental and natural resources issue.

### **Objective of the study**

The aim of the study is to examine the trend and pattern of refugee in Arab countries since 1976 as well as also try relate the Ethnic and Political diversity with refugee issues in Arab countries.

### **Data Sources & Methodology**

The data was collected from United Nation High Commissioner Refugee from 1976- 2013 and CIA Central Intelligence Agency, which gives the information about type government and ethnic and language composition of the country. Refugee-matrix for 23 Arabian countries for all study years was made to know the trend and pattern of refugee.

### **Discussion**

Over the period of time refugees has increased from Palestine Iraq and Somalia. These country concentrations not only the Arab however they migrated to Europe and Asia. Other countries like Sudan and Libya, Lebanon migration also increased but not as efficiently like Palestine and Iraq and Somalia. These countries' migration basically started from the 1980s whereas Mauritania and Algeria significantly refugee originating which mainly moving toward the Europe only. Another aspect the refugee acceptance in from the 1970s to 2013 major recipient countries, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Djibouti, Syria. Over the period of time refugee concentration within Arab are very high from the 1976s till 2013.

### **Trend of overall migration of Arab refugee migration**

The figure 1.1 at the end shows that from 1976 Palestine was only country their migrating began Arab-Israeli conflict (1948-1990), Somalia conflict since 1969 till now, Sudan civil war between northern and southern region since till date. (Ahmad, 2004) Over the period of time many intra-state conflict took place and major conflict between Iraq-Iran conflicts (1980-1988) that compel the people to leave his/her own country. Gulf war 1990-1991 also played a role for people to flee their country. (Ibrahim, 1998) Invasion of Iraq 2003 that create a lot of problem within Iraq due to the instable government that can be to make the country absolute. And Syria and Iraq, Somalia, are the major refugee originating countries in the Arab world due unstable government (Siddiqui, 2015).

### **Pattern of refugee in Arab countries.**

Iraq is the highest refugee origin country among the 23 countries. Iraqis refugee not only moving toward the Arab but they tend to migrate Europe as well. In Asia they started to migrate since 1985. Second highest refugee originating country is Palestine their refugee migration since 1976 to 2013 Arab Europe as well as Asia. Palestinian refugee migration started since 1990 in Europe and Asia began 1995. And third highest refugee originating countries. Somalia is the third largest refugee originating country among twenty three countries of Arab. Somalia refugee migration started in Arab in 1985, Europe 1980 and in Asia began from the year 1990. Medium refugee originating countries Sudan, Lebanon and Yemen pattern change from the high originating countries. They migrated towards Arab countries not that much efficiently as much high refugee originating countries. These countries mostly concentrated towards the Europe country. in Asia Lebanon refugee migrated in the year 2000. Low refugee originating countries Mauritania, Algeria and Tunisia are the highest refugee originating countries among the low refugee originating countries. But their refugee migration are not significantly migrated toward the Arab and Asia. Majority of refugee concentration Europe countries only.

