

The Impact of Climate Change on The Syrian Refugee Crisis

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What is Climate Change?

Small variations in the Earth's orbit that lead to a change in temperature

Ocean regulates the Earth's temperature

Rising sea levels

World has gotten 1 degree C warmer since 1880

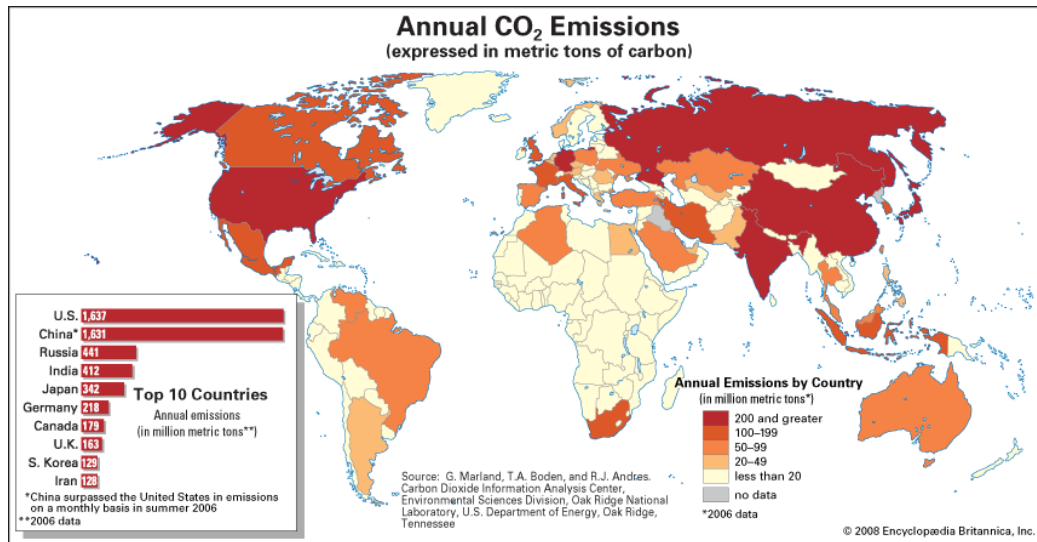
Trend of a warmer and drier Eastern Mediterranean

Kyoto Protocol

1992 UNFCCC

Reduce greenhouse gas
emissions

Promoted sustainable forms
of agriculture in light of
climate change



Paris Climate Change Agreement

Effective and progressive responses to climate change

Intrinsic relationship of climate change actions, responses, and
impacts

Recognizes the positive contribution of migrants to growth and
sustainable development

WATER (The Importance of Water)

Human right to water

Ocean contains 96% of Earth's Water

Water connects, transports, and
transforms

70% used for agriculture

Dependant on precipitation



Water Wars

Fresh water has no substitute

Water remains undervalued and unevenly distributed

Water disputes and instability can trigger conflict

Middle East has the highest median cost of water supply and sanitation in the world

Need to correctly manage water resources

Jan Eliasson and Hydro-Diplomacy

Water holds the key to sparing suffering and
averting death

#1 global risk

Lack of access to water can fuel conflict and
threaten peace and stability

BUT water is scarce and expensive



Deputy Secretary General
of the United Nations

Fertile Crescent

Coined by James Henry

Breasted in 1916

“Cradle of civilization”

Change in political power a
lot

Rampant urbanization





Syrian Background

Kurds, Armenians, Assyrians, Christians, Druze, Alawite Shia, and
Arab Sunnis

1946: independence from France

1970-2000: Baath rule

Bashar al-Assad is the current president

Arab Spring

Baath Party

Arab nationalist party founded in 1947

“Unity, freedom, socialism”

1773: ushered into Syrian public life

2010: nearly 10% of Syrians are Baathists



Agricultural Self-Sufficiency

Fertile Crescent

President Hafez al-Assad

Collapse of farmland and decrease in oil reserves

2-3 million Syrians in extreme poverty

Farmers moving into cities

Syrian Drought: 2006-2011

Human interference with the climate increased the likelihood of drought in Syria

Large-scale displacement of people

Warmer and drier Eastern Mediterranean

Over 800,000 Syrians moved to cities

Social Upheaval

Change in extreme weather patterns

Food insecurity and rapid population growth

Social, economic, and environmental changes in Syria eroded the social contract between the citizens and government

Arab Spring

Syrian Civil War



Effects on the Middle East as a Whole

Jordan has built berms to protect
from the Syrian conflict

Turkey refuses to share water

Religious extremism



The Refugee Crisis

7.6 million IDPs in Syria

Migration because of climate change and political regime

Government prohibited drilling for water after the drought

Urban population increased from 8.9 million in 2002 to 13.8 million in 2010

“The rapidly growing urban peripheries of Syria, marked by illegal settlements, overcrowding, poor infrastructure, unemployment and crime, were neglected by the Assad government and became the heart of the developing unrest.” - PNAS Study

BBC ACTIVITY:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32057601>

Refugee Crisis in Developing Countries: Jordan

1.2 million refugees in Jordan

Majority are lower middle class
and uneducated

Stretching Jordanian services

Amman, Jordan: over 60,000

refugees living in tented camps



GFMD: Global Forum on Migration and Development

Brings together all countries and regions

Bangladesh 2016 HLPF meeting

Link between migration, peace, stability, and growth

Leave no one behind with a comprehensive framework

Emphasis on regional dialogue

International Organization for Migration

Support community stabilization and infrastructure

Provide migrants with equitable services

Identify gaps in the legal frameworks of 'host' countries

Reduce the amount of irregular migrants

Possible Solutions for More Sustainable Migration



Israel is a good model

Use less wasteful

farming practices

USA can support

democratic movements

and climate-adaptive

Thank You!!!

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