Human Rights and Human Trafficking

Introduction By Prof. Claude d'Estrée, M.T.S., J.D.
Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Much like the first iteration of this Topical Digest on human trafficking and modern slavery, with an “Introduction” by Dr. Kevin Bales, this second iteration covers a wide range of subjects, moving from country specific and regional to broad subjects and issues of international jurisprudence. This survey of literature on human trafficking\(^1\) is of critical importance, especially in a young, emerging, and controversial field. In the last decade, the field of human trafficking has changed from an almost unknown and largely unreported phenomenon to a cause célèbre motivated by sensational and disturbing stories reported in the media daily. This is for good reason: government statistics show that the illicit funds generated by human trafficking are second only to the illegal sale of drugs worldwide and, as noted by Dr. Bales, there are more slaves now than at any other time in history. In response, government agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and the private sector are reallocating and mobilizing some of their resources to combat this ancient scourge made modern. In the United States, the Departments of State, Justice and Health and Human Services offer substantial financial grants to fight human trafficking (albeit pennies to the dollar in comparison to the “war on drugs”). And herein actually lies the problem. The vast majority of anti-human trafficking money is being offered to organizations involved in rescue and rehabilitation work. While this is commendable, it also potentially puts the cart before the horse. The funding for research, data collection and analysis is rare and very hard to find either for short-term or longitudinal studies. The result is that governments and international organizations are being forced to make important policy decisions based on very few substantial analysis of the problem. A review of the literature on human trafficking, country by country, region by region, and topic by topic, is the critical first step to understanding the scope of the problem, but also, perhaps more importantly, to finding the gaps in the knowledge base so that coordinated research can be directed to those areas. Without research and attendant analyses, policymakers are making decisions in the dark and are wasting precious and limited resources.

The digest entries that follow cover a good cross-section of important topics in human trafficking and point to underlying issues, problems, and possible solutions. Annie Dullum shows us a picture of the People’s Republic of China. China’s issues are classic and could be attributed to a wide range of countries. Prostitution may make up a large portion of those trafficked, but perhaps

---

\(^1\) The term “human trafficking” has become a term of art to mean modern and contemporary slavery and forced labor, including, but not limited to, the commercial sex trade, agriculture, manufacturing, domestic servitude, tourist industry and child soldiers. It is somewhat of a misnomer as human trafficking indicates a process that leads to slavery and not slavery itself. As an example, a person who is smuggled into a country may be working in violation of that country’s domestic laws, but she is free to accept or reject job offers. On the other hand a person who is trafficked into a country is forced to work without compensation and has no freedom of choice in his job selection. Some would also argue that the term “human trafficking” is too antiseptic and legalistic and avoids the emotional and historic impact of calling the problem what it is – slavery. Organizations like the United Nations go to great lengths to avoid using the term “modern slavery” or “modern-day abolitionist.”
an even larger portion of the trafficked population is in the area of forced labor abroad. And even these numbers may pale in comparison to the number of persons trafficked within China’s own borders. China is at the same time a source, transit, and destination country. So while human beings are trafficked from China to other countries, significant numbers are also trafficked into China. Organized crime plays a significant role, but so does political and police corruption. These themes are continued in Kate Zdrojewski’s piece on Central America and in Megan Walker’s piece on the United States.

Frequently at issue in many of the entries, but not explicitly stated, is the tension between immigration and migration. Domestic immigration laws of nation-states are often at odds with the broader international human rights laws pertinent to migration. Domestic immigration laws regulate the number of non-citizens that can enter and be part of the social and political fabric of a country. They are seen as legal barriers that protect the borders and the sovereign integrity of a country. International migration laws, on the other hand, are crafted to protect the human rights of individuals, whatever their designated citizenry may be. International migration laws recognize the right of any human being to be free from mortal danger, whether natural or human-made, and the right to move to a place on the planet of relative safety. Domestic immigration laws are often designed to keep those very same endangered people from entrance. A few of the many consequences of this tension include illegal smuggling and human trafficking, because desperate people do desperate things for themselves and their children.

Globalization, as noted in Devin Brewer’s piece, also plays a significant role. The International Organization on Migration (IOM) has been studying the movement of people across international borders for decades. The numbers of people who are uprooting themselves and traveling thousands of miles to find employment is vast. They have become the new nomads. These workers are often exploited, with up to 1.2 million of them trafficked in modern slavery each year. While the outsourcing of labor made possible by globalization increased profits, eventually someone took note that the most profitable employee is one that you do not have to pay at all. This was not part of some conspiracy by those leaders within the globalization movement. However, it is now part of the “dark side” of globalization and it must be recognized and dealt with. Fortunately, there is leadership emerging within the private sector, such as Manpower, Inc. and The Gap who have taken it upon themselves and their corporate culture to combat exploitive and forced labor.

Lindsay King’s and Carolyn Burke’s pieces consider the role of international law, its supportive agencies, and enforcement mechanisms. International law has made great strides in the past couple of decades in dealing with human trafficking, as evidenced by the Palermo Protocol, which contains 143 signatures. It has been the mission of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to get as many countries signed on to the various international instruments dealing with human trafficking as possible. However, despite broad international consensus, UNODC and IOM would both acknowledge that the real problem has been domestic compliance and enforcement. One of the chief factors driving this inconsistency has been a mix of cultural barriers and high corruption indexes. The difference between human smuggling and human trafficking is still clearly misunderstood, and gender discrimination is endemic. These are significant issues that need to be addressed before the vision of international law can be realized.

Finally, Christopher Anderson points to the problem of demand. It is not enough to be aware of criminal enterprise, whether at the “mom and pop” level or at the level of international organized
crime. This issue continues to haunt the “war on drugs” and is very much a part of the human trafficking landscape. One has to recognize that supply will always try and meet demand. In the United States, which is chiefly a destination country, there is a demand for sex, a demand for agricultural labor, a demand for domestic servants, and a demand for construction. Because of the very high standard of living in the United States, human trafficking is prevalent, and the desire to obtain goods and services at the lowest prices possible perpetuates the demand. The suppliers know this. The traffickers know this. And we are willing to turn a blind eye to the invisible ones in our society.

Perhaps what is necessary is not a worldwide solution, but various regional ones. To overcome the vulnerability experienced by single countries, as well as the often-cumbersome nature of international affairs, counties have banded together to find financial solutions and to increase their prosperity. These same associations, based on economic and cultural ties, can also work together to formulate policy and to create solutions to the problem of human trafficking. But to do all of this, much more research is needed. This work by the graduate students of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies for Human Rights & Human Welfare is part of the solution.
Human Trafficking in the People’s Republic of China
By Annie Dullum

As China rises to become a superpower and is placed in the national spotlight as the host for the upcoming 2008 Beijing Olympics, China is struggling to represent its ability to be powerful and stable within its own borders resulting from a staggering human rights record. Among the policies contributing to human rights violation, population controls are in place that create barriers to residence and immigration, which means that desperate individuals cannot legally move to other countries. As well, Chinese citizens are vulnerable to the practices of traffickers who move individuals illegally around the world. While Chinese gangs traffic women for prostitution, the largest trade of human beings may be the smuggling of males for labor abroad. In the United States, at any given time, more than ten thousand, if not tens of thousands, of people work as forced laborers. Due to the communist tradition in the People’s Republic of China, the economic struggles of its people, desire for economic development, and a corrupt governmental party contribute to the consistent illegal trafficking of human beings across borders.

The People’s Republic of China is a source, transit, and destination country for men and women trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Children are trafficked for commercially sexual exploitation. The majority of trafficking in China is domestic but there is also a considerable international trafficking of Chinese citizens to Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and North America. Women are enticed with lies and false promises of employment, while in reality are forced into commercial sexual exploitation in other Asian states, such as Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, and Japan. Chinese men and women are smuggled to other countries, accruing large financial costs, and then forced into exploitative labor in order to repay debts to traffickers. Women from neighboring Asian states and Russia are trafficked into China for forced labor and arranged marriages.

However, despite all this, trafficking within China’s own borders remains the most significant problem. Approximately ten thousand to twenty thousand victims are trafficked among Chinese provinces each year. The primary internal destination for smuggling is the more developed cities along the eastern coast of China. Women are trafficked from inland provinces to coastal cities for sexual exploitation. Also, the imbalance between the number of Chinese men and women contributes to the trafficking of women for brides. A growing majority of men relative to women in China will compel the human trafficking within its borders to expand. Men are becoming desperate to find wives and have resorted to human smuggling agencies. In addition, this great demand has increased the number of women being trafficked from other nations into China. The Chinese government needs to initiate anti-trafficking protocols in order to manage this growing occurrence within its own borders and internationally.

The People’s Republic of China, due to its history as a socialist state and the leadership of a corrupt governmental party, has perpetuated the trafficking in human beings across international borders. China’s location among Asian states and Russia has enabled crime organizations to smuggle migrants across borders with ease and through compliance by border patrols. Population control in China has provided governments with a reason to allow illegal emigration from their state into China resulting in declining border controls. The economic struggles of its people and desire for economic development contribute to the consistent illegal trafficking of human beings across China’s borders. In recent years, the Chinese economy has experienced dramatic growth and many people in China
have felt improvements in their quality of life, however, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. Efforts need to be made to control the transnational crime because in upcoming years it is likely to persist at an increasing rate as the poor become poorer and the rich become wealthier.

In China, the complicity of government officials is central to the capacity of smugglers to operate. The trade of human beings from China is a result of the legacy of corrupted party power structures and their international partnership groups. The combined forces of organized crime and governmental corruption facilitated the mass movement of people, which often violates national laws and the national sovereignty of the countries to which Russians and Chinese are moved illegally. These groups operate on a global scale, work in conjunction with corrupt officials in other countries, and cooperate with international crime groups as necessary.

Economic and social conditions of Chinese society are enticing thousands to search for a better life. The impoverished residents lack the financial resources to emigrate legally, and many prosperous regions of the world will not permit them to enter. However, declining border controls in Asia have provided the opportunity to cross borders. The demand for cheap labor from men and sexual services of women continues to provide a market for people to migrate illegally to more developed countries. Governmental regulations on population have given citizens the ability to administer smuggling operations and participate in human trafficking while governments deny the quantitative occurrences. Therefore, impoverished Chinese are vulnerable to services of traffickers who move individuals illegally around the world and extract payments through consequent employment in sweatshops, as laborers, or as providers of sexual services.

Chinese citizens have realized that they are no longer able to depend on the government in China to provide a satisfactory life for them. Many Chinese citizens are struggling economically as a result of this transition. In China, there are significant numbers of citizens who are eager to seek employment and a new life abroad without concern of the costs. Chinese initiatives to emigrate or work abroad reflect, in part, the realization that citizens cannot depend on the state to provide for them and their families—an abrupt awakening for Chinese citizens accustomed to the minimum protections of the socialist system of the past decades.

Chinese migrant trafficking into the United States also persists. This illegal immigration is organized by highly effective alien smuggling cartels that use routes involving more than 30 countries, and which earn hundreds of millions of dollars. Of the total, approximately half the identified cases are forced into prostitution and child exploitation whereas the remainder is working in domestic services, agriculture, sweatshops, and food service. The largest group of forced laborers in the United States is Chinese. As many as 400,000 Chinese people have been smuggled by Chinese crime groups into the United States. In Washington, D.C. over 400 restaurants are associated with the Chinese smuggling trade. However, the number of smuggled Chinese is even greater in cities such as New York and San Francisco. Detectives have found and confiscated ship rosters from smugglers of Chinese to the United States, which revealed that 90 to 95 percent of those trafficked are males, brought to work as laborers in restaurants, sweatshops, and other dangerous work situations. Generally, the migrants work in garment factories and Chinese restaurants, often work up to 80 hours per week and live in very small spaces where it is not uncommon that they share beds by sleeping in shifts.

Migrants who have been smuggled from China must pay for large fees and are more likely than other smuggled migrants to enter into debt bondage arrangements backed up by threats of violence.
against them and their families in China. The average debt of a Chinese trafficked to the United States is as much as $50,000 in which they must pay off over many years as an indentured servant. In 1993, Chinese wanting to be smuggled to the New York City had to pay an average fee of $35,000. The fee for passage from China to New York City in 2004 is as high as $65,000. Typically, migrants pay smugglers a down-payment of about $1,000 to $1,500. Then family members, relatives, or friends pay the balance upon arrival and the migrant repays the debt. In a case in Chinatown in New York, a smuggled woman was killed when family members in China did not make required payments to the smugglers at home. A smaller percentage, still thousands of migrants, becomes indebted to organized crime groups.

China’s appearance in the international community as an economic superpower, the host of the 2008 Olympics and home to a large majority of the global population has placed increased pressure on the government to end its path of involvement with human rights violations. The growing problem of human trafficking needs to be addressed in order for the world to view China as a thriving leader. The issue of human trafficking is expanding internationally but among Chinese citizens it is likely to exponentially increase in the coming years. Victims of human trafficking experience dramatic human rights violations and the People’s Republic of China needs to address the issue in order to protect its citizens.

Annotations


Annotation: Castles’s and Miller’s book provides an international perspective on the nature of migration and the outcomes of immigration movements in developed nations and the developing world. This book focuses on the regions of the world that experience the greatest volume of migration, including information on emigration and immigration. Through his analysis, the author delineates patterns in ethnic diversity among economies, cultures, and politics, while providing information about the effect that migration has on minority groups. China is depicted as a nation struggling to dismantle the complex global networks of human trafficking, and has resorted to extreme measures such as capital punishment.


Annotation: Legal traditions, political situations, economic conditions, and party policies influence the laws of a nation. Chen describes Chinese law, and its context, nature, and meaning within Chinese culture. Chinese law has developed with the influence of Chinese heritage and Western-style modernization. The source depicts legal reform during the reign of different government leaders and within the current legal system. This source is useful to briefly understand the quantitative arrests of human traffickers and the number of known victims who are being given assistance by the government and agencies in China.

Annotation: The author describes the deplorable conditions awaiting Chinese immigrants when they arrive in the United States. Chin interviewed social workers, church workers, members of advocacy groups, business owners and 300 undocumented immigrants in the established Chinese community in New York. Chinese immigrants experienced gang-rapes, beatings, prostitution, strangulation and sweatshop labor if the subject owed any portion of the smuggling fee upon arrival. The author concludes that until the demand for cheap labor in the United States subsides, human smuggling will remain a constant element in America’s immigration tradition.


Annotation: This book examines the motivations for and methods of covert immigration, the social organization of human smuggling, the experiences of smuggled immigrants after their arrival in the United States, and the issues of controlling clandestine immigration. The surges in illegal migration are symptoms of China’s underlying political, economic and social problems. The lucrative business of human trafficking from China to the United States generates approximately $3.2 billion annually and estimates of about 50,000 Chinese citizens immigrate to the United States annually, including illegal, legal and forced immigration. This source is helpful for understanding the growing human trade of Chinese into the Untied States.


Annotation: This book covers the extensive situation of Chinese immigrants residing in various European states. Almost one million Chinese citizens are currently living in Europe and are considered silent, introvert immigrants to their European neighbors. Many of the immigrants escaped China due to being marginalized from the government or persecuted by leaders because of their origin. Many victims of human trafficking are victims because in ethnic terms they are Chinese although their place of birth has determined their status in society as a minority. European states have become a refuge for Chinese minorities who have experienced generations of persecution by the Chinese elites.


Annotation: DeStefano depicts the United States at the forefront of the crusade against human trafficking. The book reviews the prevalent policy battles that have surrounded the efforts to abolish human trade and details the events leading up to the development of the first federal law that addressed the issue, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. He

Annotation: This paper provides an overview of the history, organization and activities of the Fuk Ching gang. The Fuk Ching participates in transnational criminal activities between the United States and the People's Republic of China primarily. The gang smuggles migrants across national borders and exploits migrants in the destination countries. This source is valuable for understanding the complex networks involved in the trafficking of humans across borders, especially involving the United States and China.


Annotation: Human trafficking has become a lucrative criminal market in the United States providing the maximization of profits for traffickers at the expense of physical and mental exploitation of the victims. The authors state the various fees for a trafficked human being depending on the home nation. This is a great source to understand the main pipelines of human trafficking organizations as well as the various entrances for illegal migrants into the United States and the anti-trafficking strategy of the United States.


Annotation: Gittings offers a fascinating glimpse into Chinese history in the last half-century. His book describes the future confrontation that the government and its people will have to face. China's greatest threat is not the collapse of the current governmental system, financial crisis or an uprising of its citizens but instead the result of continual environmental degradation and rising pollution, which will result in China running out of resources, including water. This resource was helpful for understanding the current governmental regime, history and system of regulation in China.


Annotation: Scholars from around the world reflect on their own fieldwork experiences in China to describe the situation of individuals in a changing nation. This is a useful source for understanding the cultural practices and ideologies of gender roles in China. The authors are
able to gain essential knowledge and understand the reasons why Chinese women are more commonly trafficked to other regions of the world.


Annotation: Trafficking in human beings is a global phenomenon that has been subject to increasing international attention in recent years. Piper explains the various anti-trafficking initiatives that have been designed to control the growing transnational crime both regionally and globally. The article focuses on the Asia Pacific region because the largest number of children and women are trafficked within or from Asia. Human trafficking is a national and international issue as well as an essential regional issue due to the high volume of people involved in the region.


Annotation: Smuggling networks provide the desired connection between poor and/or dangerous states and rich, democratic states. The authors find that the main suspects of the smuggling networks had social connections with both the countries of origin and destination. Traffickers and clients often share the same ethnic backgrounds and many traffickers were smuggled prior to starting their own smuggling operations. The Netherlands is a significant location of human trafficking because it is a transit state for other states in Europe and to the United States and Canada. This source provides determining factors of smugglers and migrants.


Annotation: This author describes the complexity and scope of the global problem of human trafficking and offers a strategy to combat it. Koh argues that trafficking is primarily a human rights problem that needs a policy recommendation for anti-trafficking strategy combining prevention, protection and prosecution. Governments want to eradicate human trafficking however need the means to do so. This article details the significance of human trafficking to the United States in numbers of people and annual profit. Human trafficking remains in high demand in the United States and many individuals around the world are awaiting the possibility for opportunity even by means of being smuggled.


Annotation: Koslowski responds to Koh’s argument by concluding that the high demand for illegal migrant labor is the reason for the continual human rights problem. The author argues
that among the numerous migrants in the United States the majority are Chinese. He depicts the challenges the migrants face as they enter a presumed world of opportunity.


Annotation: The author describes Beijing’s proactive stance on fighting human trafficking. The source explicates the progressive undertaking Chinese authorities have taken to combat the global human rights issue. Kurlantzick argues that China has become a global presence, made progressive steps, joined multilateral institutions, supported peacekeeping efforts, assisted the economic growth of the developing world, mediated other states’ conflicts and applied pressure to fight drug and human trafficking. This source focuses on the positive influence China has had during its own economic advancement and presence as a global power. This book examines the significance of China’s recent reliance on soft power to project a benign national image, position itself as a model of social and economic success, and develop stronger international alliances.


Annotation: This article describes the different methods used to acquire accurate data on the trends of human trafficking. International migration has been prominent throughout history, however documentation of migrants has been difficult due to the various means of passage and entrance. The numbers of people trafficked each year is an estimation due to the inaccuracy of documentation of migration. This article is essential for all researchers interested in international migration.


Annotation: Lee analyzes the quantitative and qualitative data concerning human trafficking in East Asia. Throughout history, migration and trafficking of human beings has occurred, however large flows of migration have been influenced by international and national events. This source is helpful in understanding the vast number of human beings involved in the transnational crime as well as the large amounts of profit earned.


Annotation: This compilation of ten authors’ research addresses methods of controlling international crime. The primary purpose of the compilation is to establish a universal definition of human trafficking. The book explores the historical approaches to human trade, with a focus on trafficking in Asia and Eastern Europe. Human trafficking remains an international dilemma due to varying and often contradictory interests of states, and due to
controversy over the human right to seek asylum. This source explains well the parallel between Chinese human trafficking and business.


Annotation: Li describes the common attitude adopted by the Chinese of specific provinces that promotes emigration. Peasants in many Chinese provinces are very poor, especially, compared to relatives living in the United States. In 1989, when the United States’ government opened the door to political asylum for Chinese migrants, smuggling organizations integrated a new procedure to assist clients to illuminate untruthful pleas to be granted access to the United States for a fee of $35,000. However Chinese migrants who successfully immigrated to the United States were able to send back finances in turn providing needed investment and income generation for the relatives living in Chinese provinces. This source details the extenuating circumstances that pressure Chinese citizens to embark on the illegal adventure to reach prosperity.


Annotation: The authors focus on the internal migration and migration of Chinese into Europe, specifically Germany. A case study is given of migration from southern Zhejiang province to European cities. In the south of China, where large amounts of economic development is occurring, the migration from rural areas to urban is continuing to expand. Migrants in Beijing and Shanghai are experiencing discrimination through birth control policies and stereotypes and many are being forced to migrate another time in order to attain personal economic prosperity. This source was useful for understanding the Chinese perspectives of human trafficking.


