

Refugees in America

Should the United States accept refugees?

Since its earliest days as part of the United States, Iowa has a long history of being a destination for those from other countries to find a new home. Such newcomers are called immigrants. A special class of those are people fleeing wars, persecution or other dangers from their former homes. These immigrants are termed “refugees.” Like the larger class of immigrants, Iowa has confronted both the challenges and opportunities of accepting new arrivals as permanent residents.

Early Refugees in the United States

In the 19th century, there were few restrictions on traveling to America. While most Mormons were not from foreign countries, thousands of Latter Day Saints made their way across southern Iowa when they were forced out of their homes in Nauvoo, Illinois, following the assassination of their leader Joseph Smith. Most did not stay but continued their trek across the Great Plains to Utah. During the same years, many German families were arriving in the Mississippi River towns of Davenport, Clinton and Dubuque. Conservative governments in the German states were threatening those who had participated in revolutions or who advocated for greater democracy. In response, many migrated to the Midwest and created strong pockets of German culture. Irish families facing starvation when the potato beetle destroyed the staple of the Irish diet arrived in Iowa to start new lives. Religious and political persecution in the Netherlands and Hungary also led to refugee flights to Iowa.

Poverty and persecution continued to propel European populations to seek new homes. Until the end of the 19th century, most immigrants to Iowa had come from northern European countries, especially Germany, Ireland, Scandinavia and the British Isles. However, in the 1890s and for some 30 years after, southern and eastern Europe immigration rapidly increased. Because free or cheap lands had already been settled, most of these arrivals headed for the cities in the eastern states. While they might not have been under immediate threats, poverty and the lack of opportunity had motivated them to seek new homes. In Iowa, Czechs, Italians, Croats, Welsh, British and Swedes entered the coal mines.

Post-WWI Displaced Persons

A new term emerged in the American vocabulary following World War I: “Displaced Persons.” The DPS, as they were called, had been in the path of invading armies, sometimes facing starvation when crops or other livelihoods were destroyed. Americans welcomed some, but there were those who feared that the numbers of newcomers were changing the face of the nation. In 1923, a Federal Immigration Act put strict quotas on the numbers of immigrants from southern and eastern European countries and barred Asian and other non-white races from entering the country.

In the 1960s, civil wars and other disruptions forced many to flee their homes. In the early 1970s, Iowa Governor Robert Ray took a courageous stand to begin a resettlement program for Vietnamese and Laotian families who had been caught up in those nations’ conflicts. He encouraged churches and other social agencies to sponsor refugee families and help them learn the language and culture and get jobs. Bosnian refugees to Iowa later received local assistance when they needed to get away from genocides in their homelands as did refugees from several African countries.

Present-Day Immigration Debate

In most of the cases above, the refugees arrived through legal channels established by Congress. The immigrant problem of today centers around those who cross America’s borders illegally and sometimes live here for years without proper identification. Many have fled poverty or violence, especially from Mexico and Central America, and have applied as refugees. A particular problem concerns those whose parents brought them here as children and the United States is the only country they have ever known. Should they be allowed to remain or does that encourage others to challenge immigration restrictions? As long as the United States becomes a target for those seeking a better life, the nation will have to establish laws for who can live here, whether as immigrants or refugees.

Supporting Questions

How has America helped refugees in the past?

- [Sewing Class for Refugee Students in Mt. Ayr, Iowa, 1918 \(Image\)](#)
- [Junior Red Cross Members in Des Moines, Iowa, Packing Sweaters for War Refugees, between 1942 and 1943 \(Image\)](#)
- ["900,000 Plus, Arab Refugees" Newspaper Article, December 7, 1957 \(Document\)](#)
- ["Refugees - Indochina Status Report" by President Gerald Ford, April 3, 1975 \(Document\)](#)
- [Memo from Daniel Parker to Theodore Marrs about Airlift of Vietnamese Children, April 3, 1975 \(Document\)](#)
- [Vietnamese Babies in Carriers on an Airplane to America, April 5, 1975 \(Image\)](#)
- [Iowa Governor Robert Ray's Congressional Hearing Testimony about Refugee Legislation, May 24, 1979 \(Document\)](#)
- [Resolution of the Republican Governors Association Regarding Cambodia, November 20, 1979 \(Document\)](#)
- [Cambodia Crisis Campaign Magazine Advertisement, Date Unknown \(Document\)](#)

What has been Americans' attitude towards refugees?

