2A Evidence: The Case for Refugees

By “Coach Vance” Trefethen

***Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce its restrictions on legal immigration to the United States.***

Summary: This 2A Evidence is an extension of the policy debate case *Safe Haven: The Case for Refugees.* The case encourages the increase of refugees in America. This brief extends that case.

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2A Evidence: Refugees

DEFINITIONS & BACKGROUND

Definition of "Refugee"

NEWSWEEK 2017 (journalist Matthew Cooper) 12 Oct 2017 " REFUGEE POLICY: TRUMP'S AMERICA TURNING AWAY THE MOST IN 37 YEARS" <http://www.newsweek.com/trump-closing-refugee-door-682879>

The State Department defines a refugee as “someone who has fled from his or her home country and cannot return because he or she has a well-founded fear of persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.”

55% of refugees come from Burma, Iraq, Somalia and Bhutan

NEWSWEEK 2017 (journalist Matthew Cooper) 12 Oct 2017 " REFUGEE POLICY: TRUMP'S AMERICA TURNING AWAY THE MOST IN 37 YEARS" <http://www.newsweek.com/trump-closing-refugee-door-682879>

The study also examined the composition of the refugee population. Between 2002 and 2017, 55% of refugees entering America came from Burma (often called Myanmar), Iraq, Somalia or Bhutan. More than 169,000 refugees since 2002 have come to the U.S. from Burma (Myanmar)—more than any other country. Some 144,000 have come from Iraq, while nearly 104,000 have been Somalis. Almost 94,000 Bhutanese refugees have entered the U.S. since 2002.

OPENING QUOTES

Admitting refugees is in America's best interest

Leon Rodriguez 2017 (former director of the US Citizenship & Immigration Services) I Used to Run the Immigration Service—and Trump’s Refugee Policy Is Baseless, 1 Nov 2017 <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/11/vetting-refugees-trump/544430/>

Nothing supports the idea that refugees have “assimilated” and “contributed” any less than the millions upon millions of immigrants who for decades have been seeking the American dream. It is also in our country’s best interest—national security included.

INHERENCY

Longer processing times mean we won't even reach the 60% reduced quota of 45,000 refugees

Leila Miller 2018 (journalist) For Refugees in the Trump Era, a Tougher Path to the U.S. 23 Jan 2018 <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/for-refugees-in-the-trump-era-a-tougher-path-to-the-u-s/>

These processing times have already grown longer under tough new vetting requirements introduced by the Trump administration in October, according to resettlement agency officials. At the current pace, they say, the U.S. will fail to meet the ceiling of 45,000 refugees that President Donald Trump set in September. That limit is a nearly 60 percent cut from the [110,000](https://www.state.gov/j/prm/releases/factsheets/2017/266365.htm) cap that President Barack Obama announced before leaving office, and the lowest since the modern refugee program was created in 1980.

Current policy accepts an unprecedented low of 45,000 refugees

Leon Rodriguez 2017 (former director of the US Citizenship & Immigration Services) I Used to Run the Immigration Service—and Trump’s Refugee Policy Is Baseless, 1 Nov 2017 <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/11/vetting-refugees-trump/544430/>

These new procedures hardly come as a surprise given the president’s defense of his previous bans, which have been mired in legal challenges, but it also falls in line with the administration’s position to reduce the number of refugees in the United States altogether: In September, the administration set the refugee admissions cap for fiscal year 2018 at an [unprecedented low of 45,000](http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4063604-Report-to-Congress-Proposed-Refugee-Admissions.html), suggesting that the United States should favor resettling refugees with a “likelihood of successful assimilation and contribution” to the country.

Even with the low 45,000 quota, new rules will block most of those too. Actual number is less than 19,000

Caleb Gates 2017 (refugee resettlement case manager) CEDAR RAPIDS GAZETTE Human cost of Trump's refugee policy <http://www.thegazette.com/subject/opinion/guest-columnists/human-cost-of-trumps-refugee-policy-20171230>

In the early and late 1980s, and the early 1990s, the United States annually resettled 100,000-plus refugees per year. Today’s refugee population worldwide dwarfs refugee numbers then. This year Trump will only allow 45,000 refugees to enter the country. Since the current refugee admissions program began, the United States never has seen a refugee ceiling that low. Given the current pace of refugees entering, fewer than 19,000 will arrive in our country for the entire year.