Annotation: This essay demonstrates how the security of Americans is potentially threatened by individuals and governments engaged in the illicit trade in arms, drugs, and human beings in distant parts of the globe. Each country is focused on to describe its own specific history, problems and resolutions to human trafficking. China is known to be a nation with a growing influence in transnational crime.

Annotation: Picarelli focuses on the history of human trafficking. He begins by explicating the existence of slavery in ancient Rome and Greece. Despite efforts of abolitionists, human trafficking remains a global issue. Additionally, slavery has occurred and continues to occur in many parts of the world. The battle against the illegal trafficking of human beings has persisted against the backdrop of abolition. This source seeks to conceptualize the trends in human trafficking by exemplifying its history in China.


Annotation: Trafficking in human beings is a global phenomenon which has been subject to increasing international attention in recent years. Piper explains the various anti-trafficking initiatives that have been designed to control the growing transnational crime both regionally and globally. The article focuses on the Asia Pacific region because the largest number of children and women are trafficked within or from Asia. Human trafficking is a national and international issue as well as an essential regional issue due to the high volume of people involved in the region.


Annotation: This article reviews the empirical evidence for trafficking and human smuggling in Europe. The author provides information on the organizational structure of trafficking organizations and the characteristics of traffickers. He also depicts information on those who are trafficked based on nationality, demographics, economic skills, education, and motivation. The author concludes that most of the research on human trafficking is concerned with the means of how migrants get to their final destination yet there are many more areas in need of in-depth research. This is a useful source if empirical data are needed on international human trafficking.


Annotation: Illegal migration of people from Russia and China began in the 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the loosening of state controls in China. Russia and China no longer guarantee the economic security of their citizens following the introduction of markets; thus many are vulnerable to traffickers. Reduced border controls allows Chinese and Russians the opportunity to leave their countries and the demand for cheap labor and sexual services provides a market for people to migrate illegally to more developed nations. Shelley compares and contrasts human trafficking in Russia and China.
Annotation: This essay depicts the incrementally increasing number of migrants to the United States due to the demand by American industries. The organized crime of human trafficking continues due to increased numbers of sweatshops, restaurants and other sectors requiring manual labor from migrants. The majority of the migrants to the United States are Chinese and Mexicans who struggle to survive and a small percentage are able to reach their dreams of prosperity for their families.


Annotation: This book offers an innovative framework to help understand how Chinese migrants came to Panama primarily during the mid-twentieth century. Many immigrants from their homeland of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan came to Panama to reside due to the colonial force of the United States. The wealthier migrants moved directly to the United States from Hong Kong, while others who were less fortunate migrated from Taiwan and China to Panama. This source is useful for understanding the migration wave of Chinese in the 1950s resulting from the desire to flee from the communist regime in China.


Annotation: Chinese migrant trafficking into the United States is a significant crime. Illegal immigration from China to the United States is organized by highly effective smuggling organizations using routes involving more than 30 countries and earning hundreds of millions of dollars annually. The author examines the roots and logistics of this growing business and crime. In addition, the economic and demographic conditions such as unemployment and overpopulation in China have proven to pressure many migrants to aspire for a better future in a foreign country even at great costs.


Annotation: This source provides a case study of the causes and procedures of the migrant system of smuggling Chinese into the United States. The article describes the challenges faced by the People’s Republic of China to control the transnational crime that has now become a global issue. A majority of the migrants in the United States are Chinese. The population growth, unemployment and economic disparities in China are the main driving forces of human trafficking from China to wealthy nations, such as the United States. Smith states that the People’s Republic of China and the United States need to resolve the problem collaboratively.

Annotation: The media and literature give more attention to the smuggling of Chinese nationals than to the significant problem of human trafficking of Chinese to the Netherlands. This source uses methodological analysis and data to examine the issue of Chinese human smuggling. The author elaborates on who are the smugglers of the Chinese and on how the crime is organized in the Netherlands. The study is based on various sources including interviews with Chinese citizens, court files, interviews with Dutch and foreign police investigators and municipal archives. This source is a great reference for understanding specific cases of human trafficking that have occurred between the Chinese and the Dutch.


Annotation: This article describes international migration as a global business. Human trafficking is a violation of human rights and is a threat to the international community because it links international organized criminal organizations. The trafficking of human beings has been increasing in scale and sophistication. The article thoroughly depicts the three phases of migration including recruitment of migrants, the passage and their integration into the destination country. This is a beneficial article to understand migrants’ experiences with human trafficking organizations throughout the world.


Annotation: The trafficking of women and children from their home countries for purposes of sexual exploitation and labor has become a global industry and a serious transnational crime. The collapse of the Soviet Union left women struggling to find employment and desperate to find means to earn income whether through prostitution or sweatshop labor. The United States provides employment opportunities and has a market demand for cheap labor. This new phenomenon of Russian women and children being smuggled into the United States is a concern for authorities in both nations and has seen progress.


Annotation: Until the 1980s, the trafficking of women was primarily an Asian phenomenon. Historical changes in nations has increased the illegal industry as well as made women more vulnerable to traffickers. This article describes the historical contexts of human trafficking
along with the reasons humans are trafficked, to which regions of the world, and which states are in need of the most attention.


Annotation: Three major dimensions are significant to the 2007 Global Report on Human Settlements including crime and violence, security of tenure and protection against forced eviction, and natural and human-made disasters. The report describes human trafficking as an organized crime. This source provides the basic knowledge to understand the global and growing problem of human trafficking. In addition, the definition of human trafficking is articulated, the difference between human trafficking and smuggling is explained, and the qualitative result of human trafficking and the source, transit and destination states throughout the world are determined.


Annotation: Human trafficking is a highly profitable business for Chinese criminal organizations. Wong analyzes, quantitatively and qualitatively, the numbers of lives affected by these organizations, as well as the profit earned by illegal smugglers. Human trafficking is a growing problem in Asia, and particularly in China, due to geographical location and to a lack of government regulation. This source explains the growing economic importance of human trafficking in China, which has inhibited its regulation.


Annotation: Yates describes Canada’s reputation and location as the primary reasons for the nation’s large and growing role as a human smuggling passageway to the United States. Canada has a reputation of welcoming almost everyone arriving at ports or airports to enter the nation even though the government knows that the majority of refugee claims are unreliable. Yates points out that successful government action must focus on prohibiting aliens prior to boarding airplanes and ships. This source is useful for understanding the many means of entry into the United States by illegal immigrants.
The Development of Sex Trafficking in Central America
By Kate Zdrojewski

Introduction

Human trafficking in Central America has taken center stage since the late 1990s. This increase in public attention has been driven by U.S. initiatives, such as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), as well as the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, commonly known as the Trafficking Protocol. The United States has the reputation of being the leader in the fight against trafficking in Central America, using the TVPA and the Trafficking Protocol as primary mechanisms for anti-trafficking efforts.

Despite these efforts, trafficking remains rampant in Central America. Although trafficking in the region also occurs for purposes of forced labor and illegal adoptions, this essay focuses on the problem of sex trafficking. U.S. Trafficking in Persons Reports show that eighty percent of all trafficked persons are female, up to fifty percent are minors, and the majority are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation (Chuang, 2006). These women and children are drawn into the region’s illegal migration flow as a result of economic necessity. Women are increasingly assuming sole financial responsibility for their families, and consequently, children are more and more responsible for their own well-being. The lack of employment options at home contributes to their vulnerability to trafficking. Offering false promises of lucrative employment and opportunity, deceptive traffickers ultimately manipulate their victims into a life of sexual exploitation.

Illegal Migration Flows

Illegal migration in Central America flows primarily on the north-south axis. States with growing numbers of tourists, such as Costa Rica and Belize, are principal “receiving” states for women and children trafficked from surrounding states. Both Panama and the United States are ultimate destinations for trafficked persons from Central America.

The states that supply the majority of trafficked women and children are Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala. These “supplier” states are the origins of the majority of trafficked persons.

Although all states function as transit points in some respect, the major transit locations are Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico. It is important to note that victims are also trafficked within their own countries, particularly in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Honduras. Sex trafficking victims “often start via in-country trafficking and are then sold through a string of intermediary stops before reaching a point where they move to another country” (Guinn 2007: 9).

Trafficking can also be looked at as following a path from poor areas to areas of relative prosperity, as both Belize and Costa Rica are among the wealthiest states in the region. According to a Congressional Research Service report on trafficking in the region, internal trafficking generally flows from rural to urban or tourist centers, while trafficking across international borders generally flows from developing to more developed nations.
The Development and Growth of Sex Trafficking

The Commoditization and Victimization of People

Traditions of colonialism and capitalism have made people and products interchangeable, thus legitimizing the unequal treatment of people based on race, class, gender, and culture. This racism is often invisible and is manifest in government policy and institutions, and supports the power dynamic between the privileged, white population and the marginalized, dark-skinned population. This is evident in that most individuals targeted for trafficking are “of color” and poor, and most clients are white and wealthy. As disadvantaged individuals are forced into sexual exploitation, they are moved into forms of labor that objectify and mechanize their bodies.

This commoditization effectively creates a supply of vulnerable individuals that fall victim to trafficking as a result of economic instability, family disintegration, and prevalent attitudes that objectify women and children. Traffickers prey on the hopes and fears of their victims, promising them lucrative employment opportunities across the border. Once traffickers have a victim at their disposal, they use any means necessary to control and ensure their victims’ cooperation in selling cheap sex and labor which often includes threats, sexual assault, and drug addiction.

Economics and Market Liberalization

The reasons for the development and growth of human trafficking in Central America vary depending on the socioeconomic and political conditions of the states between which trafficking takes place. However, the development of human trafficking is primarily economic and follows the model of supply and demand. As political borders close while free market principles continue to promote a global marketplace, the movement of goods, people, and capital across borders increases, consequently raising demand for trafficked persons. The ultimate destination for trafficked persons often correlates with tourism, since many developing states rely on tourism for economic stability. As tourism grows, so does the demand for forms of sexual exploitation.

An example of this economic reasoning for the development of human trafficking is found in immigration that occurs between the United States and Mexico. Before 9/11, the U.S. and Mexico were on the verge of a complete revision of their migration and cross-border relationship. However, progress was halted after 9/11 and the U.S. continued to close its political borders with Mexico while continuing to encourage its free market principles, thus creating the demand for more illegal migration.

Corruption, Profits, and Anti-Trafficking Efforts

Corruption among public authorities and institutions allows the victimization of vulnerable individuals to occur and be maintained. There are significant linkages between corrupt societies, high incidences of trafficking, and the lack of effective anti-corruption strategies.

Likewise, corruption goes hand-in-hand with profits. Trafficking serves an economic function to outside parties, not just the traffickers, which promotes the sustenance of corruption and perpetuates the problem since many individuals are economically dependent on the trade. However,
Trafficking could not exist without corrupt public officials, which suggests that many of those profiting from trafficking are public officials themselves. Trafficking requires the collaboration of many individuals and considering trafficking profits are high and local wages are usually low, accepting bribes is a common temptation for public authorities.

Since corruption enables trafficking, it is inherently linked to the lack of anti-trafficking policy. Recent reports on trafficking and human rights practices published by the U.S. Department of State found that the majority of Central American states are facing structural inefficiencies in anti-trafficking policies or a lack of anti-trafficking policy altogether. The region’s critical problem in implementing effective anti-trafficking policy is the discrepancy between domestic, regional, and international standards and legislation. Since each Central American state has its own set of social, economic, and political issues and values, the problem of trafficking in persons is not equivocally prioritized throughout the region.

**Recommendations**

**Address Trafficking as a Domestic Issue**

Trafficking is only just beginning to be looked at through a human rights framework. The invisibility of the crime is easily maintained since victims rarely denounce their traffickers out of fear, and furthermore lack the power to pressure public authorities to take action. Nonetheless, it is essential that states first address the trafficking problem as an internal human rights issue that affects its political, social, and economic systems. If states continue to ignore the domestic manifestations of the issue, the cost will be high, encouraging corruption and compromising key relationships with other states.

**Align Anti-Trafficking Efforts with Surrounding States**

States must also align their policies with surrounding states and with the international legal standards regarding trafficking. International legislation such as the U.N. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Trafficking Protocol as well as the TVPA support a standard anti-trafficking framework that can help Central American states work together to combat the issue. The TVPA has also provided significant funding that supports local efforts to address trafficking. Additionally, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) met with Central American authorities in February, 2008 to launch a new project to combat trafficking in the region. As former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Harold Koh states, we must “use our knowledge, networks and norms to create an international framework of response” (Koh, 2006).

**Increase Awareness and Provide Victim Assistance**

Finally, increasing public awareness about the issue and supporting victims with necessary services is critical to successfully combating the issue. Effective support programs focus on training diplomatic personnel in the recognition and providing care for trafficking victims, since victims “are more likely to seek out their consulate or embassy than they are the police” (Guinn 2007: 18). However, there are very few centers that exist to help victims in Central America. The lack of support available to victims means many of them end up living on the street and resorting to
criminal behavior in order to survive. Most of the minimal assistance and funding that does exist
goes to supporting child victims, but similar efforts need to be directed to women victims as well.

Conclusion

Human trafficking is a complex issue and a challenge to address due to its invisible nature within
Central American societies. Trafficking develops and is fueled by a combination of socioeconomic
and political conditions. Corruption emerges in impoverished societies and is present within sectors
on local, national, and regional levels and leads to the increase in illegal migration. However, as
governments are made more aware of the nature of trafficking, there is more pressure to view the
issue within a human rights framework and not merely as a societal hindrance that can be ignored.
Individual governments must address trafficking as a domestic issue that violates basic human rights,
align their anti-trafficking policies with neighboring states according to international standards, and
make prevention and rehabilitation services readily available. Central American states have the
opportunity to use the frameworks set forth by the TVPA and the Trafficking Protocol as a guide to
develop policies tailored to their own country. If and when this happens, Central America will
undoubtedly experience success in the fight against human trafficking.

Annotations

Peacekeeping, and the Neo-Liberal World Order.” Brown Journal of World Affairs 10 (1):133-
148.

Annotation: This article explores the relationship between modern peacekeeping and older
traditions of capitalism and colonialism. The authors use historical case studies to show how
neo-liberal power and capital legitimize the unequal treatment of people by encouraging the
commoditization of people. U.N. peacekeepers have played a role in allowing sex trafficking
to prosper by ignoring how the constructions of racial, gender, class, and cultural identities
obscure global inequalities. The article concludes with recommendations to increase
awareness of the implications of the socioeconomic constructions of people, as well as
exploring how identities figure into the relationship between peacekeeping and sex
trafficking.

Andreas, Peter. 1996. “U.S.-Mexico: Open Markets, Closed Border.” Foreign Policy 103 (Summer):51-
69.

Annotation: This article identifies the increasing concern over migration across the U.S.-
Mexico border that occurred in the 1990s. It focuses primarily on the growing migrant labor
movement and drug trafficking, and how these issues have become significant in the cross-
border economic relationship between the U.S. and Mexico. Andreas blames U.S.
policymakers for the issues, noting that the promotion of free market principles contradicts
efforts to keep borders closed to the movement of migrants. The article includes statistics
that reveal a growing population of Mexicans in the U.S. and concludes by encouraging
multilateral institutions to make migration issues central to their programs.

Annotation: This article reports on the rescue of forty-six children from a suspected illegal adoption agency in Guatemala, renewing concerns about the trafficking of children throughout Central America. Guatemala is notorious for illegal adoption networks that supply infants to Western couples. The United States has responded to the problem by directing the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala to require DNA tests to make sure the women giving up their babies for adoption are the real birth mothers. Despite these efforts, there remains a climate of fear and suspicion that foreigners in Guatemala are involved in illegal adoptions and child trafficking.


Annotation: The researchers at Casa Alianza, the Latin American division of the non-governmental organization, Covenant House, describe the trafficking situation in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Although labor trafficking is discussed, the report provides an overview of the trafficking situation, particularly in terms of the sex trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation purposes. The report marks Costa Rica as a principle “receiving” country, Nicaragua as the main “supplier” of trafficked persons, and Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico as “meeting points” where trafficked persons are sent to be transported elsewhere. The report concludes that the commoditization of people in Latin America is a result of a lack of law enforcement and victim protection.


Annotation: This presentation was created as a webinar by Janie A. Chuang, an advisor on trafficking issues for the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Chuang also participated in the drafting of the U.N. Trafficking Protocol to the U.N. Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, advocating for the inclusion of human rights protections for trafficked persons. Her presentation provides an overview of the human trafficking problem in Latin America within an international law framework. She discusses the legislation that addresses trafficking and its impact on trafficking as a transnational crime and human rights violation. The presentation also assesses the challenges in implementing international law and effective anti-trafficking efforts.


Annotation: This article offers a brief insight into the trafficking relationship between the United States and Central America, noting that the increase in people trafficked to the U.S. is
directly related to increased demand for cheap labor and sex workers. Traffickers prey on those living in corrupt and impoverished areas since they are more likely to be deceived by false promises of employment. Traffickers often hold respectable positions in society, making it easy to manipulate their victims. Assault, threats, and isolation are ways that traffickers keep their victims mentally controlled. The article concludes by calling on communities to educate themselves on the trafficking issue and to assist law enforcement and the rehabilitation of victims.


Annotation: This book takes a look at U.S. policy on human trafficking and positions the U.S. as leading the efforts to end international human trafficking. DeStefano explores some of the worst trafficking cases and openly recognizes that the complex dimensions of the trafficking problem are unknown and under-researched. The book includes a decade of reporting on trafficking policy, evaluates the effectiveness of legislation, and concludes that human trafficking should be interpreted as a very broad issue that is directly linked with current events and economic conditions.


Annotation: This book analyzes the various aspects and dimensions of irregular migration, exploring its complexities and possible remedies. Human trafficking accounts for much of this irregular migration and is closely linked with drug and arms trafficking as well as prostitution. Ghosh investigates inadequacies in combating irregular migration and searches to find reasons for these inadequacies. The book concludes with a forward-looking set of proposals that can be shaped into a comprehensive strategy to combat irregular migration. The clarity of Ghosh’s discussion makes this book valuable to researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers alike.


Annotation: This piece identifies the problems that hinder the accurate assessment of trafficking, focusing on the inadequacy of collected data due to definitional, social, and legal disparities in Latin American countries and the United States. Guinn addresses the trafficking problem specifically in the Latin American context, noting the predominant illegal migration flows, the contributing factors for the growth of the problem, and the efforts the U.S. has made to combat the situation. Guinn positions the U.S. as the leader in attacking trafficking both in the Latin America and on a global scale, using the Trafficking Victims Protection Act as a foundational driver for anti-trafficking efforts.

Annotation: This quintessential book addresses human trafficking within Latin American countries and in the region as a whole. Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama are used as case studies that demonstrate existing human trafficking problems, as well as the effectiveness of solutions created to remedy such problems. The book offers an excellent overview of the human trafficking issue, covering everything from the region’s socioeconomic context, trafficking routes, and relevant policy and its obstacles. The book aptly concludes with recommendations on how to address human trafficking both on the regional and national levels.


Annotation: This biennial report published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) focuses on the economic costs and benefits of international migration. The report attempts to answer questions surrounding where people are migrating and the implications of migration on both developing and industrialized economies. In addition, the report examines the socioeconomic impact of migration and the critical policy issues facing migrant source, destination, and transit states. The report concludes by emphasizing the need for cooperation among governments to make policy choices that steer migration more in the direction of benefits than costs.


Annotation: This article gives a brief synopsis of international sex tourism. The author cites World Vision findings surrounding the reasons for the increase in sex trafficking. Ease of
international travel, anonymity, low costs, ready access, and immunity from prosecution are reasons sex tourists travel specifically for “sex tours,” twenty-five percent of whom are Americans. The author places World Vision in the limelight, noting that it is sponsoring a widespread media campaign to dissuade potential child sex tourists. However, she acknowledges that the problem is still massive.


Annotation: Written by the former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, this chapter responds to the common notion that slavery has come and gone. Using his personal experiences as evidence, Koh explores a virulent form of transborder slavery that he calls the New Global Slave Trade. He discusses how the modern slave problem emerged, what we can do about the problem, and the kind of anti-trafficking position that should be held by those in power. Koh declares that we have the knowledge, networks, and norms to create a foundation for response to the international trafficking problem and encourages capable persons to coordinate their efforts in combating this new form of slavery.


Annotation: This article reviews the recent trafficking research completed by the Organization of American States (OAS) that assesses the existence of sex trafficking in Latin America. Langberg breaks down the OAS study by laying out the methodology, findings, policy results, and recommendations. Findings show a lack of adequate anti-trafficking legislation, allowing many women and children to fall victim to trafficking due to economic necessity. The article also exposes the business-savvy of traffickers that use the complex and vulnerable political, legal, cultural, and socio-economic landscapes to their advantage. Langberg calls for governments to recognize trafficking as a form of labor exploitation, not merely the movement of migrants, and pay more attention to internal trafficking.