- ["Local Citizens Will Sponsor Vacations for Refugees," Newspaper Article, July 3, 1940 \(Document\)](#)
- ["Greenbelt Greets Refugee Visitors" Newspaper Article, July 25, 1940 \(Document\)](#)
- ["Refugees Days Full While in Greenbelt" Newspaper Article, August 1, 1940 \(Document\)](#)
- [Memo from E.L. Colton to Iowa Governor Robert Ray about Cuban Refugees, May 7, 1980 \(Document\)](#)
- [Letter from Mrs. Stuhr to Iowa Governor Robert Ray about Tai Dam Refugees, May 13, 1980 \(Document\)](#)
- [Letter from Mrs. Knode to Iowa Governor Robert Ray about Tai Dam Refugees, May 22, 1980 \(Document\)](#)

What are the possible risks associated with helping refugees?

- [President Gerald Ford's Condolence Letter to Sgt. Kenneth Nance's Parents, May 2, 1975 \(Document\)](#)
- [H.R.5816 - To Suspend, and Subsequently Terminate, the Admission of Certain Refugees, July 14, 2016 \(Document\)](#)
- [President Donald Trump's Executive Order about Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States, March 6, 2017 \(Document\)](#)
- [International Committee of the Red Cross Memo for Foreign Workers near Thai-Cambodian Border, Date Unknown \(Document\)](#)

*Printable Image and Document Guide

Additional Resources

[Women's Refugee Commission](#): This website is for the Women's Refugee Commission, an organization that works to improve the lives and protect the rights of women, children and youth displaced by conflict and crisis. This nonprofit is a leading expert on the needs of refugee women and children.

["I Am Syria" Campaign](#): This nonprofit media campaign website seeks to educate the world of the Syrian Conflict. This website includes video, pictures and articles to inform the public about the atrocities and human rights abuses occurring in the present-day Syria.

["Internally Displaced People" ICRC Website](#): This online resource focuses on the work to help "internally displaced people" through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Sewing Class for Refugee Students in Mt. Ayr, Iowa, 1918



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Class in sewing for refugee children, Mt. Ayr, Iowa public school," 1918

Description

This photograph was taken in Mt. Ayr, located in southeast Iowa, in 1918. The image shows refugees from Europe taking part in a sewing class.

Text-Dependent Questions

- Look closely at the setting of this photo. In what type of building are these people located?
- Why would refugees from Europe be taught the skill of sewing?
- Why would Iowans help these refugees and teach them usable skills?

Citation Information

"Class in sewing for refugee children, Mt. Ayr, Iowa public school," 1918. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Junior Red Cross Members in Des Moines, Iowa, Packing Sweaters for War Refugees, between 1942 and 1943



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Des Moines, Iowa. Members of the Junior Red Cross packing children's sweaters for war refugees," between 1942 and 1943

Description

This photograph shows two young junior members of the American Red Cross in Des Moines, Iowa. The two children are packing clothing for refugees during World War II.

Text-Dependent Questions

- Based on the evidence in the image, where are these children from, and what organization do they appear to be helping?
- What are these young children doing?
- Why would young Americans, like these two children from Iowa, help refugees?

Citation Information

"Des Moines, Iowa. Members of the Junior Red Cross packing children's sweaters for war refugees," between 1942 and 1943. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

“Refugees - Indochina Status Report” from President Gerald Ford, April 3, 1975

FOR RELEASE AT 12 noon PDT
3 pm EDT

APRIL 3, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(San Diego, California)

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

We are seeing a great human tragedy as untold numbers of Vietnamese flee the North Vietnamese onslaught. The United States has been doing and will continue to do its utmost to assist these people.

I have directed all available naval ships to stand off Indochina to do whatever is necessary to assist. We have appealed to the United Nations to use its moral influence to permit these innocent people to leave, and we call on North Vietnam to permit the movement of refugees to areas of their choice.

While I have been in California I have been spending many hours on the refugee problem and our humanitarian efforts. I have directed that money from a \$2 million special foreign aid children's fund be made available to fly 2,000 South Vietnamese orphans to the United States as soon as possible.

I have also directed American officials in Saigon to act immediately to cut red tape and bureaucratic obstacles preventing these children from coming to the United States.