New vetting procedures are unrealistic and impossible

Caleb Gates 2017 (refugee resettlement case manager) CEDAR RAPIDS GAZETTE Human cost of Trump's refugee policy <http://www.thegazette.com/subject/opinion/guest-columnists/human-cost-of-trumps-refugee-policy-20171230>

During the refugee ban, the Department of Homeland Security required additional security protocols for all refugee applicants. Now all refugees have to provide a phone number and email address for every member of their extended family and in-laws, and provide a specific address for every place they have lived in the last 10 years. Remember, a refugee is a person who fled out of fear of persecution for who they are or what they believe. How many of you know a phone number and email address for every single extended family member and in-law? How many of you can remember the address of every place you lived for the past 10 years? Not me, and I was never forced to flee my home and my country, fearing for my life.

A/T "Other countries can/will/should take the refugees" – Good idea, but doesn't always work

Malaka Gharib 2017 (journalist with National Public Radio) 27 March 2017 "CHART: Where The World's Refugees Are" <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/03/27/518217052/chart-where-the-worlds-refugees-are> (brackets in original)

"There's a misconception that refugees want to come to the U.S. to get jobs or go to our shopping malls," says Chris Boian, a UNHCR spokesperson. "But they want to stay as close to their homes as possible so that they can return to their lives as soon as they are able to do so." That explains why the top refugee-hosting countries neighbor conflict areas like South Sudan and Syria, he says. "As long as it's safe there and [the country] has things that people need to have a life, they'll remain there." It's only when refugees realize they may not be able to get access to basic resources and a decent quality of life in their new host countries that they attempt the often dangerous journey to the West, says Marta Foresti, managing director at the Overseas Development Institute. A new study from the Overseas Development Institute found that the main reason that Eritrean refugees [decide to move on](https://www.odi.org/publications/10728-journeys-hold-how-policy-influences-migration-decisions-eritreans-ethiopia) to Europe as a last resort is when they've been denied the right to work in neighboring Ethiopia.

A/T "Other countries can/will/should take the refugees" – Neighboring countries stretched to the limit, not enough resources to care for any more refugees

Malaka Gharib 2017 (journalist with National Public Radio) 27 March 2017 "CHART: Where The World's Refugees Are" <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/03/27/518217052/chart-where-the-worlds-refugees-are> (brackets added)

Refugees often end up in poor countries and small countries that don't have ample resources to support them. UNHCR [United Nations High Commission for Refugees] compared the number of refugees as of mid-2016 to the overall size of a country's economy, measured by gross domestic product (see chart, above). The report found that low- and middle-income nations in the Middle East, Asia and Africa carry the biggest burden. "A fairly small number of middle- or lower-income countries carry the weight for everyone else," says [UNHCR spokesman Chris] Boian. These countries do not have enough wealth to provide basic resources for newcomers — and the influx puts a strain on their economies, says Boian. Although the countries receive UNHCR aid, the agency can't keep up, he says. "We're one of the only agencies that starts our budget at zero every year. We rely very heavily on support of the governments of the world."

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

Refugee numbers are steadily increasing: 16.5 million refugees globally

Malaka Gharib 2017 (journalist with National Public Radio) 27 March 2017 "CHART: Where The World's Refugees Are" <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/03/27/518217052/chart-where-the-worlds-refugees-are>

The flow of refugees is steadily increasing, according to the U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR). As of mid-2016, there were 16.5 million refugees globally, 5 million more than in mid-2013. More than 30 percent of all refugees as of mid-2016 came from Syria, the largest source of global refugees.

