

Gatrell europe—the
major area
with refugee
population from all



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Gatrell studies the process which leads to the making of refugees in the twentieth century. In the first few chapters, he goes back on time and talks about the empires and their dissolution.

After this, he mentions about the emergence of the new nation-states in Europe—the major area with refugee population from all over the world. After the end of the Second World War, the refugee problem became a global issue which required immediate attention. Gatrell includes personal and gruesome experiences of people who are forced to leave their countries due to totalitarian regimes, international war, human rights abuse etc. According to him the origin of the displacement process was during the Great Wars. In one of the initial chapters, he is curious as to how these people on the move became a problem (security threat) to the world and the process which would provide them with suitable solutions. He asks, “ How the modern refugee came to be construed as a ‘ problem’ amenable to a ‘ solution” (Page 5).

Rather than complying with this generalization where the refugees are considered to be vulnerable victims posing a security threat to the world, he argues that a global history of displacement and suitable humanitarian aid requires a human attention. It is the common people who are best suited to understand the plight of refugees and draft policies to provide a solution for the injustice meted out to them. He asks the readers whether refugees will be able to go back to their country of origin and how they would resettle there. He also enquires what it was to live in their own homeland and how did they adjust to the new circumstances in the host nation. The refugee regime forces the displaced to accept their journey in the process of becoming refugees. He divides the twentieth-century history of refugees into three

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stages. In the first stage, he talks about the Great War, the collapse, and the rise of nationalism in Europe.

He says that this revolutionary change created the first wave of refugees.

States, international organizations, and