I have directed that C-5A planes and other aircraft, especially equipped to care for these orphans during the flight, be sent to Saigon. I expect the flights to begin within the next 36 to 48 hours. These orphans will be flown to Travis Air Force Base and other bases on the West Coast and cared for there.

These 2,000 Vietnamese orphans are all in the process of being adopted by American families.

This is the least we can do, and we will do much, much more.

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Courtesy of Ford Museum and Library, Ford, Gerald, “April 3, 1975: Statement by the President,” 3 April 1975

Description

This document is President Gerald Ford's statement to the press. In it he says, “We are seeing a great human tragedy as untold numbers of Vietnamese flee the North Vietnamese onslaught. The United States has been doing and will continue to do its utmost to assist these people.” He also authorizes the release of funds to airlift 2,000 Vietnamese orphans to the United States.

[Transcription of President Gerald Ford's “Refugees - Indochina Status Report”](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- This statement was given by President Ford. Summarize this document and explain what the President is hoping to achieve.
- What evidence is there in the document that the United States is working to help get refugees from Vietnam to safety? What is the \$2 million special foreign aid children's fund being used to do?
- What does the president want American officials in Saigon to do in order to speed up the process of getting refugee children out of Vietnam? Why would this be important?

Citation Information

Ford, Gerald, “April 3, 1975: Statement by the President,” 3 April 1975. [Courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum](#)

Memo from Daniel Parker to Theodore Marris about Airlift of Vietnamese Children, April 3, 1975

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON

THE ADMINISTRATOR APR 3 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE THEODORE C. MARRS
Special Assistant to the President
for Human Resources
The White House

SUBJECT: A.I.D. Efforts to Airlift Vietnamese Orphans to
the United States

~~_____~~ A.I.D. is working with the Republic of Vietnam to expedite transportation to the United States for about 2,000 Vietnamese orphans now in Saigon. I have directed that funds from a \$2 million children's assistance allocation be used to airlift them in suitable and safe aircraft as soon as possible, and that the USAID Mission in Saigon move immediately to cut through any red tape or bureaucratic obstacles.

These orphans are now in the custody of licensed adoption agencies operating in Vietnam. They were already in the process of adoption by American families living in various parts of the United States. Those few who do not have families arranged will be placed with families now on waiting lists of the agencies.

We do not now need foster care homes or additional sponsoring families. Adoption agencies involved which have U.S. offices will be contacting the prospective parents.

Inquiries from families in the U.S. who are in the process of adopting Vietnamese children should be made to the appropriate adoption agencies. (A list is attached).

Courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, Parker, Daniel, "Memo for Theodore Marris," 3 April 1975

Description

This memo is from Daniel Parker to Theodore Marris, the special assistant to the U.S. president for human resources. Parker, who works in the State Department's Agency for International Development, recommended the release of funds to begin airlifting 2,000 Vietnamese children in "safe and suitable" aircraft.

[Transcript of Daniel Parker's Memo to Theodore Marris](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- How is A.I.D. assisting with refugee children in Vietnam?
- What can these children expect when they arrive in the United States?
- Compare this document to the statement given by [President Ford](#) on the same day. What is similar between the documents? What is different? Why would this document go into more detail about what specifically will happen with the children?

Citation Information

Parker, Daniel, "Memo for Theodore Marris," 3 April 1975. [Courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum](#)

Vietnamese Babies in Carriers on an Airplane to America, April 5, 1975



Courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, "Vietnamese Babies in their Carriers," 5 April 1975

Description

This photograph shows Vietnamese babies and small children aboard an airplane bound for the United States as part of Operation Babylift, which was the name given to the mass evacuation of children from South Vietnam to the U.S. and other countries at the end of the Vietnam War.

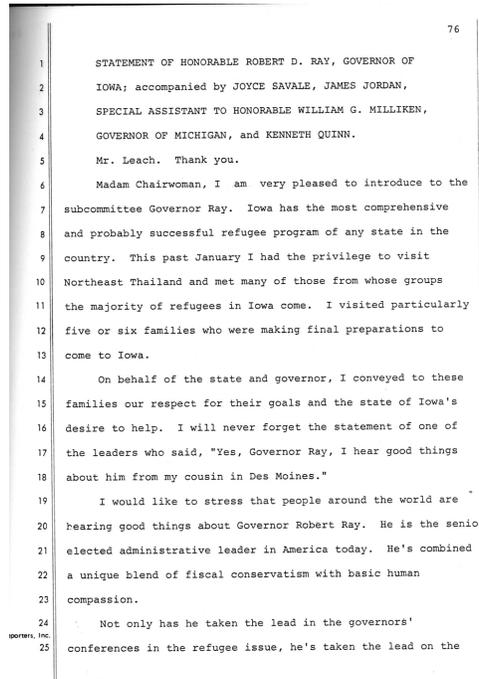
Text-Dependent Questions

- After looking at the photo, refer to the [statement by President Ford](#) and the [memo from Daniel Parker](#). What is happening in this image? Use evidence from the documents to support your answer.
- Why would America help refugees, like these children, in the past?