Overseas refugee camps have multiple problems: Lack of education, health and jobs

Malaka Gharib 2017 (journalist with National Public Radio) 27 March 2017 "CHART: Where The World's Refugees Are" <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/03/27/518217052/chart-where-the-worlds-refugees-are>

This growing refugee population brings many challenges. Because of school shortages in overcrowded camps, refugee children are [five times more likely](http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/introduction.html) to be out of school than non-refugee children, reports the UNHCR. Preventable, treatable diseases like diarrhea, measles and malaria [threaten the health](http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/health.html) of refugee children, especially those under 5. And in many cases, parents aren't able to [secure jobs](http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/briefing/2015/7/55b89a1a9/jordans-zaatari-refugee-camp-turns-3-challenges-future-thousands-living.html) outside the camps to provide an income for their families.

SOLVENCY / ADVOCACY

Scaling back US refugee admissions is bad because it breeds disunity in Europe, denies support to fragile states in the Mid East and ignores a catastrophe

Jessica Brandt and Robert McKenzie 2016 (Brandt – Fellow in Foreign Policy with Brookings Institution. McKenzie – Brookings Institute Expert, Visiting Fellow, Foreign Policy, Center for Middle East Policy) 16 Dec 2016 "Addressing the Syrian refugee crisis" <https://www.brookings.edu/research/addressing-the-syrian-refugee-crisis-recommendations-for-the-next-administration/>

Providing assistance to refugees fleeing the violence in Syria will require substantial financial and political investment. But the costs of doing otherwise are much higher. Scaling back America’s commitment to those in search of safety would reverberate within the transatlantic alliance, strengthen the forces of nationalism and populism breeding disunity within Europe, deny a needed form of support to fragile states in the Middle East that are already struggling to cope with the crisis, and make the United States a bystander in a catastrophe that cries out for leadership.

US admission of more refugees is key to motivating other countries to help them

Jessica Brandt and Robert McKenzie 2016 (Brandt – Fellow in Foreign Policy with Brookings Institution. McKenzie – Brookings Institute Expert, Visiting Fellow, Foreign Policy, Center for Middle East Policy) 16 Dec 2016 "Addressing the Syrian refugee crisis" <https://www.brookings.edu/research/addressing-the-syrian-refugee-crisis-recommendations-for-the-next-administration/>

For these reasons, the next administration should continue America’s long-standing refugee resettlement program while providing additional support to Syrian refugees in frontline states. It is also important that Mr. Trump build and lead a global coalition of countries to advance the needs of Syrian refugees and the communities that host them—only then can the pressure on fragile states in the Middle East and America’s allies in Europe be relieved. Both are strained by the weight of the crisis, and both are critical to America’s security interests. If the next administration is to take such concerns seriously and make Syrian refugees more than a political slogan, Mr. Trump must challenge the international community to take action. It can only do so if America takes action itself.

ADVANTAGES

Alternative funding: Cut the F-35. F-35 fighter jet = $1.5 trillion and cancelling would be GOOD for national defense

Mike Fredenburg 2017 (B.S. in mechanical engineering and a masters in production operations management) NATIONAL REVIEW 6 Jan 2017 “Mr. President, Cancel the F-35“ <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/443612/f-35-donald-trump-should-cancel-failed-f-35-fighter-jet-program>

The F-35 program showcases all that is wrong about our military’s vendor-dominated, crony-capitalist procurement system. Unless dealt with decisively, its massive cost and its lack of capability will have a dramatically negative impact on our military’s effectiveness for decades to come. Therefore, President-elect Trump’s willingness to publicly call out this $1.5 trillion program is good news.

F-35 costs $1.5 trillion over 55-years

CNBC 2014 (journalist David Francis) 31 July 2014 “How DOD’s $1.5 Trillion F-35 Broke the Air Force” <http://www.cnbc.com/2014/07/31/how-dods-15-trillion-f-35-broke-the-air-force.html>

The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is the most expensive, and possibly the most error ridden, project in the history of the United States military. But DOD has sunk so much money into the F-35 — which is expected to cost $1.5 trillion over the 55-year life of the program — that the Pentagon deemed it "too big to fail" in 2010.

