

*A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE RUSSIAN -  
UKRAINIAN CONFLICT AND THE MIDDLE EAST  
CONFLICTS AND THE REFUGEE RESPONSES  
TOWARDS THE TWO REFUGEE CRISIS*

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# Russian - Ukrainian war

- ▶ The War in Ukraine highlights the World's new era
- ▶ The nations fight over the reasons for commencement: NATO closer approach in Ukraine, Genocide over the Russian minority in Ukraine (11 000 persons killed - 2014-2022) or New World order?
- ▶ Different perceptions:
  - War of aggression - a military conflict waged without the justification of self-defence, usually for territorial gain; or
  - Special military operation - coordinated military actions of a state, or a non-state actor, in response to a developing situation.

# Middle East conflicts

- ▶ Syria - civil war (the resignation of Al Assad regime and to make multi political party system)
- ▶ Iraq - many wars in a row. The 2014 war became as a consequence of the civil war in Syria
- ▶ Main aim for the USA led coalition for these wars to defeat ISIS
- ▶ Afghanistan - 20 years long war against Taliban and Osama bin Laden. It ended when Taliban took control of Kabul in 2021

# Refugee flows in Ukraine

## Official UNHCR data:

- ▶ 5,684,177 refugees registered in 2022 and 5,914,000 refugees registered in 2023;
- ▶ 5,865,447 IDPs (the internally displaced persons) registered in 2022 and 5,088,000 IDPs registered in 2023 in Ukraine;
- ▶ Most of the refugees are registered in Poland (6m), Hungary (1.5m), Romania (1.3m), Germany (1m) and Russia (2.8m).

# Refugee flows in the Middle East countries

- ▶ Syria - 2014 - 3.887.490 Syrian refugees registered; In 2015 - 4.873.236 and in 2016 - 5.524.511 Syrian refugees;
- ▶ Iraq - 2014 - 369,960 refugees; In 2015 - 264,086 refugees registered, and in 2016 - 316,056 Iraqi refugees;
- ▶ Afghanistan - 2014 - 2.596.259 refugees; 2015 - 2.666.294 displaced persons from Afghanistan. In 2016 - 2.501.447 refugees from Afghanistan;

# Ukrainian refugee processes vs. Middle East refugee crisis

- ▶ Over 1M. Refugees in 2015 in Europe / Over 5M. Refugees in 2022 from Ukraine
- ▶ Legal acts during refugee processes: Convention on the status of refugees 1951, its protocol 1967, The New York Declaration 2016 etc.
- ▶ Middle East - EU- Turkey statement, Relocation plan
- ▶ Ukrainian crisis - the Directive for Temporary Protection (2001) was activated:
- ▶ This Directive provides immediate and temporary protection in the event of a mass influx or imminent mass influx of displaced persons from non-EU countries who are unable to return to their country of origin.

# Discrimination

*There is a line, if you are Ukrainian it's easy to get across, if not, it takes a long time. The border guards used a stick on my friend, he was hurt.”*

*Bilal, a 24-year old student from Pakistan*

- ▶ Report of Amnesty International

‘Radicalized people, in particular Black people, reported suffering discrimination and violence by Ukrainian forces when trying to leave Ukraine.’

- ▶ Convention on the Status of refugees is (dis)respected.

(Article 3 “Non-discrimination” as to race, religion or country of origin)

# Conclusion

- The countries are willing to adopt and implement legal acts in terms of helping the refugees;
- The legal acts are not equally applied to same scope of refugee crisis;
- The discrimination among nations is evident.