

Title: Chechen refugees in Poland in 1994-2000

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Summary

The author of the paper focuses on the important issues that caused the Chechen migration to Poland in 1994-2000. The author proposed of the year 1994 because in 1994 the first refugees arrived in Poland from Chechnya. The reason was the first war between Chechnya and Russia which started in December 11, 1994 and ended in August 31, 1996. Despite the fact that a truce was signed between Chechnya and Russia, refugees from Chechnya came to Poland. They were running via Ukraine, but mostly via Belarus. The end of war and the peace treaty signed between Russians and Chechens did not improve the situation in Chechnya. Again people continued to escape from Chechnya to countries in Western Europe and to Poland, too. The paper also provides the details concerning the number, the way of escape, and the main problems that Chechen refugees had to face already in Poland. In the first chapter the author describes the roots of the Chechen people. In discussing this topic, he does not forget about the history of relations of Chechen-Russian Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries, which were important for both nations. He analyzes the causes and effects of Stalin's deportation of the Chechen people and other peoples who lived in the North Caucasus and who supported the Nazi army during World War II. I also discuss Chechens' efforts to regain freedom during the collapse of the USSR and *perestroika* and at the beginning of the first Chechen war. The second chapter clarifies the definition of "refugee" and describes the history of the refugees in the world and in Poland. This is the story of the past and present. Here I focus on women and children. This group is very important because the women and children have always been the primary victims of wars. Third chapter is about three phases in which the refugees came from Chechnya to Poland. The first phase concerns the refugees who escaped from Chechnya during the first Chechen War. The group included mainly children, women and some older people. The second phase took place in an independent Chechnya. During this phase (where many refugees escaped due to economic crisis), the law was changed from *adat* to *shari'a*. Finally the last phase concerns

the refugees who fled from Chechnya was begins and continuous during the second Chechen War. Mainly children and women, a little group including men and older people escaped during the third phase. Gradually, the Chechen refugees choose western countries over Poland. The fourth and last chapter is about help from Polish people, politicians for Chechnya and Chechens refugees in Poland. The author writes about support of Polish people for Chechnya and refugees from Chechnya and Polish dislike for Russia. The Poles founded many organizations, communities, associations over the period 1994-2000. Many cities from Poland signed agreements with Chechen cities, for example city, Warsaw, Wroclaw, Czestochowa. The author writes in this chapter about the aid of Polish organizations for Chechen refugees and other countries. It is important to answer the following question in this context: Second question: what was the scale of the phenomenon and ways of illegal crossing of the border polish by the refugees from Chechnya? And the last question, what was the main reason for escaping from Chechnya to Poland? Was it the war or there was another reason? The author proposed the last one as a thesis and it may be the best answer to these questions.