DISADVANTAGE RESPONSES

A/T "Inadequate vetting / can't verify security risk"

Plenty of security verification was done on refugees pre-Trump

Leon Rodriguez 2017 (former director of the US Citizenship & Immigration Services) I Used to Run the Immigration Service—and Trump’s Refugee Policy Is Baseless, 1 Nov 2017 <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/11/vetting-refugees-trump/544430/>

During the fiscal years coinciding with my tenure as head of USCIS, the Obama administration resettled nearly 280,000 refugees. We had a multi-layered array of tools and resources at our disposal to determine whether applicants qualified as refugees, as defined by the United Nations refugee agency, and to ensure that their case did not raise national security concerns. To do so, the agency’s procedures included repeated inquiries of multiple intelligence databases, collecting extensive biographic and biometric information, and interviews by specially trained officers briefed on relevant regional conditions.

Vetting was extensive and adequate pre-Trump

Leila Miller 2018 (journalist) For Refugees in the Trump Era, a Tougher Path to the U.S. 23 Jan 2018 <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/for-refugees-in-the-trump-era-a-tougher-path-to-the-u-s/>

Refugees already faced a stringent U.S. [vetting system](http://www.unhcr.org/resettlement-in-the-united-states.html) that included numerous layers of security checks across multiple federal agencies, higher level clearances for certain nationalities, and interviews with United Nations and State Department officials. As he restarted the refugee program in October, Trump instituted [“enhanced vetting capabilities”](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-executive-order-resuming-united-states-refugee-admissions-program-enhanced-vetting-capabilities/) including improving the mining of [social media data](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/09/18/2017-19365/privacy-act-of-1974-system-of-records) and the collection of [10 years](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trump-effect-refugees/trump-lifts-refugee-ban-but-admissions-still-plummet-data-shows-idUSKBN1E21CR) of biographical information, rather than five.

Pre-Trump vetting was fine, and it isn't possible for legitimate refugees to meet the new documentation standards

Leila Miller 2018 (journalist) For Refugees in the Trump Era, a Tougher Path to the U.S. 23 Jan 2018 <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/for-refugees-in-the-trump-era-a-tougher-path-to-the-u-s/>

But leaders of refugee resettlement agencies, which work with hundreds of local offices to help new refugees integrate, question the value of tougher vetting. They argue that the admission process was already tightly controlled and that refugees who have had to flee their homes could struggle to provide the documentation needed to meet the new requirements.

A/T "Terrorism / Violence / Crime"

Refugees don’t commit terrorism and are safer than other immigrants and foreign tourists

Omer Karasapan 2017 (Regional Knowledge & Learning Coordinator with the World Bank) 12 Apr 2017 Refugees, migrants, and the politics of fear <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2017/04/12/refugees-migrants-and-the-politics-of-fear/> (ellipses in original)

On refugees, migrants, and terrorism, the Migration Policy Institute, noted, “[The United States has resettled 784,000 refugees](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/us-record-shows-refugees-are-not-threat) since September 11, 2001. In those 14 years, exactly three resettled refugees have been arrested for planning terrorist activities… two were not planning an attack in the U.S. and the plans of the third were barely credible.” Another [study](https://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/terrorism-immigration-risk-analysis) looked at four decades of foreigners coming into the U.S., noting that “the chance of an American being murdered in a terrorist attack caused by a refugee is 1 in 3.64 billion per year while the chance of being murdered in an attack committed by an illegal immigrant is an astronomical 1 in 10.9 billion per year. By contrast, the chance of being murdered by a tourist on a B visa, the most common tourist visa, is 1 in 3.9 million per year.”

Pre-Trump vetting process was so successful that the risk of terrorism from refugees was infinitesimal

Jessica Brandt and Robert McKenzie 2016 (Brandt – Fellow in Foreign Policy with Brookings Institution. McKenzie – Brookings Institute Expert, Visiting Fellow, Foreign Policy, Center for Middle East Policy) 16 Dec 2016 "Addressing the Syrian refugee crisis" <https://www.brookings.edu/research/addressing-the-syrian-refugee-crisis-recommendations-for-the-next-administration/>

Since 9/11, the United States has resettled almost 860,000 refugees. Of those, only three individuals have been convicted on terrorism-related charges: all were for plots outside of the United States, and none were successful. Every refugee resettled to the United States must complete a multilayered, dynamic vetting process while overseas, which often takes two or more years to complete. It is the most stringent security procedure for an individual entering the country. The chances of being murdered by a refugee-related terrorist attack in the United States has been 1 in 3.4 billion a year.