Annotation: This report briefly examines trafficking as a global phenomenon, discussing its relevance as a corruption issue and offering a few tactics to combat it. Lyday reviews the economic reasoning behind the development of trafficking in underdeveloped regions and discusses recent United States policy toward traffickers. The report exposes the linkage between corrupt societies, incidences of trafficking, and lack of law enforcement and anti-corruption strategies. Further, the report seeks solutions that protect victims and strengthen government efforts to fight trafficking without necessitating corruptive actions. The author calls on men, as the primary users of trafficked persons, to work with law enforcement and NGOs to target trafficking in order to fight the corruption that fuels trafficking.

Annotation: A poignant account of the linkages between human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and prostitution, this book exposes sex trafficking as a lucrative global industry. Monzini roots her analysis within the context of neo-liberal globalization, identifying migrant women and girls caught in the industry as the new “slaves” of the contemporary era. The immense annual worth of this industry makes it attractive to organized crime networks. This situation has lead to an increasing number of women working in extreme conditions of sexual exploitation and being exposed to risky sexual practices, violence, and manipulation. The book explores the techniques and methods used by traffickers, and evaluates the strategies that attempt to combat sex trafficking.


Annotation: The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography was opened for signature in 2000 by the United Nations General Assembly and entered into force in January 2002. The Optional Protocol seeks to further protect children from commercial sexual exploitation by providing victims with counseling and rehabilitation and promoting international law enforcement cooperation on trafficking in terms of jurisdiction and extradition, legal assistance, and asset confiscation. However, mechanisms have been underutilized in developing regions since many states lack a framework for operation.


Annotation: This paper is an introduction to sex trafficking in Latin America, offering a brief discussion on relevant issues. Phinney describes the common background of trafficking victims as well as those that purchase commercial sex. She focuses on how supply, demand, and impunity together create a space in which trafficking can flourish. The human rights violations associated with trafficking remain largely invisible and include severe threats to victims’ physical and mental health. The paper also includes the notable legislation that affects Latin America and concludes that current legislation is inadequate and needs to better assist and protect victims.


Annotation: Created to supplement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, this protocol was the first legally binding mechanism to provide a
definition of human trafficking. It is one of the two Palermo protocols, and aims to prevent and combat trafficking in persons by requiring the ratifying states to promote cooperation among other states in order to meet certain objectives. In addition to laying the groundwork for protecting and assisting trafficking victims and providing appropriate punishment for those responsible for trafficking, the protocol requires ratifying states to introduce national trafficking policy.


Annotation: This report describes the scope of the human trafficking problem in Latin America and efforts made by the United States to deal with trafficking in the region. Ribando reviews current U.S. anti-trafficking policy such as the Trafficking in Persons Reports and actions taken by the Organization of American States (OAS). Ribando suggests that the U.S. plays a key role in anti-trafficking efforts and assumes significant responsibility for combating the issue in Latin America. However, Ribando acknowledges the difficulty in measuring the success and failure of anti-trafficking legislation and suggests ways to improve effectiveness of anti-trafficking policy.


Annotation: This article is an overview of the child sex tourism industry, focusing on the forced prostitution of girls. The piece is written within a legal framework and provides a brief analysis of the international laws and treaties that impact the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children. Roffman starts by explaining early treaties such as the International Agreement on Suppression of White Slave Traffic of 1904 and discusses how legislation has developed over the last century. She notes the importance of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women but also concludes that most anti-trafficking legislation has been largely ineffective.


Annotation: When President Vincente Fox was elected in 2000, seventy years of rule by the PRI (Institutionalized Revolutionary Party) ended, offering Mexico the opportunity for new policy and change. This piece shows how corruption has allowed problems like drug trafficking and human smuggling to develop. Mexican crime groups recognized for their narcotics trade are commonly involved in the sex trafficking of women and children. Until Fox was elected, Mexican society had failed to address these problems as internal issues that affect their political and economic systems. Shelley conveys that this ignorance has high political costs, encourages corruption, and compromises key relationship with other nations.

Annotation: Shelley explores the business structures of transnational crime groups involved in international human trafficking and recognizes that crime groups are shaped by historical roots as well as modern socio-economic and cultural conditions. Readers are introduced to six models of business operating in the trafficking area, each reflecting the influences and conditions that drive the trade. The article is based on the important correlation that exists between human rights violations and business models. The author concludes that trafficking cannot exist without corruption in the political and legal sectors and recommends fighting trafficking by understanding the economic strategies of traffickers.


Annotation: This article focuses on human trafficking across the United States-Mexico border in the forms of forced labor and sexual exploitation. The authors explore the contributing factors of the issue, focusing on the developing trends in the new global economy, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of trafficking policy and legislation in both the U.S. and Mexico. Although the authors point out that both states are making progress on the issue, they conclude with a call for more information and education on cross-border trafficking. Trafficking flows both ways across the border and is an issue that both countries must continue to address.


Annotation: The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) is the most comprehensive United States law on trafficking in persons. It addresses various aspects of human trafficking both nationally and internationally and targets the issue by establishing measures to prevent trafficking, prosecute those responsible, and protect victims. The TVPA recognizes sex and labor trafficking that involves force, fraud, or coercion with exception for minors. It is considered a foundational document on international human trafficking and has been reauthorized in 2003 and 2005 in order to assess the law's progress and provide recommendations for future research and funding.


Annotation: This annual report written and published by the U.S. Department of State is designed to raise global awareness, highlight anti-trafficking efforts being implemented, and to encourage foreign states to take effective actions to combat human trafficking. The report is based on the scope of human trafficking set forth in the Trafficking Victims Protection
Act. The report acknowledges the multi-dimensional aspects of trafficking and addresses the forms and impact of the issue, policy approaches, and “Topics of Special Interest” which includes descriptions of notable current human trafficking problems around the world. All states are categorized into a specific tier that indicates the magnitude of the trafficking issue in that state and reflects the existence and effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts.


Annotation: This report documents the challenges to human rights that were faced in Costa Rica in 2007. The government respected its citizens’ human rights in general. However, notable abuses included brutality, abuse of women and children, and trafficking in persons for sexual and labor purposes. Reports showed that women were trafficked into the country for prostitution, although NGOs involved in commercial sex issues reported that most prostitutes were there by choice. There was evidence that Chinese nationals were trafficked into the country for labor purposes. The government was unable to prosecute traffickers due to victims’ tentativeness to press charges.


Annotation: This report documents the challenges to human rights that were faced in Costa Rica in 2007. The government respected its citizens’ human rights in general. However, notable abuses included delays in judicial processes, domestic violence against women and children, and child labor and prostitution. Lack of anti-trafficking policies inhibits the prosecution and conviction of traffickers. Persons were trafficked to, from, and within the country, most often for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. The government recognizes the prevalence of sex tourism and is developing plans to combat the issue and offering more services to victims.


Annotation: This report documents the challenges to human rights that were faced in El Salvador in 2007. Widespread violence and corruption, discrimination, child prostitution, and human trafficking compromised the protection of human rights. The country was a key transit country for the trafficking women and children for sexual exploitation as well as a source of forced labor. Most trafficking victims are from neighboring countries that came in the false hope of lucrative employment opportunities and were forced into prostitution upon arrival. The government provides services to victims upon request, although the success of such services hinges on the societal discrimination that the victims face having been involved in sexual exploitation.
Annotation: This report documents the challenges to human rights that were faced in Guatemala in 2007. Notable abuses included the government’s failure to investigate and prosecute unlawful killings, public corruption, violence and discrimination, and trafficking in persons. The country was a source, transit, and destination point for women and children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. Reports show that public officials do not treat traffickers as criminals, despite their use of deceptive tactics to lure their victims into the commercial sex trade. The government is progressing in its cooperation with NGOs and neighboring states in combating trafficking, although Guatemala maintains its key role in facilitating trafficking in Central America.

Annotation: This report documents the challenges to human rights that were faced in Honduras in 2007. Among the notable abuses were unlawful killings, judicial corruption, widespread violence and discrimination, and trafficking in persons. The problem of human trafficking is increasing due to the link between illegal immigration and trafficking. The majority of commercial sexual exploitation victims in Honduras came from neighboring countries. Despite increased anti-trafficking training, the laws set forth to punish those involved in trafficking-related activities were not enforced effectively due to lack of government funding.

Annotation: This report records the challenges to human rights that were faced in Mexico in 2007. The information in the report was gathered throughout the year by United States Embassies in Mexico. Findings showed that the Mexican Government generally promoted human rights by completing appropriate investigations and prosecutions. However, corruption, coercion, and violence exist on many levels and related events are largely underreported. The report notes that persons were trafficked to, from, and within the country. The government faced structural inefficiencies in anti-trafficking policies but made improvements in investigations and prosecutions of trafficking cases. However, securing convictions in trafficking cases remained a challenge.
Annotation: This report documents the challenges to human rights that were faced in Nicaragua in 2007. Notable abuses included lack of respect for the law and widespread corruption. Nicaragua was a primary point of origin and transit for the trafficking of persons, not a destination country. The internal trafficking related primarily to the trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation. Labor trafficking is not criminalized, and legislation against the sexual exploitation of minors does not protect all individuals under eighteen years of age. The combination of corruption with a lack of resources and funding to implement anti-trafficking policies encourages the growth of a population vulnerable to trafficking.

Annotation: This report documents the challenges to human rights that were faced in Panama in 2007. Among the challenges were corruption, discrimination and violence against women, and trafficking in persons. Women and children were trafficked to, from, and within the country primarily for purposes of sexual exploitation. Reports show that some women came willingly into the country to become prostitutes, but were deceived as to the actual condition of employment. Law prohibits human trafficking and sexual exploitation and although the country has a number of committees dedicated to implementing anti-trafficking plans, the effectiveness of such plans is questionable.


Annotation: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international convention set forth to protect the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children. The UNCRC deals directly with the exploitation of children and children in the sex tourism industry. States that ratify the Convention are bound by law to uphold its provisions. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child regulates the compliance of signatory states. The UNCRC marks a significant step in the protection of children from trafficking and from sexual exploitation through its focus on education and cooperation. However, it lacks means for individual remedies and state-to-state confrontations in order to provide protection for the children trapped in the sex tourism industry.


Annotation: The 1949 United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others continued the Draft Convention of the League of Nations in 1921, which was delayed due to World War II. The
Convention calls for its signatory states to prosecute those involved in trafficking of the prostitution of trafficking victims. Unlike previous international law, this Convention was unique in that it addresses international trafficking as well as forced prostitution. It also calls for cooperation among states in the sharing of information. However, since the Convention lacks a direct call to action for relief of the victims, states are left to their own devices to implement the anti-trafficking mechanisms, which is difficult for developing states.


Annotation: This Convention is the United Nations’ principal instrument in controlling transnational organized crime and represents a heightened recognition of the gravity of the issue. It is supplemented by three protocols, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. States must be parties of the Convention before they can be parties to the Protocols. Once ratified, the state makes a commitment to combat organized crime through a series of measures including the creation of domestic criminal offenses, adopting a framework for extradition, and promoting appropriate training for authorities.


Annotation: This article covers an event held in El Salvador in February 2008 to launch a new project to combat human trafficking in Central America. Several Central American authorities present at the event recognized the importance of aligning national anti-trafficking legislation with international standards and that training public officials is critical to this process. The event highlighted the willingness of the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) to contribute to the region’s fight against trafficking by offering its expertise on tactics to end organized crime.


Annotation: This paper distinguishes between illegal immigration, human smuggling, and human trafficking, and notes that these different types of movement have varying legal and political consequences. The author describes human smuggling and trafficking as an important element of organized crime and the illicit global economy. The main reason for illegal migration is economic and follows the supply and demand model. As political borders close, the movement of goods and capital across borders increases, consequently raising demand for smugglers and traffickers. The piece also provides recent illegal immigration patterns and statistics around the world.

Annotation: This document examines United States immigration policy since September 11, 2001 on the significance of the U.S.-Mexico border, and the impact of new policies on Mexican migrants living in the U.S. Just prior to 9/11, the two nations were on the verge of rewriting immigration laws. However, U.S. counterterrorism policies took precedent and adversely impacted the migratory relationship between the U.S. and Mexico. The border is not only a means to control illegal migration, but has become an important element of the U.S. war on terrorism. The occurrence of 9/11 misguided immigration policies and has deteriorated relations between the two nations.


Annotation: This book examines the illegal migration flows into the United States. The author takes the position that many individuals want to come to the U.S. even if it means being trafficked or smuggled in order to gain entry. Zhang explores illegal migration through both legal and illegal channels, noting that women and children from developing nations are especially vulnerable to trafficking for sexual exploitation and other illicit purposes. The book provides a thorough overview of the scope, methods, and strategies of global human trafficking and smuggling, and addresses the challenges the U.S. government faces in combating these activities.
Corruption and Crime in the East: Organized Crime and Human Trafficking in Russia and Ukraine
By Danielle Mossbarger

Introduction

Russian culture and life are uniquely fascinating. Rarely has such magnificence, potential, and wonder been so dramatically juxtaposed to such tremendous terror, poverty, and struggle. The state has an almost mystical aura about it, simultaneously intriguing and repellant. Sharing more in Russia’s failures than in its successes, Ukraine is deeply bound to its former communist overlord in history and in modernity. As the world’s leading exporters of women, these two former Soviet strongholds have perfected the merge between organized crime and human trafficking, severely hindering national efforts to fully emerge from the shadows of the Soviet era. As the modus operandi of regional crime syndicates continues to evolve, Russian and Ukrainian governments find themselves either unable, or simply unwilling, to put a stop to the growing crisis.

Human Trafficking and Organized Crime

International criminal organizations dealing in human trafficking, according to the United Nations, have an estimated profit margin of US$7 billion annually (Natashas and Turkish Men). Russian transnational organizations, in particular, have a strictly hierarchical and protected connection to the industry of trafficking in humans. As a result, human trafficking to, from, and through the region goes largely unchecked. The issue has escalated to the degree that the United Nations entered into force the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as a supplement to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. The long-winded definition provided by the drafters is an attempt to incorporate the specifics of organized crime, but the sophistication and effectiveness of Russian crime syndicates are hard to capture in political rhetoric.

Common conceptions rarely acknowledge the very real connection between the murky world of organized crime and human trafficking. Instead, a pop-culture representation of trafficked victims as young, attractive Eastern European females who are sold into sexual servitude tends to prevail. The global community oftentimes fails to comprehend the gritty reality and utter breadth of the human trafficking industry. In 2001, from Ukraine alone, the International Organization for Migration estimates that 400,000 women were trafficked for exploitation, whether sexual or otherwise. In Russia, up to seventy percent of women graduating from university cannot find employment because organized crime groups control so much of the economy. As a result, those same educated women, an asset to Russia’s continued development, oftentimes find themselves misled and forced into prostitution.

The highly structured activity that characterizes crime as it is seen in Russia can be adequately thought of as crime that is committed by criminal organizations that persist over time, and which use systematic violence and corruption to facilitate their criminal activities. These organizations have varying capacities to inflict economic, physical, psychological, and societal harm. Perhaps the most important aspect of this conceptualization of organized crime is the connection drawn between the organizations and the society in which they thrive. Further study casts greater
light on the parasitic bond between organized crime in Ukraine and Russia, and greater society as a whole—the syndicates drain the region of vital human resources as they traffic tens, if not hundreds of thousands, of women into exploitative service. Human trafficking, then, is an ambition, a financial incentive of transnational organized crime, not merely a functional byproduct of such crime.

**Attempting to Legislate Organized Crime and Human Trafficking**

Russia and Ukraine both play several roles in the continued operation of the global industry of human trafficking. Serving not only as sources for many of the millions of individuals trafficked annually, the states also act as transit locations, a place for traffickers to bring their stock before moving them on to a final destination. For example, Israel has singled out Russia for its role as a transit location. Israel openly encourages the Russian government to stop individuals trafficked from nations such as Egypt from continuing on to Israel. In recent years, publicly documented efforts have been made to legislate the national crisis of human trafficking in an attempt to create a legal framework in which victims can be helped and offenders punished.

Creating a legal platform from which to prosecute human trafficking in Russia and Ukraine is a complex and potentially dangerous task. The overwhelming corruption and widespread criminal activity that perpetuate trafficking create obstacles for combating the problem—although the law forbids trafficking of individuals, the practice continues on what can be described as an epic scale. The International Labour Organization estimates that one million of the workers living within Russia are victims of forced labor. Yet despite the barriers and dangers, it is argued that some improvements have been made through the work of the State Duma. Most notably, in 2004, government authorities reported only twenty-six cases of human trafficking, a number that rose to eighty in 2005. Out of these eighty cases, twenty concerned forced labor while the remainder entered into the world of sex trafficking.

**Conclusion**

Human trafficking as a global phenomenon continues to receive increasing attention from the international community. It is steadily gaining legitimacy as a cause for which to fight, although the international legal system has yet to catch up to the desires of global activism. Trafficking of individuals affects some regions more pervasively than others, a fact is often dependent on the economic and social infrastructure of the troubled area. As two of the primary economic centers of the former Soviet Union, Russia and Ukraine have both suffered their share of economic, political, and social hardship since the collapse of communism. Incidentally, both nations have witnessed a subsequent rise in organized crime, with powerful syndicates exerting considerable power over various aspects of national life. In particular, the relationship between human trafficking and organized crime presents a problem for international groups trying to fight both, as one seems to perpetuate the other. In Russia and Ukraine, organized crime and human trafficking have a deeply involved connection, a darker world that has repeatedly proven to be highly dangerous, equally lucrative, and almost impossible to infiltrate.
Annotated Bibliography


Annotation: The editors have compiled a broad study of issues surrounding European security. Included are various pieces on the global trade in human individuals and how that multibillion-dollar industry has evolved into a very real threat to European security. Not considered a hard security threat as terrorism or imminent war would be, human trafficking concerns government officials in the unobtrusive manner by which it crosses international borders and influences organized crime. As a whole, the question of human trafficking as a security threat brings to the reader’s attention the crisis’ existence as an issue not just in relation to the immediate victims, but also to the domestic and international safety of the countries deeply affected.


Annotation: Voted the best business book of 2004 by BusinessWeek, Bhagwati’s study on the overall effects of globalization offers the reader both oppositional and supportive views of globalization. An entire section of the book is devoted to the specific effect globalization has on women, and even more precisely on its relationship to trafficking. Bhagwati recognizes that trafficking is unequivocally evil, and notes the connection between a rise in international tourism and the subsequent increase in individuals trafficked for sexual purposes. The author points out the economic distress that has accompanied Russia’s attempted transition to democracy, and largely blames this distress for the rise in women trafficked from the region. The book notes the unique problem faced by women in the international arena, and offers some hints as to what may be some of the worst causes of these problems.


Annotation: The report includes a discussion of human trafficking in a section with discrimination and societal abuses; this combination of topics immediately reduces the unique significance of trafficking. The report does, however, include substantial information on human trafficking as it relates to the Russian Federation, in addition to addressing the ways in which the Russian Government has attempted to combat the industry. The report also details allegations of governmental cooperation with human trafficking rings, paralleled with the increasing number of cases opened from year to year. From a legal perspective, the report provides ample information on the many aspects of human trafficking.

Annotation: While not as useful as originally anticipated, Doezema’s article does offer some interesting insight into the connection between human trafficking and prostitution. The author makes the point that some in the international community view prostitution as a legitimate industry, while the feminist camp tends to view prostitution as a gross violation of women’s rights. The article does not focus specifically on the case of women trafficked out of Russia or Ukraine, but it does highlight the fascination that sometimes borders on obsession that the Western world seems to have with the sexual servitude facet of human trafficking.


Annotation: The article establishes Russia as a prominent transit country in the human trafficking industry. Many victims of trafficking in Israel were first sent to Moscow, then to Egypt, and finally to Jerusalem and other Israeli cities. The geographic diversity proves the far-reaching effects of trafficking and its global implications. The article also describes efforts within the Russian Federation to establish a legal framework from which to prosecute traffickers and aid the trafficked.


Annotation: Kathryn Farr writes a very thorough and well-organized narrative detailing the contemporary nature of the sex trade industry. She looks at its causes, how it functions, and the structures that exist within it. She notes the connection between human trafficking, particularly in its capacity as a market for sexual services, and its relationship to organized crime. The work is extensively useful in understanding the existence of human trafficking and its multi-layered nature, providing insight into a prolific and lucrative industry that has time and again proven itself almost outside the bounds of legal reprehension.


