

7.3 Major Events Affecting Refugees and Refugee Policies in the Middle East and North Africa (1990-2003)

The MENA constitutes one of the world's most volatile regions. Recurrent conflicts have generated large numbers of refugees. In turn, the presence of large numbers of refugees has also fostered conflicts.

DATE	AREA	EVENT	IMPACT
1980s-today	Sudan	Internal conflicts	Flight and Displacement
1990-1991	All regions	First Gulf crisis	Mass displacement
1991	Somalia	Regime change	Some repatriations
1991-today	Lebanon	End of civil war	Relocation and internally displaced
1991-2003	Iraq	Sanctions/suppression of dissent	Flight
1991-1995	Former Yugoslavia	Civil War	Arrival of refugees in the region
1992-today	Somalia	Internal instability and conflict	Displacement
1993	Ethiopia	Regime change	Displacement
1993	Israel/Palestine	Peace process	More favourable context for treatment of refugee issue in region
1994	Yemen	Civil War	Displacement
1995	Egypt/Sudan	Assassination attempt on Egyptian president	Visa requirement for Sudanese entering Egypt
1997	Entire region	Implementation of Schengen agreement in Europe	Restriction of migrants' access to Europe
1997	Iraq/Turkey	Turkish attack in Northern Iraq	Displacement of Kurds
1998	Iraq	UN inspector crises	Flight
1998-2000	Ethiopia/Eritrea	Border conflict	Displacement
1998-2001	Afghanistan	Taliban in power	Flight
1998	Turkey/Syria	Crisis in bilateral relations	Flight (mainly Turkish Kurds from Syria)
2000/today	Israel/Palestine	Collapse of Peace	Deterioration of

		process	context for refugee issue in region
2001	All region	Attacks of 9/11 in the US	Delays in resettlement
2001	Afghanistan	Taliban's overthrow	Limited displacement then repatriation
2003-2007	Iraq	US-led war and fall of Ba'ath regime. Subsequent violence	Large refugee flows and internal displacement

Source: Zaiotti, 2005, p.58-59.

References

Zaiotti, R (2005) "From Engagement to Deadlock: A Regional Analysis of Refugee Policies in the Middle East between the two 'Gulf Crises' (1990-2003)" in H. Jaber and F. Metral, eds, *Mondes en mouvements: Migrants et migrations au Moyen-Orient au tournant du XXIe siècle*, (Beyrouth: Institut Francais du Proche-Orient), 37-59.