The real terror and crime risks are homegrown, not from refugees.

Omer Karasapan 2017 (Regional Knowledge & Learning Coordinator with the World Bank) 12 Apr 2017 Refugees, migrants, and the politics of fear <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2017/04/12/refugees-migrants-and-the-politics-of-fear/> (brackets added)

The channels through which terror and crime affect the West are overwhelmingly homegrown—including a trend of [violence targeting these newcomers](http://www.enar-eu.org/Anti-migrant-violence-hatred-and-sentiment-in-Europe-in-2016). Banning the displaced and migrants will have little impact on this challenge—[a point underlined by the U.N.](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugee-crisis-terrorism-link-migration-un-expert-report-no-evidence-isis-uses-route-human-rights-a7377961.html) What will matter will be better integration of disenfranchised youth and support to narratives from Muslim communities in the West and elsewhere against the ideology of terror. Also worth remembering is that the vast majority of Muslims in the West and beyond are firmly against IS [Islamic State] and their ilk, even with the outrages the nativists continue to inflict.

Foreign-born residents of the US commit less crime than native-born citizens

Omer Karasapan 2017 (Regional Knowledge & Learning Coordinator with the World Bank) 12 Apr 2017 Refugees, migrants, and the politics of fear <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2017/04/12/refugees-migrants-and-the-politics-of-fear/>

During [the U.S. campaign](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/increased-immigration-crime-america-research-cato-institute-sentencing-project-a7639421.html), with loud assertions linking migrants and refugees to crime waves, the [Sentencing Project](http://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/immigration-public-safety/) noted, “Foreign-born residents of the United States commit crime less often than native-born citizens.” This is echoed by the libertarian [Cato Institute](https://www.cato.org/publications/immigration-reform-bulletin/criminal-immigrants-their-numbers-demographics-countries), which reported, “All immigrants are less likely to be incarcerated than natives relative to their shares of the population”.

German study confirms: Refugees don't commit more crime than native-born

Aamna Mohdin 2017 (journalist) What effect did the record influx of refugees have on jobs and crime in Germany? Not much, 2 Feb 2017 <https://qz.com/901076/what-effect-did-the-record-influx-of-refugees-have-on-jobs-and-crime-in-germany-not-much/> (brackets in original)

The study reinforces what the federal government said last year: Refugees committed crimes at the [same level](http://www.dw.com/en/report-refugees-have-not-increased-crime-rate-in-germany/a-18848890) as native Germans, according the German Federal Office of Criminal Investigation (BKA). The agency released the statistic to “dispel rumors” about a crime wave in Germany. “They [the paper’s findings] are broadly consistent with other, peer-reviewed work on the effects of immigration more generally,” says J. L. Spenkuch, an economist at Northwestern University. He says that immigrants in the US are no more likely to commit violent crimes than natives, though there are small differences in less serious offenses. “It is reassuring to see that these results appear to hold up when it comes to refugees and Germany,” he adds.

A/T "Won't assimilate"

Refugees are willing and ready to assimilate

Leon Rodriguez 2017 (former director of the US Citizenship & Immigration Services) I Used to Run the Immigration Service—and Trump’s Refugee Policy Is Baseless, 1 Nov 2017 <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/11/vetting-refugees-trump/544430/>

The Trump administration, however, has painted a picture of refugees who, if admitted, will threaten American life—yet time and time again, I learned the stories of refugees who contributed to it: The young man from war-torn Syria who came to the United States, where, despite missing years of schooling, slowly built a successful catering business; the Muslim Marines who came to the U.S. as refugees and now serve or have served with distinction; and a 10-year-old Iraqi boy whose command of the English language—while still in Turkey awaiting admission to the U.S.—was already as good as that of the classmates he would soon join in Michigan. These stories are not uncommon. Those who have spent time in the State Department’s refugee resettlement centers around the world would recognize that. During my visits, I met people not that different from us, who are ready, willing and able to start their lives over in the United States given the chance. I saw parents sitting in English classes while awaiting refugee interviews, and entire families attending cultural orientation classes to learn American customs, business practices, and U.S. geography and history.