Annotation: In his research, Finckenauer brings notice to Russia’s ever-strong connections to the world of organized crime. Specifically, for the purpose of this essay, his work looks at the connection between Russian organized crime and the proliferation of the international trafficking in human beings, particularly for sexual purposes. While the direct analysis of that connection is admittedly limited, the details and statistics helps one understand the connection of Russian organized crime to a darker underworld of trafficking in many different mediums.

Annotation: Ukraine exists as one of the world’s most prolific exporters of humans, and so serves as an important study into the more detailed nuances of the global trade in individual persons. Martin Fisher’s article looks into the ways and means of human trafficking, trying to understand how individuals are tricked so easily into servitude, sexual or otherwise. He acknowledges the existence of anti-trafficking organizations but questions their validity and ability to put a stop to the global slave trade.


Annotation: Under the broader heading of human trafficking is the subset of the sex industry. Even more specific is the sale of children for sexual purposes. Flowers notes the correlation between the fall of the Soviet Union and the rise of organized crime in Russia, which has, in turn, leaned towards the explosion of children on the market for sexual servitude. The article emphasizes the difficulty in controlling the trafficking of children for such purposes because of support from corrupt governments, or in the case of Russia, powerful organized crime syndicates, and is unique in its placement of Russia alongside such infamous nations as Thailand and Taiwan.


Annotation: Though ten years old, Frisby’s article offers a detailed look at the rise of crime in the Russian Federation following the end of the Cold War. Noting the rise in the crime rate in the early 1990s, and tracing its reasons through the last several years, Frisby details the way organized crime has manifested itself in Russian culture, largely blaming the lack of civil society for how well crime has imbedded itself in the region. The article is not specifically tailored to the issue of human trafficking, but it aids in understanding organized crime as a whole throughout the Russian Federation.


Annotation: To understand the specifics of trafficking from particular regions, an understanding of human trafficking and contemporary slavery as it exists in the twenty-first century is important. Its source in politics, society, and the economy help to explain how it becomes so prevalent in regions like Russia and Ukraine, and less so in others. The authors offer a broad overview of the existence of contemporary slavery, emphasizing its very organized and deeply entrenched economic status. Trafficked individuals are solid global commodities, and the authors present the varying ways in which those individuals are put to work, from red light districts to domestic servitude.

Annotation: This particular article focuses absolutely on the trafficking of women from areas that make up what was once the Soviet Union. Offering solid statistics, the article illustrates what an ongoing crisis human trafficking, particularly that of women into sexual servitude, poses to the contemporary world order. As an article, the beginning tends a bit towards the fictionally sensationalist, but the information contained throughout the piece offers a more comprehensive understanding of this heinous facet of the global trend in human trafficking.


Annotation: The chapter immediately notes the tens of thousands of women trafficked from Ukraine and the billions of dollars made by their traffickers. The authors also bring attention to the widespread public condemnation of human trafficking and the disproportionately weak success in bringing the industry to a halt. Hughes and Denisova process through the facts and methods of human trafficking before coming to the main point of their argument: the prevalence of transnational political crime. Given the chaos that endured following the collapse of the Soviet Union, organized crime was able to work its way firmly into the infrastructure of former Soviet satellites such as Ukraine. The authors do not offer solutions, but merely detail the ways in which organized crime has exacerbated the crisis of human trafficking, particularly with regard towards women and sexual servitude. The chapter provides the reader with a solid and profound look at the criminal connections that make human traffickers hard to locate and punish.


Annotation: Lily Hyde’s article studies the differing messages found in the world of Ukrainian human trafficking. She begins her article with contradicting images of trafficking and what she sees as the hypocrisy inherent in the anti-trafficking system. An important aspect of the article is the distinction Hyde makes between human trafficking and the smuggling of people. She notes the difficulty in distinguishing the two, but emphasizes the overall cruelty and bleakness found out at the end of a trafficking ring. She goes on to analyze the role of organizations, particularly NGOs, in the anti-trafficking movement, determining whether or not they may serve more harm than good.


Annotation: As a general overview on the long-lived and enduring problem of human trafficking, the article written by Jahic and Finckenauer provides factual information. It is useful in its application to further understanding the overall complexities of the human trafficking cycle. However, despite its usefulness, the article also has a downfall in being almost too general (for example, no one supports human trafficking). Their conclusion is important, though, in its recognition of the complexity of human trafficking and the
difficulties that emerge in forming a comprehensive plan to work against it. It also notes the need to acknowledge all forms of trafficking, not just those forms used in tandem with sexual servitude.


Annotation: Identifying several “push, pull, and facilitating factors,” Jordan writes an article that, rather than focusing on trafficking from any particular region, studies the explosive growth of trafficking in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Jordan looks at the reasons for trafficking and the forces surrounding it, as well as why women and girls are so disproportionately affected. She then looks at government unwillingness to first acknowledge the crisis, and then identify victims and their unique needs in the realm of human rights. The article is a highly comprehensive analysis on the industry of human trafficking, and it provides the reader with a solid framework from which to view the crisis and consider possible solutions.


Annotation: The use of the term “human smuggling” in the title rather than “human trafficking” gives this particular book less bearing on the topic of trafficking than other sources may have. However, as a source on the varying perspectives of the trade in human beings, the book offers a generally comprehensive study on the transition of human trafficking from a haphazard criminal act to a multi-billion dollar black market industry. The author brings the reader’s attention to the strong organization of trafficking and smuggling rings, as well as to the very deep social and economic roots that the crime has. As it pertains specifically to the case of Ukraine and Russia, a considerable portion of the book is devoted to the study of trafficking from the former Soviet Union, providing the reader with a greater understanding of why that region fuels the problem so forcefully.


Annotation: Though very brief, Kovalev’s article serves as a strong piece in understanding the basics of human trafficking from Eastern Europe. He does not focus specifically on either Russia or Ukraine, but he does single out both as being among the top ten offenders in the industry of human trafficking. In focusing on Russia, Kovalev notes the economic disparities within the country as a whole and the major cities of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Novgorod, looking at how the wage differences affect the growth of the trafficking industry. For a very short piece on the complex world of human trafficking, Kovalev’s article offers the reader a solid understanding of some of the crisis’ sources, but he also offers little hope in counteracting the industry.

Annotation: Kovalev attempts to explain how otherwise bright and hopeful young women from Russia find themselves trapped in the human trafficking industry—usually for sexual enslavement. The E.U. recently urged Russia to tighten its borders and try to restrict the flow, both in and out, of trafficked individuals for any form of exploitation. With its far-reaching criminal network, Russia has for several years been in the top ten source countries for trafficked human beings, and Kovalev brings note to fact that wages in industrialized countries are between thirty and fifty times higher than in Russia, which is a driving force behind trafficking. Kovalev's article provides statistical information, as well as criticism of the methods used so far to combat trafficking.


Annotation: One of the more useful works in the arena of human trafficking, this book first looks at a comprehensive overview of the existence of human trafficking in the contemporary world. Its usefulness primarily comes in the chapter breakdowns of different sub-topics within the broader theme. Specifically, one chapter is devoted entirely to the problem of human trafficking from the region of Eastern Europe. As Russia and Ukraine stand as two of the globe’s worst offenders, direct information on the various manifestations trafficking in humans may take offers deeper insight into the regional problem as a whole.


Annotation: The relationship between human trafficking and the international commercial sex industry is arguably the most visible facet of the human trafficking phenomenon. In her article, Orlova studies the shifting nature of this facet, detailing its transition from predominantly Southeast Asia to the former Soviet Union. She looks at the failure of governing bodies to adequately define trafficking and their subsequent inability to counteract the crisis. The article is a highly involved piece on the many aspects of the sex trade and the trafficking of women and girls from Russia. Its scope is limited to just that, however, ignoring the case of men and boys trafficked from the region as well.

_____. “From Social Dislocation to Human Trafficking.” Problems of Post-Communism (51).

Annotation: In her article, Orlova looks at the reasons behind trafficking in human beings, rather than the existence of trafficking itself. Given the tumultuous sociopolitical history of the former Soviet Union, the plight of trafficking victims from Ukraine and Russia may shed light on a deeper root of the crisis. The article forces the reader to consider historical context, rather than just assume that contemporary issues have a monopoly on the development of human trafficking as a multibillion dollar industry. The article’s usefulness and application is in its almost holistic approach to the issue. Orlova does not assume one cause, but rather understands, and therefore forces, the reader to consider the true complexity of the global human slave trade.

Annotation: Overbeek’s article studies the effects of globalization on the international labor community. It takes into account the growing interconnectedness of global regions and the equal growth of labor mobility. His article does not go into enough detail to be particularly useful in a comprehensive study of human trafficking, but it does draw a direct connection between the expansion of organized crime and the world of human smuggling. As commentary on how globalization affects the overall nature of international relations, the article is descriptive, and the reader may infer useful information from it about the precise issue of trafficking in individuals.


Annotation: Parfitt discusses the stalling efforts of Russia’s State Duma to counter the crisis as ministries and agencies fight over the right to lead the effort. An estimated 50,000 women and girls are trafficked out of Russia every year, and Parfitt also notes the prevalence of domestic trafficking: about ninety percent of Moscow’s prostitutes are from Russia’s many provinces. The article is a factual and solid piece that offers statistics and concrete information on the dangers of human trafficking. It also studies the legal efforts to counteract the industry and how Russia is falling back in an area in which it needs to move forward.


Annotation: Important for its broader focus on human trafficking, Pearson’s article does not merely look at facts and statistics. Her article examines the reality of a trafficked individual, from the moment of induction into the trafficking ring to so-called liberation from slavery. Pearson notes the difficulty that faces freed victims as they are given two options: return to their home country or give information on the trafficker. Particularly for women, both options pose some level of danger. Pearson specifically mentions corruption in Ukraine with freed trafficking victims being exploited by police who threaten to reveal their work as prostitutes. The article is more holistic, studying varying aspects of human trafficking, rather than just one point.


Annotation: Though a decade since publication, the facts presented in Pickup’s article remain mostly relevant in a contemporary framework. She presents the then-current status of human trafficking, particularly trafficking of women, to and from Russia, and the situation remains fairly static today. Her article looks briefly at the relationship between trafficking and organized crime, specifically at the tendency of forced prostitutes to seek the protection
of organized criminal gangs in Russian cities, primarily Moscow. The piece analyzes the state of human trafficking ten years ago, so the numbers are now different, but the situation remains more or less similar, as the two industries, organized crime and human trafficking, continue to thrive throughout Russia.


Annotation: The former Soviet Union, particularly Ukraine, serves as one of the world’s most notorious exporters of trafficking individuals. Olga Pyshchulina studies recent legislation considered by the Ukrainian government that would ultimately criminalize human trafficking and possibly counter its impact. Building on statistics detailing the number of individuals trafficked, specifically females, the author provides a description of the various types of work victims for which victims may migrate. Given the necessity of traffickers in the face of strict migration laws abroad, Pyshchulina looks at the developing criminal code of Ukraine, both its strengths and weaknesses. The article is detailed and careful in its analysis, wholly supportive of the move to halt human trafficking, but also aware of the difficulties that come with legislating its criminality.


Annotation: Rudinsky’s book is a comprehensive look at the status of civil rights in present-day Russia. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the development of a civil society in Russia was severely delayed. Rudinsky looks at the trouble the nation has had in creating a framework by which to monitor and enforce human rights in the context of a civil society, and he brings attention specifically to several areas (human right to dignity, the freedom of movement and residence, the right to freedom from torture and other kinds of inhumane treatment and punishment) that somehow relate to the issue of human trafficking. It is a book that helps the reader look at the human trafficking industry as it relates to international issues as a whole, rather than its isolated effects.


Annotation: Russia is one of the principle players in the human trafficking industry. Understanding Russia’s unique history, as well as its modern society, aids in gaining full awareness of what causes and perpetuates the crisis. Shevtsova looks at contemporary Russia from the last of Boris Yeltsin’s days and into the reign of Vladimir Putin. The book is a comprehensive analysis of the current political and social environment that characterizes the Russian Federation of today. It does not focus specifically on the case of human trafficking to, from, and through the region, but it does offer insight on how the region became such a likely place for the industry’s explosive growth.

Annotation: As a compilation of varying international perspectives, the book offers a comprehensive look at the nature of human trafficking as a cross-border crisis. The editors present pieces that detail the burden on several nations, not just the source nation. Also, they challenge the general misconception that men, women, and children trafficked from Russia come only from the populous cities in the western region of the country by offering a look at the trafficking of women from the Russian far east. As a whole, the book serves as a solid source from which to build information on the problem of human trafficking from Ukraine and Eastern Europe in its multilayered approach and factual presentation.


Annotation: A General Assembly resolution entered into force the convention in September 2003. As a legal document, the convention has three supplemental protocols, one of which is the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. As a function of research, the convention demonstrates the connection between organized crime and human trafficking, creating an international legal framework from which to eventually prosecute.


Annotation: Working with the Institute for Urban Economics and their focus group within Moscow, Tiurukanova notes the general emphasis placed upon the image of the typical victim of human trafficking. In this particular article, the author attempts to bring more attention to the concrete causes of human trafficking, rather than to the generalized idea of the 'victim.' Specifically, Tiurukanova describes in detail the discrepancies between the economy of the Russian Federation and the economies of other leading global markets. Identifying economic weakness and instability as a leading cause of human trafficking, Tiurukanova allows for more discussion on methods by which trafficking may be averted, rather than discussion solely on the face of the trafficked.


Annotation: The Associated Press published a succinct article from Kiev, offering more contemporary statistics on the status of human trafficking from Ukraine. Beneficial for its concise delivery and concentrated facts, the article presents Ukraine as the most prolific
human trafficker of any Eastern European nation since the collapse of the USSR. Using statistics from the International Organization for Migration, the article provides the reader with a solid numerical foundation and possibilities for Ukraine’s active participation in the human trafficking industry.


Annotation: For the purposes of this essay, the HRW report on trafficking and Bosnia and Herzegovina does not actively focus on the separate case of Russia and Ukraine. However, the report highlights the ability of human trafficking as an industry to cross borders easily and quickly. The report documents cases of Russian and Ukrainian women being trafficked to brothels and nightclubs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the express purpose of sexual exploitation. The primary importance of the report as it relates to this research is in its acknowledgement that human trafficking is not self-contained within separate regional spheres. Rather, it has the tendency to spread rapidly and to unstable regions of which there are several surrounding Russia and Ukraine.


Annotation: The Angel Coalition is a leading organization based in Moscow that works against the continuing trend of human trafficking. This particular webpage offers the reader historical and current information on the trafficking industry, focusing on Russia as a sending, receiving, and midway country. As a basic outline of the crisis, the page contains statistical information about the number of women and children trafficked every year to, from, and through the region, as well as monetary estimates on the worth of the industry as a whole. Most beneficial is the recognition that, as difficult as human trafficking is to locate and legislate, there are groups working to try and stem the growing trend.


Annotation: In this brief article, Jim Kouri examines the relationship between Russian organized crime and the industry of human trafficking. He acknowledges the disproportionate number of women and children that are trafficked for sexual and domestic exploitation, and going so far as to label the increasing rates of trafficking as “epidemic.” With regard to Russian organized crime and human trafficking, Kouri draws attention to the concern that what happens in the Russian Federation will eventually spill over into neighboring countries still struggling to stabilize after the collapse of the Soviet Union over a decade ago.

Annotation: The 2000 CNN article examines the connection between organized crime and the industry of human trafficking. Specifically, it connects the drug trade controlled by organized crime syndicates and the need to find new commodities in the face of an international crackdown on the drug trade. It also looks at the role the fall of the Soviet Union has played both in the increase of organized crime and the subsequent rise in trafficking of individuals. As a study on the growing human trafficking industry, the article is very useful in the connections it draws between trafficking itself and other aspects of political and civil society. It forces the reader to acknowledge that trafficking is not a problem isolated from all others—it shares sources and often results.


Annotation: Similar to studying the case of Russia, understanding Ukraine’s current existence and its history may help in fully realizing the scope of human trafficking as it relates to the region. Yekelchyk’s recent book highlights how Ukraine has come to be as it is today, tracing its roots through Stalinism and the Soviet collapse, up to the current place in the twenty-first century. Human trafficking is not pinpointed as a specific issue within the context of the study, but the book serves as a solid overview of the Ukrainian political atmosphere and how it may lend towards the perpetuation of the industry.
Globalization and Human Trafficking
By Devin Brewer

“International cruise line seeks attractive and adventuresome hostess to greet passengers. See the world, meet new people and earn a stable income!” –sounds innocuous enough until a destitute and unwitting applicant with seemingly nothing to lose is recruited from her home country and arrives at her destination only to be forced into prostitution. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that there are 2.4 billion people in the world at any given time involved in forced labor and subjected to exploitation as a result of trafficking (ILO 2008).

As per the definition derived by the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, “trafficking in persons means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons either by threat or use of abduction, force, fraud, deception or coercion, or by the giving or receiving of unlawful payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having the control over another person for the purpose of exploitation” (Martin & Miller 2000).

As the world “shrinks” and evolves toward a sort of global community, the transfer of people both voluntary and coerced is becoming more prevalent. The condensing of the world can be attributed to the process of globalization. It is in large part due to globalization that human trafficking has become such a lucrative and thus, fast-growing criminal activity.

Globalization is the development of an increasingly integrated global economy marked especially by free trade, free flow of capital, and the tapping of cheaper foreign labor markets that transcend nation-state boundaries (Webster.com). In part, globalization disseminates practices, values, technology, and other human products throughout the globe (Bales 2005). It must be acknowledged that forms of slavery and human trafficking are not just outcomes of globalization; they are part of the globalization process itself that involves a functional integration of dispersed economic activities. To illustrate this phenomenon, author Kevin Bales offers the example of the woman recruited in Thailand, and subsequently trafficked to other states as a sex-slave who generates money that is in turn recycled back into the Thailand brothel economy.

It is with the nexus of globalization and human trafficking that this essay is concerned and will endeavor to elucidate throughout.

Economic Globalization as a Facilitator of Human Trafficking

The process of globalization is especially pronounced and entrenched in the world economy. An increasingly integrated world economy enables human trafficking to thrive. Just like the slavery of old, modern day trafficking of humans is a lucrative business that has only become more rewarding for traffickers with the advent of globalization. In fact, the trans-Atlantic slave trade of centuries ago epitomized economic globalization. Just as it was back then, human trafficking, as abhorrent as it is, remains a matter of supply and demand. To corroborate this stark and unfortunate economic reality, the ILO estimates that annual global profits generated from trafficking amount to around U.S. $32 billion (ILO 2008).
Polakoff submits that economic globalization has led to a form of “global apartheid” and a corresponding emergence of a new “fourth world” populated by millions of homeless, incarcerated, impoverished, and otherwise socially excluded people (Polakoff 2007). It is from this pool of “fourth world” denizens where victims of human trafficking are increasingly drawn. From this perspective, economic globalization is the prime culprit of the facilitation of an exorbitant number of vulnerable trafficking victims worldwide. More precisely, according to the U.S. Department of State’s 2008 report, about 600,000 to 800,000 people—mostly women and children—are trafficked across national borders. In this age of globalization, one can only expect these numbers to escalate as the inequalities and the economic disparities between the developing and developed worlds continue at the present pace.

Globalization fosters interdependence between states for commerce and facilitates the transfer of commodities. Comparative advantage in goods and cheap labor in developing states has played a significant role in objectifying and exploiting humans for economic ends. In developing states where agrarian lifestyles once predominated, citizens are left without an education or the appropriate skills to compete in an evolving work-force. To a large extent, the lesser developed countries of the world have become the factories and workshops for the developed countries. A high demand for cheap labor by multinational corporations in developed countries has resulted in the trafficking and exploitation of desperate workers who, in turn, are subjected to a lifetime of slave-like conditions.

Victims and Perpetrators: The Usual Suspects

As socio-economically disadvantaged people improvise to salvage a livelihood in a transforming world, opportunistic predators seize upon the vulnerability of the desperate. Women and children are the most vulnerable and thus, principle victims of traffickers who coerce their services predominantly in the sex industries. Otherwise, forced labor and slavery in any capacity is a common fate for trafficked humans; victims may just as easily include men in addition to women and children.

Chief among traffickers are organized criminal syndicates that capitalize on a lucrative sex-trafficking industry that has met with an insatiable demand. In particular, crime syndicates are notorious for their aplomb in identifying vulnerable females who entertain visions of a better life and may thus be more susceptible to deceptive job opportunities in a foreign country. Once they arrive in the “destination” country, it is often too late for these vulnerable women to escape the web of deceit as they are relegated to a life of slavery.

The ultimate icon of globalization, the internet, has also proven to facilitate the trafficking of individuals. Traffickers can now, from the comfort of their own lairs, lure women into trafficking under the guise of mundane job advertisements in foreign countries.