Citation Information

"Vietnamese Babies in their Carriers," 5 April 1975. [Courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum](#)

Iowa Governor Robert Ray's Congressional Hearing Testimony about Refugee Legislation, May 24, 1979



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 24 May 1979

Description

The source is a transcription of Iowa Governor Robert Ray's speech in front of the U.S. House of Representatives' subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law in 1979. Ray spoke on his feelings of moral obligation for resettling Tai Dam refugees in Iowa, as well as the keys to success of the program.

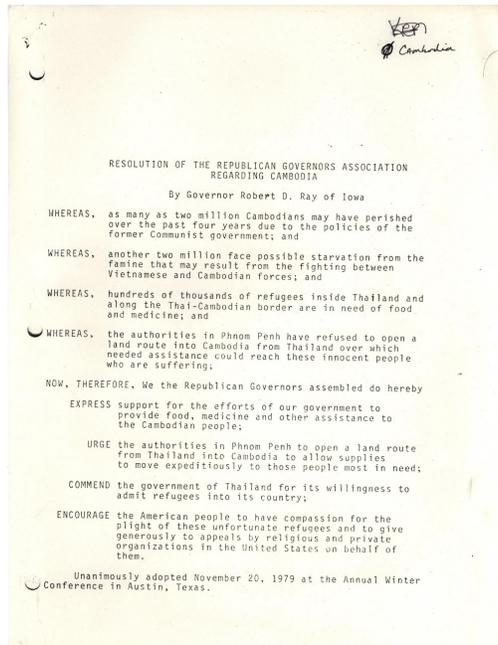
[Full Transcript of Gov. Robert Ray's Congressional Hearing Testimony](#)

[Transcribed Excerpt from Gov. Robert Ray's Congressional Hearing Testimony](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- What opinions did other government leaders hold about Governor Robert Ray and Iowa's refugee resettlement? Why might that help with other state's decisions to resettle refugees?
- According to Governor Ray, what two goals were achieved when resettling the Tai Dam people in Iowa? Why did Ray feel these goals were important to the Tai Dam and to Iowa?
- Governor Ray mentions that the Tai Dam people are "... contributing members of our society, paying taxes and earning their own way. These people have become productive, contributing members of our society, paying taxes and earning their own way." Why might this be an important point to mention if other states were considering rehoming refugees?

Resolution of the Republican Governors Association Regarding Cambodia, November 20, 1979



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 20 November 1979

Description

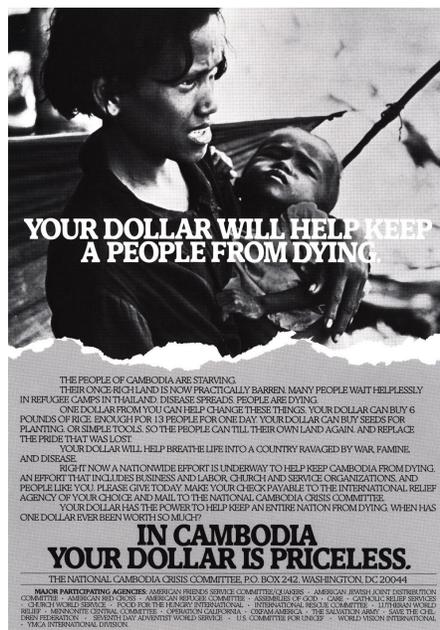
This document is of the resolution passed by the Republican Governors Association regarding a rising humanitarian crisis in Cambodia in 1979. In the resolution, the Republican Governors Association states that they support the efforts of the U.S. government to provide food, medicine and other assistance to the Cambodian people.

