
This book offers an overview of the contemporary immigration debates taking place in developed, or in Steiner's term, “wealthier” countries. Steiner mentions two essential issues that form the framework of the book: the criteria to be used to admit immigrants and to grant citizenship to those admitted. He indicates that his major aim is to generate thoughtful discussion on immigration issues that have no easy answers. Steiner acknowledges the complexity of the matter and by juxtaposing arguments offered by different camps he aims to pave the way for a more holistic approach.

*International Migration and Citizenship Today* is composed of three main parts dealing with immigrants, refugees, and the issue of citizenship. The first part examines different types of immigrants (high-skilled, low-skilled, guest worker, student), state policies that aim to control immigration (border control, deportation, discouragement, employer sanctions) and the impact of immigration on political, economic, and cultural spheres primarily in receiving societies and to a lesser extent in sending ones. While Steiner provides his readers with a detailed and updated account of the current situation in Western developed countries, he seems to give too much credit to US and Europe for their adherence to democratic values when it comes to dealing with immigrants. For instance, he criticises Gulf States, which have no concern for democratic values, for their harsh treatment of their guest workers without offering a single word on how liberal democracies handled their guest-workers thirty-forty years ago. He also does not problematise the current situation regarding irregular migrants. He does not discuss how Western democracies’ treatment of irregular migrants, who are shot to death, abandoned on a boat in the middle of a sea, or left to perish at the state borders, coincides with the core values of liberal democracy.

In the second part, Steiner focuses on refugees who hold a special position vis-à-vis immigrants: they do not migrate voluntarily. He discusses the
definition of the term refugee, the situation during and after the Cold War and alternative state policies to asylum (such as temporal protection, financial support, and repatriation). Steiner defines immigration as a voluntary movement motivated by economic gains, whereas he defines asylum-seeking as an involuntary movement motivated by survival. However, in a global world where almost all economies are connected, deteriorating economic conditions may also force people to take action and move to another country. While Steiner touches upon the issue of expanding the definition of the term refugee, what he really discusses is the expansion of the boundaries of the term persecution rather than the disappearance of clear-cut distinctions between the categories of immigrants and refugees. One of the most important issues mentioned in this section is the reluctance of Western countries to admit refugees despite the fact that poorer countries host more refugees than Western democracies do. Although he does not overtly criticise this Western hypocrisy (he chooses to call it irony instead), Steiner presents a chart, which clearly displays that there is no single Western country in the top 20 list of refugee-hosting states (p. 76).

In the third section, Steiner first focuses on concepts such as state, nation, nationalism and their relationship with the notion of citizenship. He examines the difference between legal and identity citizenships and discusses the problem of creating unity and harmony within society while at the same time respecting cultural differences of minorities. Steiner later moves on to explore ways of acquiring citizenship including the process of naturalisation. Based on his own experiences, he discusses the process of naturalisation in the United States. While this section offers rich and thorough information regarding current citizenship debates, it fails to discuss the issue of dual citizenship, which complicates and transforms the conventional definition of citizenship.

In the concluding chapter, Steiner argues that the development of a holistic approach is imperative in order to fully understand the nature of current population movements. In today’s interconnected world, policies that address political, economic, environmental, as well as other developments taking place in both sending and receiving countries need to be adopted. According to Steiner, reducing international migration could only happen by generating policies that would create suitable environments in sending countries that would motivate people to stay. He discusses five areas that should be taken into consideration in order to manage popula-