### **Proportion of refugee migration towards Arab countries Europe and Asia**

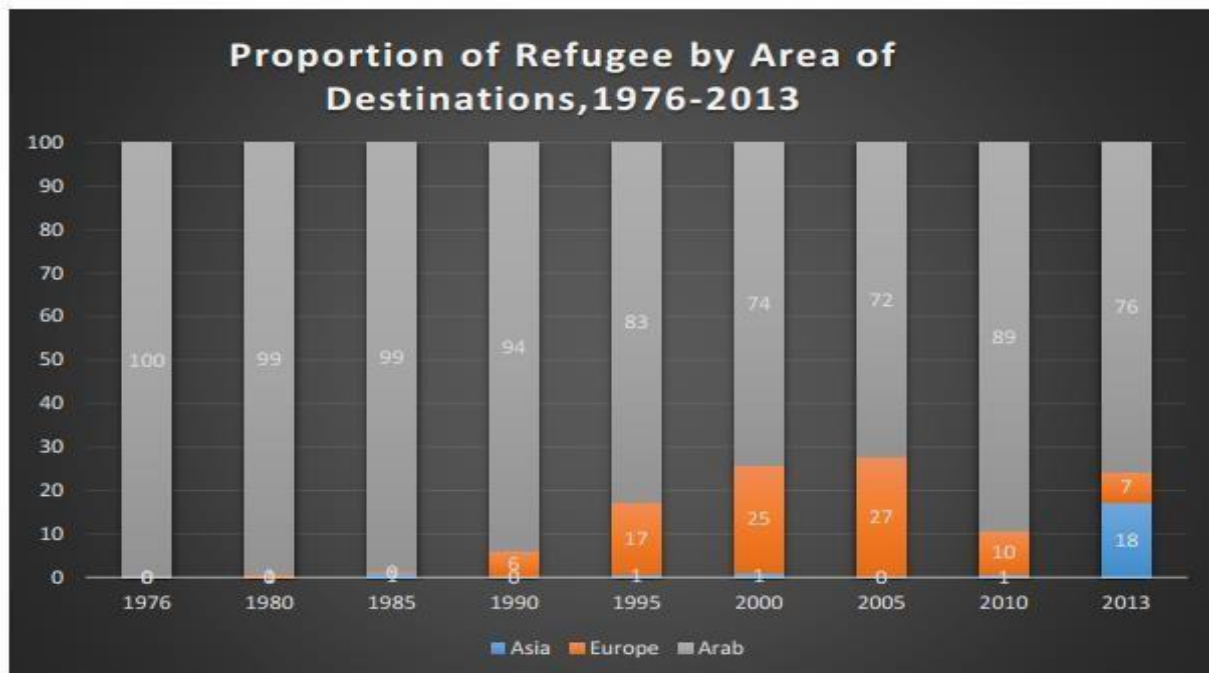
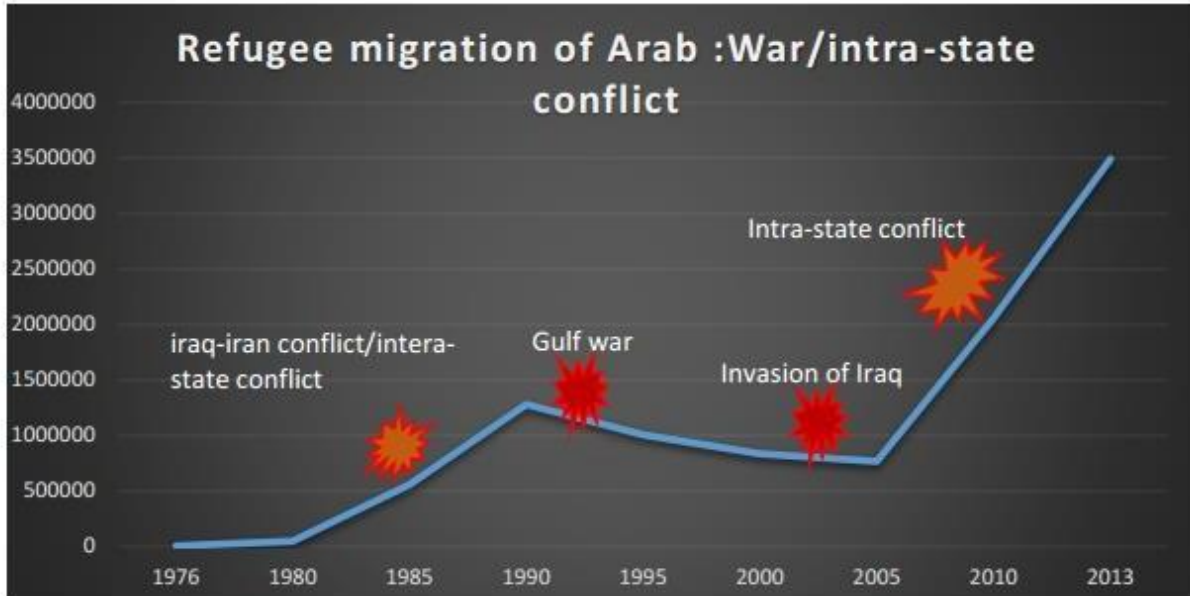
This graph 1.2 at the end shows that how the concentration of refugee pattern increases toward the Europe and Asia from the 1976 total migration of refugee was in hundred percent migration within Arab countries. But the 1980s, 1985 1 and 2 percent refugee migrated. In the 1990 to 2005 number of refugee migrated towards the Europe countries but in the year 2010 it goes down total share of the refugee around 11 percent migrated towards the Europe. 2005 was the most concentrated migration toward the Europe. A huge influx of migration can be observed in 2013 is 18 percent migration took place in Asia. From the 1990s movement of refugee has increase till 2005. From the 1995 Arab refugee started to migrate towards the Asian countries.

### **Conclusion**

Arab world from the beginning of the civilization divided into regional factor and divided into the Pure and Arabized and their division takes place in the name of the origins of the ethnicity further division of religion and religion keeping the sub sects. Each sect divided the orthodox to liberal. This history makes the people diverse and diversity create the conflict. Conflict crates the threat. That leads the bloodshed of humanity.

Over the period of time refugee has increase from Palestine and Iraq and Somalia. These country concentration not only the Arab, however, they migrated to Europe and Asia. Other countries like Sudan and Libya, Lebanon are also increases not that much efficiently like Palestine and Iraq and Somalia. These countries migration basically started from the 1980s. whereas Mauritania and Algeria significantly refugee originating migration toward the Europe only. Another aspect the refugee acceptance in from the 1970s to 2013 major recipient countries, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Djibouti, Syria. Religious and Ethnic diversity led bloodshed of the people, however Kurdish and Berber persecuted on the basis of ethnicity, their belief also was the same, but their uniqueness could not accept by the their government and native people. And Christian has been murdered by al-Qaeda. Since the downfall of Saddam Hussein Jews persecution after establishment of Israel. Many external group are also intervening the countries' matters for sake of their interest and promotion, preservation of

Ideology, ethnicity and religious belief. This belief and uniqueness (superiority) always lead to the inhumanity rather than respect for humanity. Division on the basis of such travesties which are but a product of a concept of artificial superiority created by the human mind is but an inferno which devours the true purpose of humanity.



Source: United Nation High Commissioner For Refugee.