Resettlement agencies guarantee good assimilation

Leon Rodriguez 2017 (former director of the US Citizenship & Immigration Services) I Used to Run the Immigration Service—and Trump’s Refugee Policy Is Baseless, 1 Nov 2017 <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/11/vetting-refugees-trump/544430/>

Resettlement organizations are also critical in the process. They, in partnership with local social service organizations across the country, empower refugees to become self-sufficient within a year of their arrival. By helping individuals build stable and secure lives in the United States, these organizations, such as [HIAS](http://hias.org/" \t "_blank)and [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service](http://lirs.org/), make certain that newly-arrived refugees can fully participate in their communities—economically, socially, and politically.

Resettlement agencies ensure refugees assimilate at little cost to the government

Philip Connor 2017 (research associate at the *Pew* Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project) U.S. Resettles Fewer Refugees, Even as Global Number of Displaced People Grows 12 Oct 2017 <http://www.pewglobal.org/2017/10/12/u-s-resettles-fewer-refugees-even-as-global-number-of-displaced-people-grows/>

The International Organization for Migration and U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement work with U.S. based [voluntary agencies](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/voluntary-agencies) like the International Rescue Committee or Church World Service to resettle refugees within the U.S. These voluntary agencies have offices across the nation, dispersing refugees across many states. Once resettled, local nonprofits, such as ethnic associations and church-based groups, help refugees learn English and acquire job skills. After several months, financial assistance from federal agencies stops and refugees are expected to become financially self-sufficient. In a short period of time, most refugee households have [employed members](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/integration-outcomes-us-refugees-successes-and-challenges). U.S. refugees are granted permanent residency within a year of arrival and can apply for U.S. citizenship five years later.

A/T "Hurt the economy"

Refugees have little economic impact on the countries they move to, even with huge numbers

Priscilla Alvarez 2016 (assistant editor) 29 March 2016 " What Should the U.S. Do About Refugee Resettlement?" THE ATLANTIC <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/03/refugee-resettlement-united-states/474939/> ( brackets in original)

Admitted refugees do influence the host country’s economy in one way or another, but how so? According to the Migration Policy Institute, “[most refugees are employed](file:///\\localhost\Users\palvarez\Downloads\Refugee-Facts-Oct-2015-FINAL.pdf).” They also show progression, with increases to their incomes over time. But [when migrants fall into the poorest one-fifth of the population](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/12/refugees/419976/), it’s likely their children will stay there. Nevertheless, in reviewing how economies around the world have reacted after accepting refugees, The New Yorker’s John Cassidy [notes](http://www.newyorker.com/news/john-cassidy/the-economics-of-syrian-refugees), “[E]ven in countries facing huge influxes of refugees, the impact on the economy as a whole is usually not very large.”

A/T "Social costs / welfare"

After 9 years the average refugee is a net contributor to society's costs, paying more than they get. Net $20K benefit over 20 years

Joel Rose 2017 (journalist) 27 Sept 2017 Trump Administration To Drop Refugee Cap To 45,000, Lowest In Years, National Public Radio <https://www.npr.org/2017/09/27/554046980/trump-administration-to-drop-refugee-cap-to-45-000-lowest-in-years>

It costs "something like $180,000" to resettle each refugee, estimates William Evans, chair of the economics department at the University of Notre Dame. He says that estimate includes direct and indirect costs like social services. For the first nine years they're in the country, Evans said, refugees tend to be net takers. They cost the government more in social services than they pay in taxes. But then, something changes. "After that ninth year," Evans said, "they're actually paying more to the government than they're taking out. "Over 20 years, Evans and his colleague found that refugees pay about $20,000 more in taxes than they use in social services. "Refugees tend to work at really high rates after a few years in the country," said Evans. "They're paying taxes like everybody else. I think it's a reasonably positive story."

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