

# Religion, Politics, and Refugee Resettlement in North America: McGill Queen

The resettlement of refugees in North America is a complex and multifaceted process that involves a range of actors, including governments, non-governmental organizations, and religious institutions. Religious organizations have played a significant role in refugee resettlement, providing a variety of services to refugees, including shelter, food, clothing, and language training. However, the involvement of religious organizations in refugee resettlement has also been controversial, with some critics arguing that it can lead to the imposition of religious values on refugees.



## Send Them Here: Religion, Politics, and Refugee Resettlement in North America (McGill-Queen's Refugee and Forced Migration Studies Book 5)

by Greg Palast

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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## **The Role of Religious Organizations in Refugee Resettlement**

Religious organizations have been involved in refugee resettlement in North America for centuries. In the early days, religious organizations were often the only providers of services to refugees. Today, religious organizations continue to play a significant role in refugee resettlement, although their role has changed somewhat over time.

One of the most important roles that religious organizations play in refugee resettlement is providing sanctuary. Sanctuary is a place where refugees can go to seek safety and protection from persecution. Religious organizations have a long history of providing sanctuary to refugees, and they continue to do so today.

In addition to providing sanctuary, religious organizations also provide a variety of other services to refugees, including shelter, food, clothing, and language training. Religious organizations also often help refugees to find jobs and housing.

The involvement of religious organizations in refugee resettlement has a number of benefits. First, religious organizations can provide a safe and supportive environment for refugees. Second, religious organizations can provide refugees with a sense of community. Third, religious organizations can help refugees to integrate into their new country.

## **The Political Factors that Shape Refugee Resettlement**

The political factors that shape refugee resettlement are complex and varied. Some of the most important political factors include the following:

- **The global refugee crisis:** The number of refugees in the world has reached its highest level since World War II. This has put a strain on the resources of countries that resettle refugees.
- **The rise of populism and nativism:** In recent years, there has been a rise in populism and nativism around the world. This has led to a more restrictive approach to refugee resettlement in some countries.
- **The changing nature of warfare:** The changing nature of warfare has led to an increase in the number of refugees who are fleeing from conflict. This has made it more difficult for countries to resettle refugees.

## **The Experiences of Refugees who Navigate these Intersecting Forces**

The experiences of refugees who navigate the intersecting forces of religion and politics are complex and varied. Some refugees are able to find safety and support from religious organizations. Others are met with hostility and discrimination.

The following are some of the challenges that refugees who navigate the intersecting forces of religion and politics may face:

- **Prejudice and discrimination:** Refugees may face prejudice and discrimination from both religious and political groups. This can make it difficult for refugees to find housing, employment, and other services.
- **Exploitation:** Refugees may be exploited by religious and political groups who are seeking to take advantage of their vulnerability. This can include being forced to work in low-paying jobs or being forced to convert to a particular religion.

- **Trauma:** Refugees may have experienced trauma before, during, or after their flight. This trauma can make it difficult for them to adjust to their new lives and can lead to a variety of mental health problems.

The resettlement of refugees in North America is a complex and challenging process. Religion and politics play a significant role in refugee resettlement, and the experiences of refugees who navigate these intersecting forces are complex and varied.

It is important to remember that refugees are human beings who have fled their homes due to persecution or war. They deserve our compassion and support. We must work together to create a more just and equitable world for refugees.



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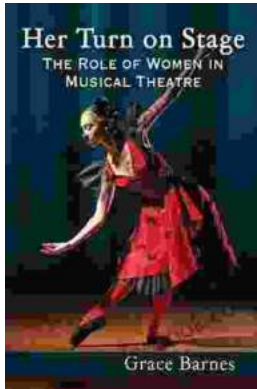
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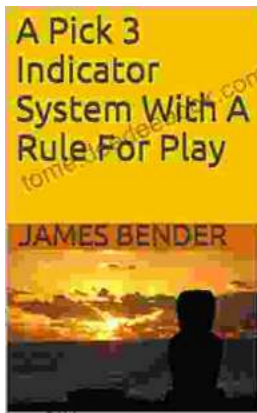
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