Globalization Against Human Trafficking: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution

As a result of the underground nature of their trade, traffickers often manage to stay one step ahead of law enforcement. Heretofore, globalization has largely facilitated human trafficking while accordingly serving to impede counter-trafficking efforts. State-centered approaches to combat trafficking are proving obsolete and futile since human trafficking knows no state boundaries. As such, many proponents of a globalized law-enforcement network, such as Christien van den Anker,
advocate a concerted cosmopolitan attack against trafficking that encourages law enforcement collaboration across state boundaries.

International Institutions such as Interpol, the U.N., and a host of NGOs are teaming up to combat human trafficking. Following the adoption of the Palermo Protocol initiated by the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, many states have enacted new anti-trafficking laws or sought to bring their laws in line with international standards to propagate awareness of the problem, to prevent trafficking, and to protect victims and prosecute traffickers.

Furthermore, numerous activists against human trafficking have proposed a multi-tiered approach to combat globalized human trafficking that assume a more pro-active stance compared to what has historically been a reactive struggle against trafficking. Many of these approaches advocate programs and methods that dissuade the trafficking of humans in the first place. Author Vanessa Baird advocates education programs designed to discourage men from soliciting sex. Baird also promotes the new global trend started by Sweden in 1998 of approaching the problem from the “demand” side by pursuing and prosecuting the traffickers and those seeking these illicit services as opposed to the sex-workers themselves.

Kevin Bales also presents the novel suggestion of calling on researchers to follow the flow of raw materials from slave to marketplace to identify corporations linked to slavery and instances of forced labor facilitated by trafficking.

The Battle Wages On

In the enticing interest of potential colossal profits, criminal elements continue to elude law enforcement measures through an array of complex and evasive tactics. Traditionally well-organized criminal syndicates, such as the Chinese Triads or the Russian Mafia, have made trafficking in humans a cornerstone of their lucrative yet largely illicit activities. Because they are so well-networked across borders, elaborate money-laundering schemes have sprung up where proceeds from trafficking are remitted to “underground” banks in countries where the rule of law is weak thus, exacerbating law enforcement abilities to connect the monies to the crimes (Lan, 2004).

Although it is often speculated that the market in humans as trafficked commodities supersedes states’ capabilities to control trafficking, it remains the obligation of international NGOs and nation-state law enforcement agencies to collaborate to adopt a multi-tiered approach to counter the scourge of human trafficking.

Only with the continued advent and implementation of novel approaches geared toward the elimination of human trafficking can the global community and law enforcement institutions stymie the spread of the global pandemic of human trafficking that afflicts humanity.

Annotated Bibliography

Annotation: The article reports on the trafficking of women sold into sexual slavery, and describes the deceitful tactics used to trick women into becoming sex slaves. The author deems the sex trade a worldwide epidemic that has metastasized since the mid 1990s. The author conveys the negative repercussions of economic globalization and its unwitting promotion of sex trafficking. The article includes examples of education programs designed to discourage men from soliciting sex, and also the new global trend started by Sweden in 1998 of pursuing and prosecuting the traffickers and those seeking these illicit services as opposed to targeting the sex-workers themselves.


Annotation: The author highlights a modern form of slavery attributable to three interrelated factors: a population explosion that has inundated world markets with impoverished and desperate people; economic globalization and modernized agriculture that has made agrarian lifestyles increasingly obsolete; and rapid economic change in developing countries that has bred corruption and violence while simultaneously destroying social norms. All of these phenomena are brought to light through the author’s use of country and individual case studies. The author presents suggestions for combating this “new” slavery including calling on researchers to follow the flow of raw materials from slave to marketplace to identify corporations linked to slavery. This is a comprehensive analysis of globalization and its detrimental socio-economic repercussions that increase vulnerability to trafficking within certain demographics.


Annotation: This broad article deals more with slavery than with human trafficking in particular. However, it contains a section in which globalization is defined, and in which the facilitation of trafficking across nation-states is discussed. The author shows how forms of slavery have evolved by making a comparison between old and new usages of slaves. The author stresses that new forms of slavery and human trafficking are not just outcomes of economic globalization, but are part of the globalization process itself as people become commercialized and are exploited for a variety of different reasons.


Annotation: Bales renders a concise working definition of globalization as it pertains to the facilitation of human trafficking. Specifically, Bales considers globalization a process that, in part, disseminates practices, values, technology, and other human products throughout the globe. Bales alludes to the fact that economic globalization and the facilitation of trade between nation-states has contributed a great deal to the trafficking of humans across state boundaries.

Annotation: This article focuses on transnational efforts to combat trafficking. The author highlights three themes: sex trafficking vs. labor trafficking; legalization vs. abolition; and supply vs. demand. The author awards credit to NGOs for campaigns to clamp down on violence against women for having a positive effect in the global campaign to combat trafficking. However, the author expresses frustration with the global governance structure. Namely, the author denounces a lack of coordination between NGOs, international institutions, and state governments.


Annotation: The author alludes to the notion that globalization is a “gendered” process that, in particular, makes women most vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. Much discourse is dedicated to the idea that large syndicates alone are not culpable for human trafficking, but rather smaller groups acquainted with the trafficked people themselves are responsible. This is an authoritative source specific to the trafficking of women and not useful for understanding the whole spectrum of human trafficking.


Annotation: The author refers to specific organized crime groups such as the Chinese Triads and the Russian and Italian Mafias responsible for a considerable share of global human trafficking. The author notes that the market supersedes states’ capabilities to control trafficking especially when proceeds are laundered and remitted to underground banks around the world that operate in cultures where the absence of rule of law hinders international crackdowns on these operations.


Annotation: The author touches on the notion that free trade agreements between nation-states exacerbate the existing deficiencies in the underdeveloped state when state institutions are weak and do not assist poorer demographics. The author presents statistics indicating that poverty increased in Mexico after a free trade agreement was signed with the United States. This article is germane for those trying to understand how foreign policy, coupled with economic globalization, facilitates human trafficking across state borders.

Annotation: The author argues that current legal responses to human trafficking fail to address the socio-economic causes that make people vulnerable to trafficking to begin with. Instead of solely focusing on the prosecution of traffickers, there should be a push throughout the international community to promote basic economic, social, and cultural rights. The absence of these rights, especially in the underdeveloped world, has perpetuated the trafficking of humans. By advocating grass-roots remedies, the author takes a pro-active and pre-emptive approach to eradicating human trafficking; it is an approach that is oftentimes overlooked in other works on the topic.


Annotation: The purpose of this book is to spread the word about the trafficking industry—its sources, operations and structures. The author offers a feminist perspective based on the notion that oppression of women and trafficking are attributable to a globalized patriarchal society. Farr also details the various networks that perpetrate human trafficking and how their jobs are facilitated by a global economy that contributes to a lack of job opportunities for women in underdeveloped countries. This is a helpful account and description of why and how women are targeted by traffickers.


Annotation: This article examines how children are victimized and affected by trafficking. The author asserts that untold numbers of children are being systematically deprived of their human rights, dignity, and childhood through child prostitution, child pornography, and other “sex-ploitation” that damage children in numerous ways. The article offers data that indicate the number of children being trafficked for sex purposes across an array of countries including: Colombia, China, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and South Africa among others. The article acknowledges contributions made by NGOs such as End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) that encourage more global cooperation among countries to combat child trafficking.


Annotation: The article refers to the Palermo Protocol which is a supplement to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime and its shift of focus from the victims of
trafficking to the perpetrators, and its emphasis of targeting them for legal prosecution. The article also differentiates between countries of origin, transit, and destination and enumerates which countries are prominent in these respective stages of trafficking. The “push” and “pull” phenomenon is mentioned in the sense that poor women are often “pushed” away from their countries by poverty and war, while being “pulled” towards other countries in the pursuit of a better life. The essay advocates a multilevel “ecological” approach by social workers in the areas of policy, community, and direct practice.


Annotation: The author discusses the economic toll on the “third world” created by globalization and industrialization of former agrarian societies, and how women in particular become more vulnerable in “transition economies” of developing nations. Though capitalist globalization is in part responsible for the increasing incidence of human trafficking, the author also points out the fact that inequalities in general, whether they be social, economic, gender, or racial based, contribute to the prominence of global human trafficking. The author advocates the partnership and syndication of international police forces to counter the increasingly well-networked crime syndicates responsible for a large amount of human trafficking worldwide.


Annotation: The author asserts that improved communication and transportation due to globalization has facilitated the emergence of sexual trafficking. The author mentions that sex work is often the only line of work available to poor women in third world countries and that prostitution for them is a “survival strategy.” Nonetheless, the author mentions prostitution as a more lucrative alternative to lower paying domestic or factory works which may lead the reader to believe that less degrading forms of employment do in fact exist, albeit for lesser pay.


Annotation: The author points out that research in human trafficking has surged in the past decade and documents the regions of the world where research in trafficking is most prominent. The author concludes that Europe has conducted forty-four percent of studies in trafficking. The author elucidates limitations in studies on trafficking, including the fact that some states, especially in the developing world, do not have trafficking laws on the books and the crimes get reported under different “headings.” Nevertheless, the author applauds
recent efforts by NGOs and international institutions to help foster a common understanding of trafficking across the globe and their concerted efforts to collect data systematically.


Annotation: The author addresses the surge of the transnational sex industry in the 1990s as a result of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The author’s approach to the topic caters to a law enforcement perspective by addressing the roles that transnational police organizations can play with respect to preventing and investigating the activities of the global sex industry. Specifically, the author addresses how governments and international governmental organizations such as the United Nations are also now focusing on this issue from local and global perspectives. Upon identifying the actors involved in the global sex trade crackdown, the author presents recommendations for strengthening law enforcement of illegal sex-trafficking activities.


Annotation: The author makes the helpful distinction between smuggling and trafficking. The article touts efforts by the Clinton administration and international institutions such as the United Nations for their concerted efforts to heighten global awareness of and to combat trafficking. The author presents statistics from the various regions of the globe to illustrate some of the reasons for which people are smuggled and trafficked.


Annotation: The author counts human trafficking as one of the five scourges of globalization upon which “war” must be waged. The author concedes that confronting the market that stimulates trafficking is a daunting task and that the international community needs to revamp its approach to trafficking. Among other things, the author proposes strengthening existing multilateral institutions, revising our universal conception of sovereignty when it comes to allowing states to pursue traffickers in other countries’ territory, and devising new mechanisms and institutions with which to enforce laws.

Annotation: The author, as Deputy Director General for the International Organization of Migration (IOM), states how the IOM and its many partners worldwide provide assistance with shelter, physical and psychological health care, legal counseling, and voluntary return and reintegration assistance to empower victims once they have returned home. Efforts to provide assistance to exploited children are also enumerated such as ways to promote microfinance among poor employers who often exploit children for cheap labor. The author stresses addressing root causes of irregular migration to ensure that people migrate of their own accord and not under duress.


Annotation: The author discusses the impact of economic globalization on low income families in the poorer regions of the world. The article underscores the crucial role that children in the third-world play in supporting their families and assigns blame for this undesirable phenomenon to underlying processes of economic globalization whereby children become commodities on the global labor, agriculture, and sex markets. Interestingly, the author addresses how economic globalization has created a form of “global apartheid” resulting in a “fourth world” populated by millions of homeless, incarcerated, impoverished, and otherwise socially excluded denizens. The author advocates restructuring of the global economy to benefit local communities and not just global capitalist interests. The article presents a useful analysis of the prominent role of children in the global economy.


Annotation: The author takes a fairly unorthodox approach by suggesting that instances of human trafficking may be reduced by legalizing prostitution. Such alternative approaches have been broached in Thailand and also in Sweden. In the case of Sweden, in 1999, men were punished for soliciting sex from prostitutes who were, themselves, immune from criminal prosecution. The discourse on legalization, however, ends on a rather negative and ambiguous note when the author cites that although demand for prostitution decreased in Sweden, demand increased in neighboring countries.


Annotation: The author presents compelling statistics from the United Nations which indicate that human trafficking is increasing each year as its lucrative nature continues to attract traffickers. The author conducts an interview with four women, from diverse backgrounds, involved in challenging the international trafficking of women that offers insight from their various perspectives into how to best combat a new and challenging form
of globalized human trafficking. This is a reliable primary source that harvests the experience and knowledge of four women who have made combating trafficking their lives’ work.


Annotation: The article focuses on the problem of human trafficking in the twenty-first century. The author broaches the startling notion that slavery may be one of the most representative consequences of global capitalism. The author highlights a basic supply and demand phenomenon of the global market whereby a surplus of individuals are trafficked to more affluent regions of the world to perform highly demanded duties or jobs at minimal expense. The author credits NGOs with heightening awareness during the late 1990s and urges the imposition of more political and economic sanctions by states to help eliminate human trafficking.


Annotation: The author believes that a key to reducing trafficking is to foment a comprehensive effort within the global community to reduce global inequality that would have real benefits for individuals who suffer from exploitation or slavery. The author somewhat radically advocates the imposition of an assortment of taxes, including trans-Atlantic slave trade reparations deemed useful in reducing poverty in countries where people are most vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.


Annotation: This article addresses how to tackle the matter of trafficking in women. Based on conclusions drawn from past studies, the author advocates a multidimensional approach that combines punitive approaches to traffickers and protection of human rights of those being trafficked, as well as stricter border control and the removal of the impetus of irregular migration movements in the first place. In addition, greater law enforcement coordination between origin, transit and receiving states is advocated.

*International Organizations*


Annotation: The press release documents the momentous occasion of the entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. The convention is a pact between fourteen European states committed to ensure enhanced respect and protection of the rights of trafficked people. This is a useful example of how
states are treating trafficked people as victims instead of as illegal aliens or criminals. This is a valid portrayal of how globalization and nation-state interaction has contributed to the battle against human trafficking.


Annotation: The ILO prides itself in its pioneering estimate that out of 12.3 million forced-labor victims worldwide, 2.4 million of these have been trafficked. The ILO by virtue of its interest in labor, views trafficking from a labor market perspective; thereby, seeking to eliminate root causes such as poverty, lack of employment, and inefficient labor migration systems. This is a significantly thorough report on human trafficking and the forced labor it typically results in.


Annotation: This is an authoritative account by a well respected international organization. This report brings to light the increasing prevalence of human trafficking as a facilitator of forced labor especially in the European region. The report urges the unified action of European states to become more aware of the problem of forced labor and to collaborate in preventing it, prosecuting the traffickers, and protecting the victims. This is a helpful source in understanding the dynamics of human trafficking in Europe.


Annotation: This is a comprehensive report that deals with global patterns in human trafficking. The report covers every area of the globe that is involved with human trafficking and gives detailed definitions and descriptions of terms typically associated with trafficking. Its self professed endeavor is to close the knowledge gap that exists when it comes to lay people and law enforcement agencies alike in understanding the various forms of human trafficking and how to combat them. This is a valuable source in the context of human trafficking as a global phenomenon.


Annotation: The report documents the launch on March 26, 2008 of a global initiative to fight human trafficking, or UNGIFT. The program is a collaborative effort between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with other United Nations agencies, governments, and NGOs. The ultimate goal of this concerted effort is to end human
trafficking by increasing public awareness, building regional alliances, and mustering political support by channeling existing efforts into a cohesive framework. The report is useful in that it presents an up-to-date synopsis of a globalized effort to combat human trafficking.


Annotation: This is perhaps the most authoritative and comprehensive source on all things related to human trafficking. As the most recent in a series of annual reports, the 2007 Report on Human Trafficking has the most current statistics on every country. Included is also a “random factor” section that is pertinent to how globalization has facilitated human trafficking. The report cites that a greater variety of nationalities have been documented among trafficking victims in destination countries. An explanation for this is that traffickers are relying on vast distances and cultural and linguistic differences to increase the vulnerability of victims. The report warns that as economic and logistical barriers to travel diminish this trend should continue.
Many people have immigrated to the United States, hoping to live the “American dream.” Unfortunately, this romantic notion is part of the reason that the United States has become one of the most sought after destination countries for human trafficking. It is easy for traffickers to convince potential victims that they can live the American dream. Traffickers from all over the world and all walks of life profit in this booming market, by promising poor and vulnerable people high wages in legitimate jobs as farm workers, maids, and waitresses. Many of these people end up in terrible conditions as indentured servants: their travel documents are confiscated, they have no freedom of movement, and they are held in captivity under threats of violence.

The dominant types of trafficking to and within the United States are sex trafficking (of women and children), and trafficking in sweatshop, migrant, and domestic labor. Of these types of trafficking, sex trafficking receives the most attention from the government and from the public at large. Many researchers argue, however, that this focus on sex trafficking has two negative consequences: one is that victims of sex trafficking are thought of less and less as victims, but rather are stigmatized as illegal prostitutes. Secondly, the focus on sex trafficking draws attention and resources away from victims of other types of trafficking, which are probably just as widespread as the sex trade.

It is difficult to discern a concrete number of trafficked persons in America. In 1999, the CIA estimated that 45,000–50,000 women and children are trafficked each year into the United States. In 2003, however, the estimate was between 18,000 and 20,000. In 2005, yet another estimate was put forth, this time 14,500–17,500 (Albanese 2005). It is also important to note that none of these estimates include male trafficking victims. The lack of an accurate statistic, many policy-makers argue, has made it difficult to develop adequate mechanisms for combating the problem.

Many trafficking victims enter the United States illegally, crossing the Mexican border, either on foot, through tunnels, or in buses and trucks. A smaller number enters by crossing the Canadian border. Some are brought into the country by air and land into California, New York, or Miami. In these cases, traffickers expertly produce fraudulent travel documents, such as passports and work visas. Some traffickers even hire U.S. lawyers to obtain residency permits. Once in the United States, victims are often told they must work until they pay off their travel costs and document costs, but these debts are often insurmountable. Despite the lack of accurate statistics, it is safe to say that women are the largest group of trafficking victims, and that most of these women are duped by promises of legitimate jobs as waitresses in American restaurants.

According to the 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report, most victims in the United States are trafficked from East Asia, Eastern Europe, Mexico, and Central America. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) gives the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines for certifying trafficking victims. This certification allows victims to receive social benefits. Between 2000 and 2007, HHS has certified 1,175 victims from 77 countries (Office of the Secretary of State 2007). The main source countries of victims certified in 2006 were El Salvador, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, and Honduras. Considering the range of statistics listed above, it is clear that
only a small fraction of the total number of trafficking victims in the United States are certified to receive social services.

Traffickers who operate outside and within the United States are diverse. Some are diplomats trafficking women for domestic labor. These perpetrators cannot be prosecuted because of diplomatic immunity. Many traffickers operate in very small groups, which are known as “mom-and-pop” operations. Large organized crime groups, such as Asian mafias, also traffic people to the United States. Asian traffickers are commonly referred to as “snakeheads,” while Mexican traffickers are known as “coyotes.” Women often have a larger role in trafficking operations, because they are better at luring potential victims.

The main piece of U.S. legislation designed to combat human trafficking is the TVPA, originally passed by President Clinton in 2000. Arguably the most comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation in the world, it recognizes the global scope of trafficking by containing both domestic and international guidelines to fight trafficking. The annual Trafficking in Persons report (TIP) details the trafficking situation in the United States and ranks other countries according to their cooperation in combating trafficking. Countries that do not meet certain criteria are now subject to penalties such as economic sanctions. Despite the good intentions of the TIP report, some countries friendly with the United States have been ranked low on the scale, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. This ranking has caused some diplomatic friction. Additionally, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has raised doubts about the accuracy of information in the TIP report and has questioned the source of such information.

Perhaps the most important changes that came with the TVPA were the distinction between smuggling and trafficking, and the establishment of longer prison sentences for traffickers. Trafficked persons are now defined as victims, not just illegal aliens. The TVPA has also included psychological coercion on the part of traffickers as a criminal defense. Longer prison sentences for convicted traffickers are supposed to act as a deterrent against trafficking, and traffickers can now be prosecuted even if they use no physical force against their victims. Compared to other types of transnational crime, like drug trafficking, human trafficking carried very light sentences, and this was the reason why many criminals chose to engage in it. Human trafficking now carries a maximum prison term of twenty years, and if the case of trafficking results in the death of the victim, the trafficker may face life in prison. The average prison term for a trafficker in 2005 was 8.5 years (U.S. Department of Justice 2006).

The other main focus of the TVPA is to provide social services and legal benefits to trafficking victims, including employment authorization, housing, mental health services, medical care, and Supplemental Security Income. Some victims even have the option of entering the Witness Protection Program. If a victim fits certain criteria, he or she can receive immigration assistance in the form of a temporary visa (T-visa) to stay in the United States. To fit the T-visa criteria (under 2000 TVPA requirements), the victims must have suffered a severe form of trafficking, be physically present in the United States, and comply with federal law enforcement. If a victim is underage, the TVPA also allows the parents to receive T-visas to stay with the child.

