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# The Global Politics of Forced Migration: An Australian Perspective

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By Fethi Mansouri

Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2023, 157 pages, \$129.99, ISBN: 9783031263361

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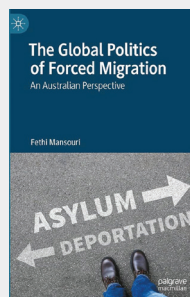
Reviewed by Hatice Hale Yurttabir, Republic of Türkiye Ministry of National Education

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In the global politics of forced migration, geography often dictates strategy. In *The Global Politics of Forced Migration: An Australian Perspective*, Fethi Mansouri examines how Australia's deterrence-based asylum system has become a model for restrictive migration governance in the Global North. Mansouri, a Deakin Distinguished Professor in Migration and Intercultural Studies and the founding Director of the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalization, is one of Australia's most influential voices in migration, intercultural relations, and social justice. Recognized nationally and internationally for his scholarship, he was named the Australian research leader in Human Migration by *The Australian's Research Magazine* in both 2023 and 2024.

In *The Global Politics of Forced Migration*, Fethi Mansouri uses Australia's asylum and refugee policy as a case study to critique deterrence-oriented approaches that are now prevalent across much of the Global North. Drawing on Australia's policies since the early 2000s, the book examines how these practices not only fail to address the root causes of displacement but also systematically undermine the human rights of asylum seekers. Structured into seven chapters, the book begins with Chapter 1, which situates the study within a multidisciplinary



framework that integrates political science, sociology, and migration studies. Chapter 2 charts the global rise of restrictive asylum policies, while Chapter 3 examines the transnational dynamics of forced migration, including the impact of climate change, conflict, and structural inequality. Chapter

4 provides a detailed examination of Australia's hard-line approach, revealing how deterrence measures are justified politically yet ultimately cause long-term harm to displaced persons. Chapter 5 addresses public sentiment toward Muslim asylum seekers in Australia, showing how Islamophobic narratives have shaped and legitimized exclusionary policy. This is followed by Chapter 6, which critiques temporary protection regimes for creating prolonged precarity and hindering integration. Chapter 7 concludes with a call for a fundamental re-evaluation of asylum policies in light of global trends in human mobility.

The book's strength lies in its compact structure, empirical richness, and visual aids, which distill complex trends into accessible data. While the Australian case is central, the work contributes to broader debates on migration governance worldwide, particularly in contexts where states must balance geopolitical interests, domestic security narratives, and international legal obligations. Mansouri

combines mixed methods, including quantitative data, case studies, and public opinion analysis, to build a compelling critique of Western deterrence frameworks. The structure of the chapters facilitates both thematic coherence and empirical depth, making the book accessible across disciplines, including political science, sociology, migration studies, and international relations. Importantly, this contribution strengthens the literature by bridging global theoretical debates with regionally grounded evidence, situating Australia not as an isolated example but as a critical case study through which broader international dynamics can be understood. In doing so, Mansouri advances comparative scholarship by offering analytical tools that can be applied beyond the Australian context, particularly in countries grappling with securitization, populist politics, and human rights tensions in their migration policies. His synthesis of empirical material and normative critique thus fills a significant gap between policy analysis and academic theorization, positioning the book as a reference point for future studies on forced migration governance.

The Australian case study serves effectively as both a national diagnosis and a microcosm of broader Western policy failures. Chapter 4's in-depth examination of Australia's asylum mechanisms highlights the policies that undermine human rights and social cohesion. Public attitudes, which tend to frame Muslim asylum seekers as security threats, are well examined in Chapter 5. Mansouri skillfully demonstrates how social perceptions feed into policy decisions, reinforcing exclusion and complicating integration. For readers, this analysis presents important perspectives for examining societal attitudes toward refugees, particularly in contexts where religion and identity play a significant role in

national discourse. The critique of temporary protection regimes in Chapter 6 is especially compelling. These arrangements, often portrayed as humanitarian stopgaps, can instead produce prolonged precarity, limit access to resources, and strain psychological and social well-being. Mansouri's insights prompt readers to reassess the human impact of such policies, beyond rhetoric.

However, there are areas where the book could deepen its contribution. First, although its empirical and descriptive clarity is strong, the theoretical framing could be strengthened. While the empirical chapters shine, a more firmly grounded theoretical anchor would help bridge disciplinary divides. Second, despite the incisive critique, the book remains largely diagnostic rather than prescriptive. The conclusion urges policy rethinking but stops short of outlining concrete alternatives or pathways for reform. Still, the book's modest length is good for delivering concentrated analysis without unnecessary digression. The inclusion of illustrations and data visualizations enhances reader engagement and understanding.

This book is highly valuable for scholars worldwide. While Australia may appear geographically distant, the policy logic it exemplifies, deterrence, offshore processing, and securitization, has clear parallels with practices seen in the European Union and in Türkiye's management of migration at the intersection of domestic politics and international commitments. By situating Australia's approach within a wider global pattern, Mansouri provides a comparative mirror that enables readers to critically reassess the ethical, political, and humanitarian implications of such strategies. *The Global Politics of Forced Migration*, therefore, extends beyond its national case study to raise fundamental

questions about state sovereignty, the erosion of refugee rights, and the long-term sustainability of deterrence as a policy framework. Its combination of analytical depth and policy relevance makes it an important resource for migration scholars, political sociologists, international relations researchers, and human

rights advocates. Furthermore, its accessible style and structured presentation enable it to be effectively integrated into graduate teaching, inform comparative research across regions, and contribute to broader public debates on one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time.

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## Migrations in the Mediterranean

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By Ricard Zapata-Barrero and Ibrahim Awad

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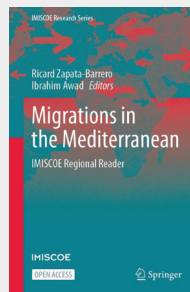
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*Migrations in the Mediterranean*, edited by Ricard Zapata-Barrero and Ibrahim Awad, is a significant study that aims to position the Mediterranean as an independent scale of analysis in migration literature. Prepared with contributions from the EuroMedMig network, the work argues that migration should be evaluated not only within the framework of Europe-centric crisis discourses but also across the social, economic, cultural, and environmental processes encompassing the three regions (Southern Europe, Northern Africa, and the Middle East). The organization of 24 articles under five main sections stands out as an attempt to overcome the long-standing fragmentation in migration studies and develop a holistic approach at the regional level.

The first section examines the geopolitical dimension of migration. The contributions here demonstrate how the European Union's (EU) strategies for externalizing migration management are being implemented in the



Mediterranean. An analysis of the EU-Türkiye consensus reveals that the safe third country policy leaves migrants in prolonged uncertainty, creating tensions between security concerns and humanitarian responsibilities. The examples of Morocco and Libya, on the other hand, demonstrate that the EU, by

making migration a tool of foreign policy, has relegated democratization processes to the background. This section contributes to the overall aim of the book by emphasizing that migration has transcended a humanitarian issue and become a strategic element in European foreign policy.

Following the geopolitical framework, the second section focuses on the governance, political, and public opinion dimensions of migration. The Tunisian example demonstrates the decisive role of local governments in accepting migrants (activities themed around solidarity and assistance with migrants). In France, the media's power to shape public opinion reveals how poli-