[Transcript of the Republican Governors Association Resolution about Cambodia](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- Governor Robert Ray was part of a group of governors that represented other states within the United States. As part of this group, Ray wrote this resolution. What are the goals of this resolution? What reasons are given for why this resolution was written?
- Why would Governor Ray want this document be recognized by other state governors?
- What does this resolution encourage the American people to do? What does this indicate about America's efforts to help refugees?

Cambodia Crisis Campaign Magazine Advertisement, Date Unknown



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, National Cambodia Crisis Committee, Date Unknown

Description

This magazine advertisement was created by The National Cambodia Crisis Committee and states that “Your Dollar Will Help Keep A People From Dying.” In the crisis campaign ad, the committee is asking for funding to help starving Cambodians they say are trapped in Thai refugee camps.

Transcript of the Cambodia Crisis Campaign Magazine Advertisement

Text-Dependent Questions

- What is the purpose of the poster?
- Describe what the poster says about the crisis in Cambodia. Why would the National Cambodia Crisis Committee use such strong and emotive language?
- According to the poster, what can \$1 do for the Cambodian people? Why would the National Cambodia Crisis Committee illustrate the benefits of a \$1 donation, rather than \$10, \$20 or \$50?
- Refer to [Resolution of Republican Governors Association Regarding Cambodia](#). How does this advertisement help to illustrate the points of the resolution?

“Local Citizens Will Sponsor Vacations for Refugees,” Newspaper Article, July 3, 1940



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Local Citizens Will Sponsor Vacations for Refugees,” *Greenbelt Cooperator*, 3 July 1940

Description

This article from the *Greenbelt Cooperator*, a newspaper in Greenbelt, Maryland, highlighted a new program from the National Refugee Service that will start in Greenbelt with the arrival of 15 refugee children for two weeks from late July to early August in 1940.

[Transcript of “Local Citizens Will Sponsor Vacations for Refugees” Newspaper Article](#)

[Printable Excerpt of “Local Citizens Will Sponsor Vacations for Refugees” Newspaper Article](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- What is the central idea of this article? What does the author want the reader to know and understand?
- According to the article, what is the goal of the vacation for the refugee children? Why would this goal be important?
- How does this article reflect American’s attitudes towards refugees?

Citation Information

“Local Citizens Will Sponsor Vacations for Refugees,” *Greenbelt Cooperator*, 3 July 1940. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

“Greenbelt Greets Refugee Visitors” Newspaper Article, July 25, 1940



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Greenbelt Greets Refugee Visitors,” *Greenbelt Cooperator*, 25 July 1940

Description

This article from the *Greenbelt Cooperator*, a newspaper in Greenbelt, Maryland, and features 15 refugee children who came to the town. The children were between eight and 12 years old and they came Prussia, Vienna, Nuremberg, Frankfort and Breslau. The children were selected by the American Friends Service, Committee for Christian Refugees, Committee for Catholic Refugees and the National Refugee Service.

[Transcript of “Greenbelt Greets Refugee Visitors” Newspaper Article](#)

[Printable Excerpt of “Greenbelt Greets Refugee Visitors” Newspaper Article](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- After reading this article, refer to the [Local Citizens will Sponsor Vacations for Refugees](#). How does this follow up article address the goals outlined in the July 3, 1940, article?
- Under the heading “Anxious to Learn American Ways,” what lessons will the refugees receive to help them transition into life in America? Why might these lessons help the children to learn more about American culture?
- Why might this article highlight the background of two families and their initial struggles in America?

Citation Information

“Greenbelt Greets Refugee Visitors,” *Greenbelt Cooperator*, 25 July 1940. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

“Refugees Days Full While in Greenbelt” Newspaper Article, August 1, 1940



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Refugees Days Full While in Greenbelt,” Greenbelt Cooperative, 1 August 1940

Description

This article was published in the *Greenbelt Cooperator*, a newspaper in Greenbelt, Maryland. Fifteen refugee children from Europe were visiting Greenbelt for the summer, and the article covered some of the many activities the children were involved in while they were in America, such as learning how to play baseball and to swim.