In 2003, Congress reauthorized the TVPA to improve many parts of the legislation. The new legislation, now known as the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) appropriated more funds to fight trafficking overseas. This shows that the American government realized that international cooperation is an inescapable necessity for solving the trafficking problem.
The TVPRA also sought to make all benefits more accessible to victims, especially by relaxing the eligibility requirements for T-visas. Now, if entire families are granted T-visas, all members are eligible to receive social benefits. Between 2000 and 2006, 729 T-visas were issued to trafficking victims and 645 T-visas were issued to family members of victims (Office of the Secretary of State 2007).

The original TVPA authorized the President to fund public trafficking awareness programs, non-governmental organizations, and further research on trafficking. One controversial new requirement of the TVPRA was that for any anti-trafficking organization to receive government funding, it had to formally refuse to promote, support, or advocate the legalization of prostitution. This was controversial because it created tension between some activists, who believed women should have the right to choose prostitution, and other activists, who work to abolish prostitution. Many organizations also believed that their First Amendment rights were being violated.

Just as in other countries, the research on human trafficking in the United States has critical gaps. Most Americans have no idea that any human trafficking even takes place in the country. The public usually only hears about major cases of sex trafficking, which cause moral outcry. This moral panic is what drives research on human trafficking, but this research is not well thought-out or methodical. A better-informed public will aid law enforcement agencies in spotting traffickers and their victims. Gathering consistent and accurate statistics about the number of trafficking victims in the United States is critical in order to make sure that adequate social benefits exist for victims. Research is also lacking on the extent to which victims are trafficked along routes within the United States, and how many males are victims of trafficking. The United States Government must continue to devote anti-trafficking resources both internally and to other countries, in order to stop the cycle of trafficking.

Annotations

Background Information on Trafficking in the United States


Annotation: Bales’s book is a profile of “new slavery” in today’s world. He uses five case studies (Thailand, Mauritania, Brazil, Pakistan, and India) to explore the types of slavery that still exist. Even though none of the chapters deals explicitly with the United States, the case study on Mauritania sheds interesting light on the American Government’s attitude toward slavery. Although Mauritania has legally outlawed slavery several times, the practice still exists; U.S government chooses to ignore the problem in favor of maintaining a friendly and strategic relationship with this North African country.


Annotation: This book is a comprehensive reference guide to contemporary slavery and human trafficking. Bales includes chapters with historical information; forms, examples, and solutions of contemporary slavery; statistics; a directory of anti-slavery organizations and agencies; and discussion
of slavery in America. Bales's particularly noteworthy chapter on slavery in America uses case studies to show the nature and scope of slavery in the United States. Bales also analyzes existing data to draw definitive conclusions about slavery in America. He ends the chapter with detailed recommendations that include increasing law enforcement efforts, supporting survivors of trafficking, and raising public awareness.


Annotation: This chapter is an introductory summary of the issues surrounding human trafficking in the United States. Despite its brevity, the chapter explains important distinctions between human smuggling and human trafficking, and between clandestine migration and legal migration. The authors even mention the problem of corruption among government officials in both source and destination countries. For those with absolutely no knowledge of human trafficking in the United States, this chapter is a useful starting point for laying out the main facets and complexities of the problem.


Annotation: Although this book does not read like an academic work, it is a good introduction to the scope of the new slave trade of the 21st century. King discusses the realities of America as a primary destination country for trafficked persons, and includes profiles of some major traffickers who have worked in America. The book ends with an appendix detailing several criminal cases of trafficking in the United States, as well as an appendix on organized crime rings involved in trafficking. The personal stories of several trafficked women are also given, which lends a more personal feeling to the book.


Annotation: Lowe describes human trafficking as the most profitable area of organized crime. She investigates the history of this form of contemporary slavery and the Trafficking Victims’ Protection Act (TVPA) legislation written to fight the problem. She gives some valuable introductory information on the problem, and offers many suggestions on how to fight the problem, but her suggestions are typical of the common ideas many other researchers have had.


Annotation: Miko focuses the bulk of the chapter on the United State Government’s response to
trafficking. He details actions during the Clinton and Bush administrations, as well as the State Department’s annual Trafficking in Persons report and various Congressional actions. After exploring what has been done in America to combat trafficking, Miko ends by posing a series of questions for the government to consider as it refines its efforts in fighting trafficking. This chapter provides a good introduction to the types of policy the U.S. government has utilized in fighting this problem.


Annotation: This annual report covers April 2006-March 2007, and is arguably the most comprehensive worldwide report on the subject of human trafficking. The report is intended to raise awareness, highlight advances made each year in fighting trafficking, and influence other foreign governments to take action against this issue. Most of the report is dedicated to country narratives, which describe the severity of trafficking in a country as well as their government’s efforts to fight trafficking. Based on this analysis, the severity of trafficking in each country is ranked as either tier one, two, or three.


Annotation: This recent report from the Congressional Research Service gives general information about the trafficking problem in the United States and is updated periodically to add the latest developments. This particular report describes current trafficking legislation in the 110th Congress, especially the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 3887). This act would monitor the effectiveness of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) and establish a database of trafficking information for governmental departments and agencies. The report also analyzes the 2007 Trafficking in Persons report and the scope of responses to trafficking in the United States.


Annotation: The authors pinpoint Mexico as an obvious entry point and source country for trafficking to the United States. Mexico is also a major transit point for trafficking from other source countries. Labor exploitation, sexual slavery, sex tourism, and illegal adoptions are all reasons for human trafficking in this context. Through their investigation, the authors found that Mexican government corruption and high levels of poverty exacerbate the problem of human trafficking between Mexico and the United States. Shirk and Webber’s best recommendation is to consult former victims of trafficking in order to discern the best tactics for combating this crime.

Annotation: Siers argues that human trafficking not only affects victims and law enforcement agencies, but also directly impacts United States national security. She ranks trafficking among the four biggest threats to security, including nuclear/technical smuggling, drug trafficking, and intellectual property crime. These four types of transnational crime are negative consequences of globalization, and intersect in complex ways. Siers argues that since trafficking breeds in states with weak economies, part of the fight against trafficking must come from U.S. aid to other states.


Annotation: Despite the title of Zhang’s book, only one chapter specifically deals with human trafficking in the United States. Zhang characterizes the scope and causes of human trafficking as well as the traffickers themselves. He includes case studies of Korean sex traffickers, arguing that they are some of the most sophisticated traffickers in the U.S. Zhang sees shortcomings in the State Department’s annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, namely that it is unclear who decides what information will be included and how accurate the information is. Even though most of the book deals with human smuggling, it contains important information about methods used to clandestinely bring people across U.S. borders.

Who gets trafficked?


Annotation: Acharya examines the increasing number of female migrants from Mexico to the United States, but finds that the line between migration and trafficking is difficult to discern because research is lacking in this area. Since economic conditions in Mexico are quite poor and the society remains patriarchal, women who seek out better opportunities are especially vulnerable to traffickers. Acharya includes testimony from a Mexican woman about her experience as a victim of sex trafficking in America.


Annotation: Fulginiti cites a large increase in deaths among people who illegally cross the Arizona border into the United States. She specifically focuses her investigation on Maricopa County. Forensic investigations into several of these deaths have uncovered a chilling new trend among “coyotes,” human traffickers who are paid to smuggle people over the U.S. border. These people increasingly threaten their human cargo, demanding extra money once within the U.S. If the victims do not comply, “coyotes” murder them indiscriminately and leave the bodies in the desert. Some deaths are also attributed to violence between competing gangs of traffickers.

Annotation: Gozdziak and Bump see several gaps in research on child trafficking victims. Children should not be lumped together with adult female victims, because they have different needs and abilities than women. Additionally, most research on child victims centers only on young girls and not on boys. The authors gathered data over a twelve-month period through interviews with survivors and service providers, and studies of case files. Between 2000 and 2007, only a small percentage of the total number of child trafficking victims received assistance from the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The majority of referrals were deemed ineligible for benefits. The two largest source countries for child victims were Mexico and Honduras. The majority of the children were between 14 and 17 years of age when trafficked. In order to combat this problem, the authors argue that child labor must be combated all over the world, since most child victims of trafficking were seeking labor when trafficked.


Annotation: When considering the victims of human trafficking, children are most vulnerable because of their lack of maturity and development and need for special attention. Of all trafficking victims, children are most often unidentified and do not seek out any rehabilitative services. Gozdziak and MacDonnell use case studies of child trafficking victims to identify gaps in services available to trafficked children, especially through the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). The authors make nine detailed recommendations for future policy changes.


Annotation: This comprehensive report on sex trafficking of women in the United States was funded by the Department of Justice. The scope of the report is purposely broad in order to establish a research framework on the topic. Topics covered include connections between supply and demand of trafficked women, characteristics of local sex industries, linkage between international and domestic trafficking, and social consequences of trafficking. The report offers a regional comparison of trafficking in San Francisco, New York, the Northern Midwest, the Northeast, and the Southeast. Data were compiled through over one hundred interviews with victims, law enforcement officials, and social service providers.

Who are the traffickers?


Annotation: This study identifies human trafficking committed by Asians as transnational crime that
poses a threat to the United States. Research methods included interviews, field observations with
U.S. and Asian officials, and a literature survey. Findings show that many more Asians are smuggled
to the U.S. than trafficked, and that Asian organized crime groups do not play as big a role in human
trafficking to the United States as formerly thought. Most trafficking from Asia to the United States
is perpetrated by small “mom-and-pop” organizations. Researchers found that many Asian officials
did not mention human trafficking from Asia to the U.S. as a threat to American interests.


Annotation: This article highlights the problem of diplomats who traffic domestic servants to the
United States. Diplomats cannot be prosecuted because of diplomatic immunity, not even under the
Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). Ironically, some of these traffickers even work for
international organizations that combat trafficking. Friedrich details the causes and effects of this
problem, aspects of existing legislation that are most effective in dealing with this type of trafficking,
and the laws of immunity which protect these diplomats. Friedrich ends by evaluating solutions to
this problem and argues that the jus cogens aspect of international law overrides diplomatic
immunity in these cases.

Hughes, Donna M., Katherine Y. Chon, and Derek P. Ellerman. 2007. “Modern-Day Comfort Women: The
U.S. Military, Transnational Crime, and the Trafficking of Women.” *Violence Against Women* 13
(9):901-922.

Annotation: The authors of this study investigate the fact that U.S. military personnel sometimes aid
trafficking in and around their military bases all over the world. For this study, the authors
concentrate on military bases in South Korea because U.S. soldiers have been stationed there for
almost six decades. Additionally, there are over one hundred U.S. military bases throughout the
country with over 37,000 troops. The U.S. government responds by saying it cannot intervene
because this would violate South Korea's sovereignty. It is accurate to say that U.S. military bases in
South Korea are a major transit point for human trafficking from East Asia to the U.S. Many
Korean women trafficked to the U.S. got there in part through fake marriages to U.S. servicemen.

States.” In *Transnational Threats: Smuggling and Trafficking in Arms, Drugs, and Human Life.*

Annotation: This recent work is valuable because it addresses developments in trafficking to the
United States and elucidates shortcomings in U.S. policy towards trafficking. One focus is the
changing face of the traffickers themselves. Organized crime rings have become the main traffickers,
replacing individual traffickers who operated independently. Shelley focuses on the huge growth of
trafficking to the United States and suggests that not enough has been done to combat the problem.
She does not, however, make any concrete suggestions for future U.S. policies, which is a weakness
in her piece.

Annotation: This chapter focuses on trafficking of women and children, especially in relation to Russia and America. Stoecker describes economic and social conditions in Russia that cause trafficking to the United States. Stoecker estimates that up to 3,000 Russian mobsters participate in trafficking in the United States. The author finds a rise in demand for Slavic women in the world of trafficking and studies different international trafficking routes. The Baltic route is especially porous for people trafficked to the United States. Stoecker sees a lack of research in assessing American demand for trafficked persons and argues this research is vital in addition to fighting supply in other countries. Prevalence of husband-and-wife teams operating in the United States is also addressed.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act


Annotation: The authors argue that more research on the scope of trafficking in the United States is needed to make the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) more effective. The annual Trafficking in Persons report (TIP) estimates the number of trafficking victims in the U.S. per year, but the estimate fluctuates from 14,500 to 50,000. The authors attempt to compile an accurate count of victims by analyzing newspaper stories in major cities on trafficking arrests during 2002. The authors found only fifty-one trafficking reports, and because some cases were reported in more detail than others, the authors were unable to compile a full range of data.


Annotation: DeStefano traces the evolution and effectiveness of U.S. domestic policy against human trafficking from the mid-1990s to present. He specifically examines the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) and its revisions. Many legislators and law enforcement officials have focused on sex trafficking in the United States as the main problem, but DeStefano argues for a multifaceted approach. He argues that trafficking in forced labor is comparable to the sex trade in scope and negative implications. Additionally, the intense focus on sex trafficking has stigmatized innocent victims as prostitutes. The author includes several trafficking cases to illustrate the diverse facets of trafficking in the United States.


Annotation: This chapter is a condensed version of a report on the effectiveness of United States
legislation and governmental and non-governmental efforts against human trafficking between 2000 and 2006. The authors first explore the nature of the problem by citing statistics, and then examine the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) for shortcomings. The three main complaints listed in the report are trafficking victims must be more adequately protected under legislation, the law enforcement approach to fighting trafficking is inconsistent and fragmented, and there is a lack of public awareness.


Annotation: Kim studies the role of psychological coercion in human trafficking, and notes that the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was the first legislation to criminalize psychological coercion as a tactic used by traffickers. Formerly, traffickers could only be penalized for the use of physical force when controlling their prisoners. This article is framed in the context of U.S. examples and legislation, so it is valuable for those studying trafficking in the United States.


Annotation: This article uncovers the difficulties and shortcomings in the current Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) legislation by studying a group of migrant farm workers in Colorado, who filed claims under the TVPA. By focusing on this case, Medige offers suggestions to improve protections for trafficking victims. The main suggestions are that various law enforcement agencies must coordinate their efforts and the government should provide more funding for victims’ legal expenses.


Annotation: This article studies the effectiveness of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), which originally focused heavily on legal enforcement but not enough on humanitarian approaches to fighting trafficking. In 2003, the TVPA expanded to include section 1595, or the civil right of action, which allows victims to take traffickers to district court for damages. Nam finds that despite the good intentions of section 1595, victims need more protection and benefits from the government in order to follow through with lawsuits, including monetary assistance and protection from retaliation from traffickers.

Annotation: The focus of this hearing is to determine whether the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) can and should be amended to better aid trafficking victims. Two main problems addressed are U.S. contractors in Iraq who aid trafficking and issues of diplomatic immunity. Witnesses representing the Department of Justice, the National Immigrant Justice Center, and the International Justice Mission also make introductory speeches. The Commissioner asks each witness how the TVPA affects their work helping trafficking victims, and what could be changed to make this legislation better.

Benefits for Trafficking Victims


Annotation: This study analyzes the benefits and services available to trafficking victims under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). The researchers gathered data through a national telephone survey and focus groups with social service providers (including legal, health, education, and law enforcement agencies) and trafficking victims. The information gathered from ninety-eight telephone interviews was compared to determine trends, and then focus groups were held to explore these trends. Most service providers said they were able meet some needs of victims, but lacked adequate funding, resources, training, and coordination of agencies. Despite the intentions of the telephone survey, interviews took place in only twenty-two states.


Annotation: This report, compiled between 2002-2004, seeks to determine the effectiveness and accessibility of services for trafficking victims. The study was conducted through interviews with trafficking victims and site visits, which included the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), the Asian Anti-Trafficking Collaborative (AATC), and the Florida Freedom Partnership (FFP). The study found that organizations usually lack funding and staff to adequately meet every need of trafficking victims. Other problems include difficulties in identifying victims and obstacles working with law enforcement agencies.


Annotation: This article critiques the nature of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act for focusing too heavily on the prosecution of traffickers and not enough on victims’ benefits. Shigekane finds that most trafficking victims lack simple life skills that would allow them to reintegrate into society, and are also suffering significant psychological trauma. To this end, research is lacking in the type of psychological trauma suffered by victims other than women and girls. After stressing the necessity of increased benefits and assistance for victims, Shigekane concludes that the best response is actually preventing human trafficking in the first place.

Annotation: Shinkle investigates the effectiveness of victims’ benefits under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). She makes several typical recommendations, including the need for increased funding for all organizations that fight trafficking and the need to treat all trafficking victims equally. After making these recommendations, Shinkle looks at the problem on a global scale, and argues that the most effective way that the United States could combat the trafficking problem is to confront its reliance on cheap and exploitable labor. This would mean, however, slowing down or stopping the entire process driving globalization.


Annotation: This article examines recent U.S. immigration legislation designed to assist trafficking victims in obtaining visas to remain in the United States. Despite the noble aspirations of the legislation, Srikantiah finds that only a small number of victims have successfully utilized these benefits. The problem stems from law enforcement officials awarding benefits based on how much a trafficking victim “deserves” them, instead of impartially awarding benefits to all victims. Srikantiah argues that only highly trained Department of Homeland Security Officials should award visas to victims, instead of the current situation in which officials untrained in trafficking from a variety of agencies must deal with visas.

United States Prosecutions of Traffickers


Annotation: The goal of this study is to find ways to increase investigations and prosecutions of human traffickers. To do this, the authors studied twelve trafficking cases prosecuted between 1996 and 2002 to find out what factors led to successful cases. Bales and Lize found that early actions in investigations are most important: the more quickly victims and their traffickers are identified, the more likely it is to prosecute the case and help the victims. The authors also stressed the importance of local law enforcement officials who should gather initial information before federal authorities become involved. Cooperation between local, state, and federal agencies is also vital.


Annotation: In this report, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) seeks to summarize the efforts of federal agencies in investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases since the passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). The efforts of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in assisting federal, state, and local anti-trafficking task forces are also investigated. The GAO
TOPICAL RESEARCH DIGEST: HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

recommends that further collaboration is needed between the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice, and directs the leaders of these departments to devise a framework for future collaboration.


Annotation: This report gives statistics on United States Federal Prosecution of Human Trafficking from 2001-2005. During this time period, 555 suspected traffickers were investigated, most under violations of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). The report breaks down these cases into the types of crimes suspected, how many of these cases went to trial, the geographic distribution of the cases within the United States, and the number of trafficking suspects convicted. Of the 555 cases cited in this report, almost half occurred in 2005, which shows that the full realization of the TVPA did not come until several years after its passage.


Annotation: Zakhari first traces the events leading up to the 2000 passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) legislation. Trafficking in humans is less risky than trafficking in guns or drugs, which is why many decide to commit this crime. The author uses three case studies of prosecutions against traffickers to explore how these prosecutions preceeded TVPA. Because these three cases were some of the first prosecuted under the TVPA, they are valuable in showing the effectiveness of the new legislation. The three case studies all involve Russians trafficking women and children to the United States from former Soviet states.

The Fight Against Trafficking as a Moral Crusade


Annotation: This chapter focuses on sex trafficking to and within the United States, specifically from a public health perspective. The authors argue that victims in the U.S. are stigmatized as prostitutes and are thus less likely to benefit from services available for victims. The body of the chapter is devoted to the public health consequences of sex trafficking, including the spread of HIV/AIDS, which is inevitable because of lack of condom use. The authors end by making a series of policy suggestions, mostly involving the decriminalization of sex trafficking victims and the development of viable alternative employment opportunities for victims.

Annotation: This article addresses problems stemming from the United States government’s decision to apply socially conservative approaches to fighting human trafficking and the spread of HIV/AIDS. This conservative approach requires anti-trafficking organizations to explicitly denounce prostitution. Many organizations that fight trafficking have protested, arguing that these requirements stigmatize victims of sex trafficking as illegal prostitutes, make it harder for them to receive benefits and assistance, and violate First Amendment rights.


Annotation: This article addresses the implications of the U.S. Anti-Prostitution Pledge, which was passed as part of the United States Leadership Against Global HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003. This act appropriates funding to organizations and programs that fight the AIDS epidemic. In order to receive this funding, however, organizations must explicitly denounce prostitution and sex trafficking. Many organizations have filed lawsuits arguing that the Anti-Prostitution Pledge is unconstitutional. Furthermore, organizations that fight against human trafficking resent how the pledge equates sex trafficking with prostitution, because it stigmatizes victims of sex trafficking.


Annotation: Weitzer examines sex trafficking in the United States through the lens of a moral crusade, a perspective that he argues has been detrimental to efforts combating human trafficking. One of the problems with making the fight against sex trafficking into a moral crusade is that it relies on horror stories and extreme victimization. Additionally, it lumps prostitution and sex trafficking together and paints the issue completely in black and white, which is problematic since there are actually many gray areas. Weitzer cautions against right-wing faith-based organizations which do not distinguish between types of sex work and the reality that different forms of victims might require various types of services and responses.

**Future Response Strategies**


Annotation: The authors assess existing research on trafficking in North America and note the lack of reliable trafficking statistics. Research on trafficking in North America is often inaccurate and mostly funded by the U.S. government, which is problematic because government policy is often shaped by research findings. The authors argue that there is too much emphasis on sex trafficking and women, which draws attention from other forms of trafficking. The authors see a need for more
careful research and cooperation among researchers in other countries.


