

Abstract

A Study of Crisis in the Global Refugee Regime: The Nexus between Burden-sharing and Security

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The purpose of this article is to reveal the securitization mechanism of refugees. As a precondition, this article confirmed that the acceptance of refugees had been recognized as threats to both societies and nation states. Accordingly, a threat of refugees was assumed to be actualized under the conditions that the cost of accepting refugees has been predicted to outweigh the benefits. Case studies about refugee crises during the Cold War verified that accepting refugees had provided political and normative benefits. In contrast, after the Cold War ended, without such benefits, receiving states have begun to adopt restrictive policies toward refugees. Thus, the burden sharing within the refugee regime fell into trouble. Besides, a concept of the human security could function as an alternative rhetoric for burden-sharing within the refugee regime. However, to enhance the concept of human security excessively would conceal the existing burden into refugees sending states, which might impair the original purpose of the refugee regime itself.

Kokusai Anzenhosho [Journal of International Security] Vol.45, No.3 (December 2017), pp. 35-50.