[Transcript of “Refugees Days Full While in Greenbelt” Newspaper Article](#)

[Printable Excerpt of “Refugees Days Full While in Greenbelt” Newspaper Article](#)

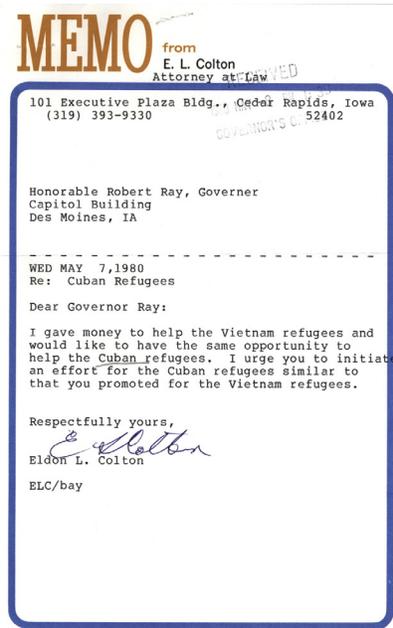
Text-Dependent Questions

- What evidence is there in the text to support the claim that the refugee children like it in America? How does the author describe the children? Why might these factors be important aspects to highlight in the newspaper?
- After reading this article, refer to [Local Citizens will Sponsor Vacations for Refugees](#) and [Greenbelt Greets Refugee Visitors](#).
- This is the third article written about this topic. How does each article demonstrate the attitude of American’s toward these refugees?

Citation Information

“Refugees Days Full While in Greenbelt,” *Greenbelt Cooperator*, 1 August 1940. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Memo from E.L. Colton to Iowa Governor Robert Ray about Cuban Refugees, May 7, 1980



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Colton, E.L., 7 May 1980

Description

This document is a memo from attorney E.L. Colton to Iowa Governor Robert Ray. In the memo, Colton said that he gave money to Vietnam refugees and that he would like to do the same for Cuban refugees who were being persecuted under Fidel Castro's regime.

[Transcript of E.L. Colton's Memo to Iowa Governor Robert Ray](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- When was this document written, and who was it addressed to? What is this citizen's thoughts about Cuban refugees coming to Iowa? Provide evidence from the memo.
- What does this memo demonstrate about how E.L. Colton feels about how Governor Robert Ray handled the resettlement of the Tai Dam people?

Letter from Mrs. Stuhr to Iowa Governor Robert Ray about Tai Dam Refugees, May 13, 1980

May 13, 1980

Governor Robert D. Ray
Terrace Hill
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

If a vote of the Iowa people could be taken we would bet that over 90% of the Iowa people would disapprove of the boat people in Iowa to be supported by our tax dollars.

Lets hope you do not bring the Cubans here. They should not even be brought into the United States. We can feel sorry for them but we have enough of our own to care for. If we can't help them in thier own country than it is just too bad.

If we have so much money to feed these people than why not relieve the tax burden for the middle class working people.

I can see why a lot of our good young people do not want to sign up for the draft. If war should break out why should they defend these foreigners.

Lets start to take care of our own-I am 65 and have to continue to work and at that I can barely make ends meet. Thank God I still have my health.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John Stuhr
3519 Ave. B
Co. Bluffs, Ia 51501

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 13 May, 1980

Description

This letter is from Iowan Mrs. John Stuhr to Iowa Governor Robert Ray in 1980. Stuhr is from Council Bluffs, and she is writing the governor to express her disapproval of the state's support of southeast Asian refugee resettlement in Iowa.

[Transcript of Mrs. Stuhr's Letter to Iowa Governor Robert Ray](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- When was this document written, and who was it addressed to? What is this citizen's thoughts about Cuban refugees coming to Iowa? Provide evidence from the memo.
- What arguments does this letter writer raise about money spent on refugees? Why are these arguments important to her?
- What does the writer of this memo say about the Cubans? Compare this to the [memo from E.L. Colton](#). Discuss why Iowans and Americans can have different points of view about refugees.

Letter from Mrs. Knode to Iowa Governor Robert Ray about Tai Dam Refugees, May 22, 1980

5-22-80

Mr. Robert D. Ray;

I feel Iowa, a place
to grow, as just possible
referring to the crops,
because of the good rich
land. Not a place
for large numbers of
non english speaking
refugees. Our state,
like others is having
an economic problem.
State employees are not
getting raises that
should be due to the
economy. Yet we are
expected to open our
arms and wallets to
the Cubans and Vietnamese.
Please stop it.
It could make the
state more depressed.
Taxpayers money should
not be used for such
purposes with out each
of us voting on it.
Roads need repaired,
mentally and physically
prolapsed people need