Annotation: Hodge focuses on sex trafficking in the United States in order to increase readers’ awareness of the transnational nature of the crime and the role of organized crime in trafficking world. Hodge summarizes the legislative responses to the problem, including the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). The author gives suggestions to help social workers in their roles as advocates for victims. At a local level, the author recommends “multidisciplinary teams” to fight trafficking, which would include local law enforcement officials, social workers, educators, clergy, and lawyers, and would work together to provide assistance to trafficking victims. This suggestion for multidisciplinary teams is a unique preventative suggestion not found in other sources.


Annotation: This report provide instructions to local police agencies on how to identify trafficking victims and apprehend traffickers. Police agencies will likely discover trafficking in the context of other crimes, such as domestic violence, labor disputes, prostitution, pimping, shoplifting, and assault. Also, trafficking victims are not always illegal aliens: many victims hold valid visas and some are even U.S. citizens. Some strategies for identifying trafficking operations are paying attention to the security measures and working conditions of local businesses, and the freedom of movement and mannerisms of workers. Police departments are also urged to form relationships with any local anti-trafficking organizations before cases of trafficking occur.


Annotation: This report explores the effectiveness of different strategies to fight trafficking in the United States. The funding given to various anti-trafficking organizations is tracked to find out what it was used for. The benefits and services given to trafficking victims, both domestically and for immigration purposes, are described. The effectiveness of legal avenues, such as criminal investigations, prosecutions, and sentences, are examined. The report ends with appendices of information on various trafficking cases brought to court and tables detailing funding given to anti-trafficking organizations abroad. The report stresses that all government efforts to fight trafficking must employ a victim-centered approach.


Annotation: Shinkle evaluates European and United States anti-trafficking legislation and finds that although there has been much progress in prosecuting cases of trafficking, it would be much more
effective to focus on preventative measures to stop trafficking before it happens. Shinkle notes that some preventative measures are in place, but tend to be underutilized because it is extremely difficult to measure the effectiveness of such measures. Shinkle sees the best approach as one in which governments utilize trafficking survivors to find out what could have prevented them from being trafficked. Furthermore, the best prevention for trafficking is to rectify deep-seated societal inequalities.


Annotation: This hearing includes testimony from workers in various organizations who combat trafficking in America, including the FBI, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Standing Against Global Exploitation (SAGE) Project, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The testimony of a trafficking survivor is also included. Representatives of each organization testify and describe their goals, methods, and success in combating domestic trafficking. The commissioners then question the witnesses on specific statistics and policy in order to get a sense of the scope of the problem and how the organizations might be able to act more effectively in the future.


Annotation: This article focuses on anti-trafficking efforts in the state of Illinois, which has worked extensively with the federal government to establish the Illinois Rescue and Restore Campaign, designed to educate law enforcement agencies and the general public about human trafficking. Vergara argues that combating human trafficking will only come with widespread cooperation on state levels, and shows Illinois as a model for other states to refer to when crafting their own anti-trafficking legislation.


Annotation: The authors note that current United States trafficking legislation relies heavily on federal agencies to respond to trafficking. In reality, however, it is more likely that local law enforcement agencies will first encounter victims of trafficking. The authors surveyed almost eighty police agencies across the country, all with jurisdictions over 150,000 people. The study found that most are unprepared to respond to cases of human trafficking. Survey findings shows that many local police agencies did not see trafficking as a problem in their area, and that they viewed anyone involved in the illicit sex trade as a prostitute willing to sell their body.
Human Trafficking in the Middle East and North Africa Region  
By Schuyler Dudley

The Middle East and North Africa region is not the first area to come to mind when discussing human trafficking in the world. Yet this region certainly has human trafficking problems. To clarify, the geographic region referred to in this essay, the Middle East, extends as far west as Mauritania, as far south as Sudan, as far east as Oman, and as far north as Syria. This region is also known as MENA (Middle East and North Africa), but will be referred to as the Middle East in this essay. Discrepancies in defining the Middle East, as well as inaccurate information, can make looking for facts and information on human trafficking in this region frustrating. This difficulty is particularly pronounced because some Middle Eastern laws and cultures do not recognize certain forms of human trafficking as being, in fact, trafficking. Because of this, victims of trafficking are often not protected in the Middle East. Instead, victims of human trafficking are often punished because they are viewed as illegal immigrants. Forms of human trafficking in the Middle East include domestic servitude and forced labor, child trafficking for camel jockeys, and sex trafficking.

Human Trafficking as Slavery

Human trafficking is considered a contemporary form of slavery. Slavery has historical roots in the Middle East, especially in the region bordering African states. One Middle Eastern state that has seen extensive slave trading, both historically and in the present day, is Sudan where the African non-Muslim population has been the target of mainly Arab slave traders. This slave trade has surged again in recent years due to the escalating attempts by the Arab government to dominate their southern, non-Muslim population. The use of human trafficking as a tool to control an entire population at odds with the Sudanese government is a key issue when examining Sudan.

Redeeming Slaves

A controversial issue when dealing with human trafficking and slavery in the Middle East and around the world is slave “redemption.” Since it is difficult to find ways of releasing slaves from their buyers without more violence and turmoil, some organizations have resorted to buying slaves for their freedom. Many advocates of ending the slave trade claim that buying slaves from their owners encourages the demand for slaves. Therefore, it is argued that redeeming slaves actually contributes to the problem, and does not alleviate it. This is an incredibly difficult controversy because it weighs the lives of current victims of human trafficking with the hope that not feeding the demand will save people from becoming victims of trafficking in the near future.

Migrant Workers

One of the largest human trafficking problems in the Middle East is the trafficking of migrant workers. Many migrant people, mainly from Asian states, are tricked into coming to the Middle East; they then find themselves in a forced labor situation or working for very low wages. This tragic phenomenon is especially prevalent in the oil-rich Gulf States of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the
United Arab Emirates (UAE). In addition, these workers may be held to pay off their debt, which accumulates from the exorbitant costs of travel and housing. Organizations like the International Labor Organization strongly warn migrating workers about fraudulent schemes that promise workers transportation and work in another state. Although the Gulf States have one of the highest populations of migrant workers in the world, certainly not all of them are victims of human trafficking. Nevertheless, migrant workers going to the Middle East should be aware of the problem.

Child Camel Jockeys

The majority of migrant workers in the Middle East are men and women. However, children are also trafficked to the Middle East, but for a different reason. Camel racing in the Middle East is a major sport, similar to horse racing in the United States. This sport is especially popular in the Gulf States. Because camel owners want a small jockey so that as little weight as possible will be on the camel, children are often trafficked in from other states such as Pakistan to race camels. Child jockeys are often malnourished so they maintain low weight. In addition, the children can also be hurt badly from falling from the camels. Strides have been made in abolishing this practice, such as the invention of robot jockeys to replace children, in addition to laws that raise the legal age of jockeys to fifteen or eighteen years. However, the practice still persists.

Sex Trafficking

Although human trafficking for sexual exploitation does occur in the Middle East, it is difficult to find resources on this aspect of trafficking. In most Arab states, sex trafficking is not explicitly prohibited. As an example, Mohamed Mattar points out that in many Middle Eastern states, temporary marriage is permitted in which case the woman has few rights and the husband decides when the marriage ends. Temporary marriage is thought to be a way to legalize prostitution. In addition, Arab culture is sensitive to this issue, which makes researching and gathering information difficult. On the other hand, Mattar also notes that Iraq’s new constitution includes an article specifically prohibiting the trafficking of women and children for the sex trade, the first Arab state to do so. This may be a promising, although perhaps not completely genuine, first step toward recognizing and acting against sex trafficking. Certain states and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also putting pressure on Middle Eastern states to implement more explicit laws in human trafficking in general. However, even when there are laws against sex trafficking, the laws are not respected or enforced. In Israel, there are laws against sex trafficking, yet the Israeli government and law enforcement agencies have largely neglected to enforce these laws. Therefore, not only legislating laws, but also enforcing laws is important for change in sex trafficking in the Middle East.

International Laws and Organizations

Today, there are many international laws and organizations working to prevent and stop human trafficking, and to hold traffickers accountable. International laws and treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and organizations such as the United Nations, International Labor Organization, and International Organization for Migration are all working to stem human trafficking in the Middle East and around
the world. Some Middle Eastern governments are doing their part to stop this problem, while other states are not doing anything to prevent human trafficking. Reports like the United States Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) expose states that are not making enough of an effort to end human trafficking. Through the many laws and documents, one can see that the international community is not taking the human trafficking problem lightly.

Conclusion

The international community is beginning to call upon the states of the world to take the problem of human trafficking more seriously. The Middle East is working towards this end, although at a slower pace than some would like. The Middle East is a region rich in culture, language and religion. However, its history of slavery and diverse legal systems has not yet enabled human trafficking to be defined as the international community sees it. In the near future, hopefully Middle Eastern states will be more proactive in stemming human trafficking.

Annotated Bibliography


Annotation: The Anti-Slavery organization and website work through various means to end slavery on an international basis. Based out of London, the group works to raise awareness, educate, lobby governments, and help in supporting victims of human trafficking and slavery. Their magazine, Reporter, further works to inform and educate. Information on human trafficking in the Middle East can be found through the site’s search function. This includes information published by the media, Anti-Slavery write-ups, and working papers on the region.


Annotation: This chapter discusses the controversial issue surrounding the redemption of slaves, or buying slaves their freedom. Arrowsmith goes over the history of redeeming slaves, as well as the use of redemption as an act of charity, instead of being associated with a crime. The author concludes that redeeming slaves may be necessary to free them, but only when all other alternatives have been tried and have failed. Other options, the author suggests, are working with the governments to enforce their laws against slavery, to work with organizations that raid slave workplaces, and to educate the public.

Annotation: It is common for people from rural Sudan to migrate to other Middle Eastern states, especially Saudi Arabia, in order to make money. In rural Sudan, these migrants are known as being wealthy and are celebrated in their villages. Islam has played a new role in these villages, at the same time that other factors have transformed their customs, beliefs and the way that they receive goods. However, in the states where migrants work, they are not treated in the same manner as natives. This article mainly shows the positive aspects about worker migration to other Middle Eastern states, but it does hint at the difficulties and unequal treatment migrants face abroad.


Annotation: Because of the close proximity between the Middle East and Africa, but the many differences in culture and beliefs, it is inevitable that tension and conflicts arise on occasion. This lengthy compilation of chapters informs the reader of most aspects of jihad and how Muslims interact with non-Muslims, according to their religion. The main sections of the book are on the historical and religious roots of jihad and how it is interpreted. Part 7 is devoted to how jihad influences slavery. Many Arab Muslims have been on the slave trading side, exploiting their African, non-Muslim neighbors. This book is a thorough look at one aspect of this situation.


Annotation: This article deeply discusses the different forms of human trafficking in the Middle East and provides information on the literature surrounding this issue. Calandruccio notes the difficulty in getting information on human trafficking in the Middle East because the information is often not from first-hand sources. A notable trend the author discusses is the growing number of female migrant workers and how they are often exploited into the sex trade in the Gulf States, especially women from Russia and Eastern Europe. This article is helpful in understanding the basic issues of human trafficking in the Middle East and reviews useful literature on the subject as well as discusses what is missing from this literature.


Annotation: This international organization works through various mechanisms to stop sexual exploitation of women and girls. Trafficking of women and girls in the Middle East is not the focus of this organization, but information on this region can easily be accessed through the website’s regional focuses and by searching the site. The website is user-friendly and has many resources, including navigation by region and a resource library to find articles and other information on the exploitation of women and girls. This is an advocacy organization that works with other human rights groups to attempt to influence decisions regarding women trafficking, inform the public, and to help quell the source and demand for trafficking.

Annotation: This article is about human smuggling and illegal immigration between Libya and Italy. Because of Libya’s proximity to Europe through Italy, immigrants from many states in northern Africa go to Libya to seek passage to Europe. Networks and organizations have been set up in Libya to get illegal immigrants across to Italy. However, these services often are expensive and turn into slave-like conditions for migrants. The article also refers to the effort on Italy’s part to reduce the amount of illegal immigrants in Italy. The article is very helpful for looking further into the migration issue in the Middle East, especially migration to Europe as opposed to the Gulf States.


Annotation: The Country Reports on Human Rights are not specific to human trafficking, but rather report on human rights in general in each state. However, this report does include human trafficking, more in depth in some state than in others, depending on how much of a problem trafficking is in a particular state. The reports on each individual state are thorough and very informative, giving the reader a good sense of the situation in each state. This web page is a good starting point for researching the extent of human trafficking in a particular state in the Middle East as well as their human rights situation in general.


Annotation: This article examines different forms of slavery in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The author begins with a definition of slavery and gives a brief history of slavery. Degorge looks at three different forms of human trafficking in the UAE: children used as camel jockeys, women trafficked for sexual exploitation, and migrant workers who become slaves. Degorge links human trafficking to globalization, but also notes that globalization and wealthy countries will ultimately help stem the flow of those trafficked. While the author leaves the reader with a good idea of the problem, she fails to adequately suggest how steps towards fixing the problem can be implemented.


Annotation: This chapter is written by a member of Christian Solidarity International (CSI) that buys slaves to liberate them in Sudan. Accused of supplying the demand for slaves, Eibner says the allowing of a slave trade is what should be considered most intolerable. The author gives an account of how his organization releases slaves then tells a few short stories of the freed slaves' experiences. Finally, Eibner examines the various mechanisms that are being used to combat slavery, from international law to the actions of the United States
Congress. This is a good, concise chapter written from one side of the controversy of buying slaves their freedom.


Annotation: Because the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is concerned about children all over the world, UNICEF’s website enables a researcher to find information on trafficking of children in the Middle East to become camel jockeys. This article in particular describes the plight of former child jockeys and how the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government, which has recently banned child jockeys in camel racing, is working to return these former jockeys. Even though the UNICEF website is not specifically designed for child trafficking in the Middle East, it is useful in finding documents, articles, and other resources on this subject.


Annotation: This document was drawn up by the United Nation’s Global Programme Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GPAT) to help establish ways to ameliorate human trafficking around the world. This document does not refer to the Middle East specifically, but it does refer to many of the known problems in the Middle East in terms of human trafficking and suggests ways to fix these problems. A few examples are the decriminalization of victims of trafficking, repatriating victims, and assessing each state’s specific trafficking problems. This is a lengthy but informative document which can be used mainly to apply to situations in the Middle East dealing with human trafficking.


Annotation: The author begins this book by acknowledging the great hardships faced by many in Sudan, from civil war to famine. Grawert’s focus is to examine how rural Sudanese survive these difficult situations, including the economic, migratory and social aspects. Historically, Sudanese were forced into the slave trade. The author links this past slave trade to the migration of Sudanese workers today. This book helps the reader grasp the specific hardships in rural Sudan, although some information is likely outdated due to the many changes in Sudan since 1998.


Annotation: This book presents a study on the migration of workers from Asia to the Middle East. By surveying returned migrant workers from seven different states in Asia, this book examines migrants’ experiences and problems they face in the Middle East. In other sources, the situation some migrant workers face in the Middle East has been portrayed as
human trafficking. Yet this book finds that many returned migrants are satisfied with their overall experience of migration. The results of this book are encouraging, but it does not answer the question of whether or not migrant workers who remain in the Middle East are there against their will, perhaps to pay off an exorbitant debt.


Annotation: This article gives examples of the hardships endured by women who are forced to work in Lebanon. The difficulty in attempting to escape their slavery is also discussed. Threats, beatings and debt bondage are a few of the difficulties faced by women from Sri Lanka and elsewhere in Lebanon. Embassies of the women’s home states are often helpless in the legal constraints of Lebanese law. This article is a good insight into forced labor involving women in Lebanon.


Annotation: The Hotline for Migrant Workers is based out of Tel Aviv, Israel and focuses on helping undocumented workers and refugees. They also strive to eradicate human trafficking in Israel. In addition to various useful links and updates, the website offers information on how to assist those in need from trafficking problems. The organization uses three approaches to achieve their goals: crisis intervention, public policy and legal action. The Hotline for Migrant Workers has won various awards for their work in this area. This is a useful website that shows what a specific non-governmental organization is doing to work against human trafficking in Israel.


Annotation: The focus of this hearing was to examine the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report, put together by the State Department. Although at this hearing, global trafficking was discussed, Middle Eastern states were often brought up to address the trafficking problems in this region. For example, Jordan was referred to as an example of a Middle Eastern state working to end its problem with trafficked workers. Sudan was discussed in depth to examine why its government is not doing more to alleviate their trafficking problems. This hearing is a good resource when researching trafficking because it shows what the U.S. government is doing about the problem. However, the document is not organized in a way that makes it easy to find specific regions, states or issues on trafficking.

Annotation: This article reflects the problem of sex trafficking around the world. The author begins by describing the problem, how prevalent the problem is, and the main states or regions involved. Hughes mainly discusses the U.S.’s role in sex trafficking, although regions around the world, including the Middle East, are used as examples in her writing. Israel and the United Arab Emirates are two Middle Eastern states that are used frequently to illustrate sex trafficking problems. Hughes concludes with strategies that are being used to work against sex trafficking. This article is very useful and ties the Middle East into the problem in a revealing way.


Annotation: This is a concise article on the illegal immigration problem between Libya and Italy, which also includes human trafficking. Italy and Libya are working together to quell the number of illegal immigrants who make the often-dangerous trip between Libya and Italy to seek out work. Authorities from the two states are now patrolling the waters together, after years of negotiating how to effectively work together. Although brief, this article shows the entanglement of illegal immigration and victims of human trafficking, and how some states are working together to reduce the numbers of both populations.


Annotation: The specific section of the book discusses the use of slave raiding as a tool of war. Noting the hesitancy of the United Nations to refer to this as slavery in its 1998 report, Jok writes of the Sudanese government’s role in these slave raids. This included support of the Mujabideen and other military factions, as well as defense acts passed by the government implicating their involvement. Sudanese women and children are often trafficked to the north, where they are seen as booty from raids and forced to become workers or wives of their abductors. Additional information of slave raids can be found throughout this book, but this section is the most useful for examining human trafficking.


Annotation: Bernard Lewis’s straightforward and to-the-point style of writing clearly illustrates the subject matter of his book. The historical approach of this book demonstrates the historical impacts on contemporary slavery and human trafficking in the Middle East. Lewis emphasizes the religious and racial aspects of slavery in this region through the history of slavery. Although the history of slavery in the Middle East is described in detail, a link to modern-day slavery in the region would be especially insightful.


Annotation: This article portrays the pros and cons of using light robots instead of children as jockeys for camel racing in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and in Qatar. The robot,
controlled by the camel trainer in a vehicle behind the racing camels, is considered a step forward towards negating the child trafficking in this region for the purpose of becoming camel jockeys. However, one critic cautions that the camel races with robotic jockeys are only a cover for other camel races where young children are still used. This article covers an interesting technological approach to ways of countering human trafficking in the Middle East.


Annotation: This concise article brings up the controversial issue of buying slaves in Sudan in order to free them from the slave trade. The author does a good job of weighing in the thoughts of other organizations, such as Human Rights Watch and UNICEF. The author examines the argument that buying slaves their freedom helps to supply the demand for slaves and the concern of what happens to large populations of former slaves once they are freed. While inherently biased, this article demonstrates some of the religious aspects of human trafficking in the Middle East and the components used in attempting to decrease human trafficking in this region.


Annotation: This is a brief commentary by Dr. Mohamed Mattar who writes about the new Iraqi Constitution and Article 35. Article 35 is considered a big step for women and children in human trafficking because the Article clearly prohibits the trade of women and children in the sex trade. Mattar notes that Iraq is the first Arab state to explicitly prohibit trading women and children in the sex trade. He goes on to write that there is definitely more work that needs to be done to further protect women and children, including going more in-depth with this law and involving Iraqi civil society on the issue.


Annotation: This comprehensive article examines forms of human trafficking in the Middle East and the legislation on these specific forms of trafficking. Mattar also looks at how effective these laws are in combating trafficking, comparing the legislation to see if it is to the standard of the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). Mattar weaves Koran readings into the discussion to examine how religion plays into human trafficking. The conclusion gives recommendations as to how Middle Eastern states should work to end human trafficking. This article is very informative and helpful in understanding the aspects of human trafficking in this region, especially from legal and religious points of view.

Annotation: Mideast Youth is a website that promotes dialogue about the Middle East. The main objectives of the site are to promote “human rights and freedom of expression.” The two projects of Mideast Youth specific to human trafficking are their Migrant Rights and Sexual Terrorism projects. This website, clearly designed to accommodate younger generations, uses podcasts, video clips, radio broadcasts and petition signing along with blogs to communicate, educate and inspire. This is a good website to see how youth in the Middle East, from different religions and different states, are reacting and working against human trafficking in this region.


