

Crisis? What Crisis? The historical roots of Europe's "Refugee Crisis"

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Why did European (and American) politicians become so alarmed and often downright apocalyptic at the rise of asylum seekers in 2014-2015? Their discourse is even more puzzling when we compare these reactions with those in the 1990s when even higher numbers of asylum seekers, from similar regions, entered Western Europe. I argue that in 2015, a perfect storm developed, bringing together factors that in the past had been largely unrelated (such as growing social inequality) and converged with new ones, especially Islamist terrorism and rising radical-right parties.
