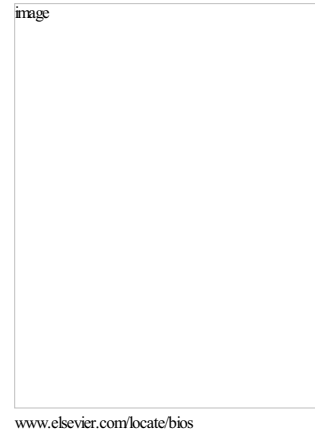


WAR, CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION

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Section Head: Schwartzreport

War, Climate Change and Migration

Stephan A. Schwartz

The Schwartzreport tracks emerging trends that will affect the world, particularly the United States. For EXPLORE it focuses on matters of health in the broadest sense of that term, including medical issues, changes in the biosphere, technology, and policy considerations, all of which will shape our culture and our lives.

Although the U.S. news today, as it so often is these days, is lost in a miasma of administration wife beaters, porn star pay-offs, mafia-like corruption, and other topics more appropriate to reality entertainment shows than news, there is beneath this toxic cloud what I believe has become the defining political issue of the day, even if it is not much discussed in its global context. I am speaking here of the vast movement of people that is occurring; a migration that is creating immense misery amongst the migrants and the rise of a virulent form of nativistic racism in segments of the population in the nations where these moving populations end up. This trend has created stresses that are literally tearing cultures apart.

In Europe and the Americas it is changing governments; it led to BREXIT and elected Donald Trump. Yet, except for a small community of scientists who study these issues, few seem to comprehend that as disruptive as these migrations already are we are just at the beginning of a trend that will overwhelm us unless we awaken to what is happening and why, and make preparations.

Most nations make a distinction between refugees and immigrants. An immigrant is someone who chooses to leave their country or region of origin to settle elsewhere. The United Nations Sustainable Development project says: "The number of international migrants – persons living in a country other than where they were born – reached 244 million in 2015 for the world as a whole, a 41 per cent increase compared to 2000." ¹

A significant percentage of immigrants plan their move and come to their new areas with varying levels of preparation, full of hope, anxious to contribute and succeed. In the United States, The Partnership for a New American Economy in 2011 tracked the actual data about these immigrants and "found more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children.

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