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 22 May 1980

Description

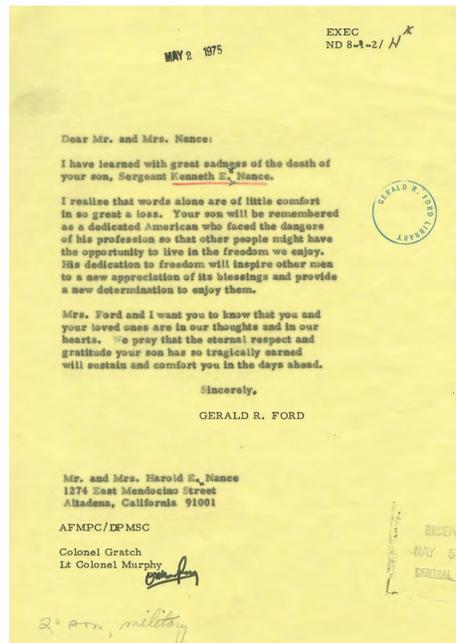
This letter was written by Iowan Mrs. Ronald Knode to Iowa Governor Robert Ray in 1980. In the letter, Knode disapproved of the state's resettlement of Tai Dam refugees.

[Transcript of Mrs. Knode's Letter to Iowa Governor Robert Ray](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- When was this document written, and who was it addressed to? What is this citizen's argument against allowing refugees to settle in Iowa?
- How does this citizen propose taxpayer money be used instead of supporting refugees? Why does she believe these are more important ways to spend taxpayer money?
- Compare this to the [letter from Mrs. Stuhr](#) and the [memo from E.L. Colton](#). Using examples from each letter, explain the differing attitudes of Americans toward refugees and the reasons why.

President Gerald Ford's Condolence Letter to Sgt. Kenneth Nance's Parents, May 2, 1975



Courtesy of Ford Museum and Library, Ford, Gerald, Ford, Gerald, 2 May 1975

Description

This condolence letter from President Gerald Ford was written to the parents of Army Sgt. Kenneth E. Nance, who was killed in a plane crash while attempting to evacuate refugees from Vietnam.

[Transcript of President Gerald Ford's Condolence Letter to the Parents of Sgt. Kenneth Nance](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- President Ford wrote this letter to Army Sergeant Kenneth E. Nance's family. Sergeant Nance was killed in a plane crash while attempting to evacuate refugees from Vietnam. Why would President Ford write a letter to this family?
- Refer to President Ford's [Refugees - Indochina Report](#). What are benefits and drawbacks with helping refugees?

Citation Information

Ford, Gerald, 2 May 1975. [Courtesy of Ford Museum and Library](#)

H.R. 5816 - To Suspend, and Subsequently Terminate, the Admission of Certain Refugees, July 14, 2016



114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5816

To suspend, and subsequently terminate, the admission of certain refugees, to examine the impact on the national security of the United States of admitting refugees, to examine the costs of providing benefits to such individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2016

Mr. BAIN (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BRAY, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BYRNES, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FAHRENTHORPE, Mr. GOSWAMI, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HERTSICK, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. NEUBERT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. PITTSBOROUGH, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROUSE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. WALKER, Mr. WELLS, Mr. WENGER of Texas, Mr. Zinke, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. SANDFORD) introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To suspend, and subsequently terminate, the admission of certain refugees, to examine the impact on the national security of the United States of admitting refugees, to examine the costs of providing benefits to such individuals, and for other purposes.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

Courtesy of U.S. Congress, "H.R.5816 - To suspend, and subsequently terminate, the admission of certain refugees..." 14 July 2016

Description

This U.S. House resolution, which was passed July 14, 2016, called for the suspension, and subsequent termination of the admission of certain refugees in to the United States. The resolution, also titled, "Resettlement Accountability National Security Prioritization Act of 2016," looked to scurtinize and deny admission into the U.S. for foreign nationals from some specific countries, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen.

[Transcript of H.R. 5816](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- What is the intent of the bill? From what countries does the bill exclude refugees? What does this bill imply about refugees from these countries?
- Why would the bill request a "Report On The Cost Of Providing Benefits To Refugees," with the eight different points?

Citation Information

"H.R.5816 - To suspend, and subsequently terminate, the admission of certain refugees, to examine the impact on the national security of the United States of admitting refugees, to examine the costs of providing benefits to such individuals, and for other purposes," 14 July 2016. [Courtesy of U.S. Congress](#)

President Donald Trump's Executive Order about Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States, March 6, 2017

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Executive Order Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States

NATIONAL SECURITY & DEFENSE

Issued on: March 6, 2017

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq., and section 201 of title 3, United States Code, and to protect the Nation from terrorist activities by foreign nationals admitted to the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy and Purpose. (a) It is the policy of the United States to protect its citizens from terrorist attacks, including those committed by foreign nationals. The screening and vetting protocols and procedures associated with the visa-issuance process and the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) play a crucial role in detecting foreign nationals who may commit, aid, or support acts of terrorism and in preventing those individuals from entering the United States. It is therefore the policy of the United States to improve the screening and vetting protocols and procedures associated with the visa-issuance process and the USRAP.

(b) On January 27, 2017, to implement this policy, I issued Executive Order 13769 (Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States).

(c) Among other actions, Executive Order 13769 suspended for 90 days the entry of certain aliens from seven countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. These are countries that had already been identified as presenting heightened concerns about terrorism and travel to the United States. Specifically, the suspension applied to countries referred to in, or designated under, section 217(a)(2) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1187(a)(2), in which Congress restricted use of the Visa Waiver Program for nationals of, and aliens recently present in, (A) Iraq or Syria, (B) any country designated by the Secretary of State as a state sponsor of terrorism (currently Iran, Syria, and Sudan), and (C) any other country designated as a country of concern by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence. In 2016, the Secretary of Homeland Security designated Libya, Somalia, and Yemen as additional countries of concern for travel purposes, based on consideration of three statutory factors related to terrorism and national security: "(1) whether the presence of an alien in the country or area increases the likelihood that the alien is a credible threat to the national security of the United States; (2) whether a foreign terrorist organization has a significant

Courtesy of White House, "Executive Order Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States," 6 March 2017

Description

This controversial Executive Order 13780 from President Donald Trump, also titled, "Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States" and known as the "travel ban," placed limits on travel to the U.S. from certain countries, and by all refugees who do not possess either a visa or valid travel documents.

[Full Transcript of President Donald Trump's Executive Order about Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States](#)

[Transcribed Excerpts from President Donald Trump's Executive Order about Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States](#)

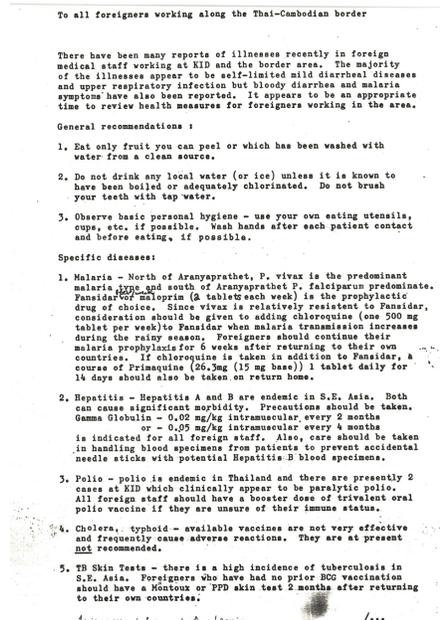
Text-Dependent Questions

- What is the purpose of Executive Order 13769? From what is this act protecting Americans?
- Why has the U.S. Refugee Admission Program been suspended for 120 days?
- According to the order, why is Syria on the list of countries with a temporary ban?
- Compare this document to the [U.S. House Resolution 5816](#). What is similar between the documents? What is different? In what ways do these two documents portray the drawbacks of helping refugees? What are the benefits, if any?

Citation Information

"Executive Order Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States," 6 March 2017.
[Courtesy of White House](#)

International Committee of the Red Cross Memo for Foreign Workers near Thai-Cambodian Border, Date Unknown



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Date Unknown

Description

This memo from the International Committee of the Red Cross was directed at foreign workers near the Thai-Cambodian border. The document advised them of a number of diseases on the rise near that location, such as malaria, hepatitis, polio, cholera and tuberculosis. The memo gave workers directions on what to do if they become ill and preventative actions they could take to avoid illnesses.

[Transcript of ICRC Memo](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- What was the purpose of this document, and who is it addressing?
- What diseases are specifically addressed to be aware of when helping refugees in foreign lands? Describe the general recommendations for protecting yourself from disease.
- After reading this memo, refer to [President Gerald Ford's condolence letter to Sgt. Nance's family](#). What are possible risks with helping refugees? Discuss whether the rewards outweigh the risks or not.