Annotation: Migrant Rights is a project Mideast Youth is using to increase awareness about migrant workers’ problems. Mideast Youth uses this project, among other means, to lobby their governments to pass laws in favor of migrants’ rights. The main objective of this website is to post newspaper articles on migrant workers abuses in the Middle East. These articles can be searched by a particular state, issue, or date.


Annotation: Miniter writes about the negative aspects of slave redemption. He argues that redemption increases the demand for slaves. The history of slavery in Sudan, the newer phase of redeeming Sudanese slaves, and the role of Christian Solidarity International (CSI) are described in this chapter. Miniter uses anecdotes and statistics to demonstrate how redeeming slaves supports the slave trade in Sudan. In alternatives given to redemption, Miniter suggests focusing on the “train of death,” which is the main means to transport large numbers of slaves in Sudan. Miniter offers a convincing, interesting, and informative argument against redeeming slaves in Sudan.


Annotation: Slavery in Sudan has been prevalent historically and continues to be a problem today. Moszynski takes the reader through Sudan’s unfortunately long history with slavery, beginning in the 1800s. The author links the past slave trade to the contemporary slave trade. Influencing factors of the contemporary slave trade include the current Arab government, the continuing Arab control over the predominantly black southern Sudan, and civil wars. Moszynski’s short article is very helpful in understanding the current slave trade in Sudan and the roots the trade has in this state.

Annotation: The Protection Project is a research institute at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University. The website addresses the problem of human trafficking and human rights worldwide, particularly focusing on women and children, building of civil society, law, and human rights education. The “commentary and publications” link is especially useful to find statements, speeches and discussions of specialists on the subject. Dr. Mohamed Mattar, one of the staff, has done a significant amount of work on trafficking in the Middle East. This is a good website to see how a research institute can work against human trafficking and to find resources.


Annotation: This concise article is about how the Qatar government is publicly working to curb child trafficking for the purpose of becoming camel jockeys by banning the use of children as jockeys. The decision was reached in light of the robot jockey that is supposed to replace children in camel races. In Qatar, the ban of child jockeys is seen as a step towards human rights. While the article is encouraging for child jockeys, there is no guarantee that the robot jockey will satisfy camel racing fans and lead to the end of child trafficking for that purpose.


Annotation: This book offers a history of the slave trade of Africans by Arabs. Most of the book focuses on the historical aspect from the Islamic perspective in general and then looks at specific regions. Segal also examines specific colonized states and their transition out of colonization. The last chapter (12) is the most relevant to human trafficking in the Middle East today. This chapter discusses the problems specifically in Mauritania and Sudan, but includes the slave trade in the context of the entire Middle East.


Annotation: Virginia Sherry is the associate director of the Middle East and North Africa division of Human Rights Watch, an organization that is dedicated to addressing human rights violations around the world, from trafficking to torture. This article is a short description of the horrors that migrants to Saudi Arabia endure, including unfair trials, terrible working conditions, torture, and the debt many have accumulated from overpriced traveling expenses. The author concludes by noting the changes in Saudi Arabia since September 11, 2001, but she calls on Saudi Arabia to address its migrant worker issues with the same intensity as the state has worked on the war on terror.

Annotation: Stegeborn uses the plight of Sri Lanka’s Wanniyala-Aetto tribeswomen in the Middle Eastern sex trade to demonstrate the inner-workings of human traffickers and recruiters. Stegeborn takes the reader from the bus that arrives at night to take the girls to their new “maid” jobs in the Middle East to the false documents and apparent disappearance of the supposed “maids.” Although this article is short and somewhat emotional, it gives a good account of how complicated yet organized human trafficking for the sex trade can be.


Annotation: The Task Force on Human Trafficking (TFHT) is a project of a larger Israeli organization that works on social justice problems, ATZUM. TFHT is an Israeli organization that strives to end human trafficking in Israel. In particular, the organization works with the Israeli government to stop trafficking, aid the victims, and promote awareness of the problem. The website is very user-friendly, well organized, and informative. The site includes resources, links to other non-governmental organizations working on human trafficking, and lists ways that individuals can help through the website. Some of their resources are not as up-to-date as would be expected, many from 2005 or earlier. Although the female human trafficking problem continues to thrive in Israel, this organization seems to be doing a great deal to help eliminate the issue.


Annotation: Teyeb makes it clear that the slave trade is still thriving in Mauritania because Arab slave owners continue to own African slaves. The author discusses how the Muslim black slaves are told that serving their master is their religious duty. Africans’ black skins are “impure” they are told, and therefore, they will only be forgiven if they obey their masters. Teyeb notes that this is not what the Koran teaches. The author also comments on the silence of the issue in Mauritania and encourages knowledge of and speaking out about the issue. Although only a few pages long, this chapter gives insight into the depth of the modern-day slavery in this state.


Annotation: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has created the Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings (GPAT), as well as the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN-GIFT) in their attempts to combat human trafficking. The Trafficking in Persons Report, put together by GPAT, gives information on trafficked persons around the world. A large portion of the report is devoted to methodology of the studies, which may be useful if examining this aspect of human trafficking. The appendices are most useful for looking specifically at Middle Eastern states. Middle Eastern states are grouped together with West Asian or North African states, which makes searching for Middle Eastern trafficking issues specifically difficult.

Annotation: The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report is put together by the U.S. Department of State every year in order to show how governments around the world are working, or not working, to end human trafficking. Importantly, the TIP Report includes a system in which governments are ranked according to how much effort they put into ending human trafficking: Tier 1 indicates governments are doing well whereas Tier 3 signifies that governments need to put more effort into stopping the problem. According to the TIP Report, eight of the sixteen Tier 3 states are in the Middle East, which indicates that many states of this region are not doing enough to stem human trafficking. This is a highly useful resource for examining efforts made by Middle Eastern governments to combat trafficking.


Annotation: This working paper for the group Anti-Slavery International is very useful on the issue of human trafficking in the Middle East. The article clarifies the different types of migrant workers and how these people often have very few rights. The paper underlines the fact that international law is lacking around the issue of migrant workers. The overall aim of the paper is to study the dynamics of migrant domestic workers in the Middle East and Gulf regions and look for ways to help abused workers. The examples, anecdotes, graphs, and select state profiles are particularly helpful.


Annotation: Warburg’s book is a historical compilation of Islam and Sudan. Ethnicity and religion have played a part in the Sudanese conflict, and have led to the continued exploitation of the Arab-dominated black population. This book gives a historical perspective of the conflict in Sudan, referring often to the slave trade in the past. Although this book does not have extensive information on the current Sudan slave trade, it would be a good reference for doing a comprehensive study specifically on Sudan and human trafficking.


Annotation: This document was written for the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, a part of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and includes information on various aspects of modern slavery from the definition of slavery to forms of slavery such as serfdom and sex tourism. It also discusses international monitoring
tools such as slavery conventions. Although the Middle East is not the specific focus of this document, many of the trafficking issues in the Middle East are included, such as migrant workers, debt bondage, child labor, and laws and other legal instruments that are in place to counter trafficking. Despite the broad subject of this document, it is thorough and useful when researching the many issues surrounding the subject of slavery and human trafficking.
International Law and Human Trafficking
By Lindsey King

Instruments of International Law

International law is a powerful conduit for combating human trafficking. The most reputable and recent instruments of international law that have set the course for how to define, prevent, and prosecute human trafficking are the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its two related protocols: the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air, which entered into force in 2003-2004. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) created these conventions, which have supported international law’s ability to combat human trafficking. In support of enforcing these instruments, the UNODC established the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) in 2007.

Instruments that have dealt with human trafficking date back to the abolition of slavery. They include provisions within the Slavery Convention (1926) and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956). Additional tools of international law that include segments against the trafficking of persons include: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (1966), The United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949), and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979). These instruments laid the foundation for the contemporary conventions and efforts to eliminating trafficking.

Compliance with International Law

One of the most problematic issues of eliminating trafficking is compliance with international law. Measures for compliance with international treaties include signature, ratification, and enforcement of international agreements. Once a state signs and ratifies a treaty, it is subject to monitoring by U.N. committees, which receive input from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Additionally, states are expected to submit regular reports regarding their level of compliance with the treaty. The United Nations Human Rights Council also issues mandates to thematic working groups, special rapporteurs, and country rapporteurs, which help to monitor compliance with or abuses of certain treaties.

As of 2008, there are 143 parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 119 parties to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and 112 parties to the United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. The Trafficking Protocol is unique from other treaties because it was created as a law enforcement instrument, which, in theory, gives it more influence than aspirational agreements. Provisions within the Trafficking Protocol state that parties must: take action to penalize trafficking, protect victims of trafficking, and grant victims temporary or permanent residence in the countries of destination. Therefore, if a state is a party to the Convention and its Protocols, it has an obligation to create legislation that supports these provisions at the domestic level.
One major distinction of the Trafficking Protocol is that it maintains that persons do not have the right to choose to be trafficked, or for their children to be trafficked. This distinction helps to clarify the line between smuggling and trafficking. However, if the person was smuggled, then kept as a forced laborer, the crime constitutes trafficking. Another aspect of the Trafficking Protocol is that a person does not have to be directly forced or threatened into being trafficked. If a person can prove that he or she had no alternative means other than to comply, then it falls within the provisions of Trafficking Protocol. These aspects of the Trafficking Protocol allow for a broader definition of human trafficking, making compliance more straightforward.

Standards about how trafficking victims should be treated are outlined in two comprehensive documents that draw from various international law instruments: the “Human Rights Standards for the Treatment of Trafficking Persons” and the “Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking.” These two documents were produced to ensure that trafficked persons were treated as victims rather than as criminals. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, is one intermediary that works towards ensuring that the victims’ rights are protected, and takes action against violations of these rights. Numerous NGOs throughout the world also take on the complex task of monitoring the violations of human rights with respect to human trafficking. Through the reports generated by these organizations, the U.N. is able to more fully assess who is complying with or in violation of international law.

Enforcement of International Law: The Regional Solution

Enforcement of international law in regards to human trafficking is most effective and efficient when it is incorporated into regional and domestic legislation. Regional and domestic instruments that have played a key role in the prevention and elimination of human trafficking include: the United States Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (2000), the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2008), and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Right and Fundamental Freedoms (1950). Regions throughout the world are also making cooperative efforts to end trafficking. For example, in 2005, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT), a sub-regional group composed of China, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam, was established. Its purpose is to create policies for the anti-trafficking measures in the region, allowing each state to create legislation that is in agreement with these provisions. The domestic and regional instruments are aimed to combat human trafficking through provisions that are in line with the international agreements against human trafficking, while tailoring their enforcement and monitoring methods to the needs of the region or state.

Enforcement of International Law: Obstacles

Anti-trafficking laws are problematic to enforce because victims of trafficking are hesitant to identify traffickers for fear of repercussion. Furthermore, trafficking is a crime that transcends borders, and therefore jurisdictions. Applying international law to a person who resides in another state is a costly and complex endeavor. Additionally, human trafficking usually violates several laws, and is not a one-time event. Building a case against traffickers can take a great deal of time, resources, and energy. In countries where resources are limited, these complexities can hinder enforcement of anti-trafficking laws.
Another dilemma of enforcing anti-trafficking laws is the lack of training of the local enforcement officers within the state. Even if the state has implemented anti-trafficking laws, it is not likely that the border patrol officers, federal agents, and local police officers are well-versed in international or domestic laws in regards to human trafficking. Victims of trafficking are often treated as criminals or illegal immigrants, and either arrested or deported. Additionally, since trafficking victims are usually not in their country of origin, there is often a language barrier between enforcement officers and the victims, making information-gathering problematic.

The vast resources needed to ensure that the officers are able to properly enforce anti-trafficking laws are limited or unavailable in most states. However, one of the goals of the UN.GIFT is to help build awareness of the issue and provide technical assistance. The assistance would include: draft legislation, manuals for various law enforcement agencies and victims, and fact-sheets for raising awareness. States, such as the United States, have already begun implementing awareness programs for law enforcement officers. Additionally, NGOs throughout the world play a crucial role in raising awareness about and monitoring human trafficking.

Conclusion

Although human trafficking is a complex issue, the international legal instruments have been implemented to aid trafficking victims and to combat this worldwide epidemic. Even states that are not a party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its two related protocols are obligated to protect the rights of trafficked persons under provisions in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which comprises customary international law. The issues of compliance and enforcement of anti-trafficking laws are problematic, but not impossible to overcome. Initiatives through the UN.GIFT will provide supplemental funds to states to combat the issue of trafficking, but states cannot rely solely on UN programs as the solution to human trafficking. Regional efforts are promising, because trafficking is a transnational crime, and coordinated efforts are essential to targeting the sources of trafficking and convicting traffickers. States must honestly recognize their role in combating this world-wide epidemic, because trafficking continues to negatively impact millions of people every year. Trafficking, like pollution, is everyone’s problem. The world collectively objected to slavery, and it will require a collective effort once again to abolish the practice of human trafficking.

Annotations


Annotation: Abramson evaluates the weaknesses of the U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. She claims that the Trafficking Protocol fails to reconcile the debate of consenting adults who may be involved in trafficking. Section II sets this piece apart from other trafficking articles, as it concisely illustrates the autonomy arguments of consent to trafficking. A considerable piece of the article focuses on sex workers, consent, and human trafficking. The article is a useful source
for evaluating various criticisms of the Trafficking Protocol as an effective tool for eliminating the practice of trafficking.


Annotation: Experts from around the world have contributed to this comprehensive book regarding the international legal implications associated with migration. This piece would be especially helpful for someone researching the associations between migration and human trafficking, which are often interlinked. The most helpful piece of this book is the focus on the multilateral and regional agreements and customary international law that protect the rights of persons forced into migration. The strength of this collection is that it covers an array of topics related to human trafficking and migration issues as related to international law.


Annotation: This collection of essays gives insight to the immigration issues within the European Union’s borders. It serves as a prototype for nations or regions that may consider opening borders or lessening migration restrictions, and details the complications that may arise as a result. The essays touch on topics such as foreign policy, transnational organized crime, and sovereignty as it relates to migration. Although there is only one chapter dedicated to the challenges of human trafficking (Chapter 12), the entire piece is helpful for someone who is researching migration-related issues in comparison to human trafficking or migration laws and how this could potentially affect a region.


Annotation: This book clearly outlines the legal measures implemented in Europe to combat the trafficking of women for purposes of sexual exploitation. These measures are demonstrated through legal cases in the European Court of Justice and European Court of Human Rights, international treaties, legislation in the Council of Europe, and covenants within the European Union. As Europe has laid much of the foundation for the implementation of international law, this source could be considered a comprehensive guidebook for the field of combating trafficking through the mechanisms of international law. Unfortunately, the focus of the book pertains to women and sexual exploitation, and does not provide much information regarding other trafficked persons.

Annotation: Although this article highlights human trafficking between Ethiopia and Lebanon, it also speaks to cases throughout the world that are similar. Lebanon is an example of a state that has ratified the Trafficking Protocol, but has not yet implemented domestic legislation. Beydoun’s article depicts the problems with states, like Lebanon, that rely on cheap labor to sustain their economy. The focus of this article is the trafficking of women and girls, and the unique aspects of trafficking in Lebanon. The sex tourism industry thrives in Lebanon because tourists from the region visit due to the less restrained lifestyle and availability of prostitutes. As there are not as many publications regarding trafficking in the Middle East, Beydoun provides an interesting insight to the complexities of the trafficking issue in this region.


Annotation: Although Boczek provides a thorough and navigable guide to international law, it may not be the most decipherable resource for someone unfamiliar with international law. In fact, it may be too exhaustive for someone who is searching for basic information about international law and human rights, and too broad for research on a specific topic within human rights and international law. It is, however, a sound reference for international law research.


Annotation: This lengthy article attempts to remind scholars, policymakers, and states alike of the lessons learned from the past about the slave trade in order to combat the modern problem of human trafficking. Bravo recognizes that this is not the first article using this analogy, but she explores this comparison more deeply, depicting the economic structure of the past and present. Included in this article is an outline and explanation of the international legal instruments to combat trafficking. Bravo critiques the strengths and weaknesses of these instruments. One element that is included in this article that would be of interest to someone exploring the angles of human trafficking is section III, sub-section E, which analyzes the market-based response to human trafficking.


Annotation: Although this collection focuses primarily on international migration law rather than trafficking specifically, it is still a worthy source for this topic. Chapters thirteen and twenty-six are the most helpful for someone researching primarily human trafficking topics. However, the chapters regarding the regional norms are useful for clarifying the
complications of reasons for migration and trafficking within certain regions or states. This book is helpful because it deals with contemporary issues, such as the struggle between anti-terrorism measures and their affects on migration legislation.

http://judiciary.senate.gov/testimony.cfm?id=2613&wit_id=6203

Annotation: The hearing before the House of Representatives offers a detailed account of the dilemma of trafficked persons into the United States, and the measures that the United States is taking to combat the issue. This document provides insight to the nuances that are discussed during the development stage of international law. Since it is an actual hearing, it can be a somewhat tedious document to gather information from for research purposes. The hearing does provide a great deal of information about what measures the United States is taking to combat human trafficking.


Annotation: Although this article is brief, it gives information regarding six Asian countries’ plans for combating human trafficking. Regional measures for implementing international law are becoming more common as a cooperative effort to handle transnational crimes, such as trafficking. With China at the forefront of the efforts in Asia, the cooperative efforts of Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) are likely to bring about a cohesive solution. Since a great percentage of the trafficked victims are from this region, the response of COMMIT shows the possibilities for other regions that wish to combat the problem as well. Since trafficking is most often a transnational crime, it requires cooperation between states.


Annotation: Rachlin and Dimitrova have compiled an assortment for state and local solutions to the global problem of human trafficking. This piece is especially helpful for persons responsible for creating policy on a micro level for human trafficking. However, it is a relatively short piece and would certainly need to be used in conjunction with other sources. This source provides hard to locate information regarding policies implemented at the state level. This piece could serve as a guide to possible solutions for policy makers.

Annotation: International law is only included in a small section at the end of this collection. Therefore, this book should not be considered a primary resource for international law and human trafficking. However, there is a myriad of valuable information about the complexities of human trafficking issued throughout the world. Oftentimes it is necessary to understand the basics of the problem before managing the possible solutions. Ebbe and Das give numerous examples of trafficking from all over the world to highlight the problems. The focus of the book, as the title indicates, is primarily women and children.


Annotation: Researchers from Free the Slaves, and from the Human Rights Center of the University of California, Berkeley conducted surveys and interviews from 1998-2003 in the United States to compile the data for this report on forced labor. The goal of this report is to expose the practice of human trafficking and forced labor in order to try to eradicate it. The report outlines a set of recommendations for the United States government to consider enforcing in order to eliminate and protect the victims of trafficking and forced labor. Although the entire report could be useful for someone researching forced labor, sections four, five, seven, and eight are of particular interest in terms of legal measures and recommendations. This article focuses on law within the United States, not international law.


Annotation: This collection of articles examines the legal framework of trafficking in six European countries: France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom, with the final article devoted to the European Union. The authors approach the problem of human trafficking from the legal and social perspectives. For the purposes of this article, the legal cases were of particular interest. There is an emphasis of the actors within civil society. In terms of enforcement, civil society is an essential actor.


Annotation: Haynes illustrates the critical problems of the enforcement of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) through a fictitious story of a young woman trafficked to the United States. Although the story is fictitious, it is a compilation of true accounts, compiled to effectively point out the shortcomings of the TVPA. Haynes’ article is a useful, critical analysis of the TVPA and the problems that domestic legal remedies face because of the lack of consistency at the local level of law enforcement agencies. One of the goals of UN.GIFT is to strengthen the education of law enforcement agents, judiciaries, and
immigration officers throughout the world so that the trafficking victims are offered proper protection. However, UN.GIFT was not launched until nearly the same time of publication of this article. With the TVPA in the United States, and domestic legal remedies in other states all face similar problems of enforcement at the local level, and this article effectively illustrates those shortcomings.


Annotation: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has a number of resources related to migration, migration laws, trafficking, policy guidance, and protection of migrant’s rights. IOM is one of the one of the most well-founded organizations in migration and trafficking issues. Included in this website is access to publications, often free upon request, and sometimes downloadable. The Counter Trafficking Modular Database provides statistics about trafficking all over the world. Since IOM currently has 122 member states, the information regarding migration and trafficking is immense. An additional resource that the IOM website provides is a section on migration law. The website section is limited, but there are links to the various publications, which are helpful for someone researching international migration law.


Annotation: Kathleen Kim, Director of the Human Trafficking Project at Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, reviews the strengths of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA). In comparison with the international treaties, of which the United States is only a signatory, the TVPA and immigration law are the primary mechanisms utilized in the United States to combat human trafficking. Kim provides a basic outline of the complexities of defining and combating human trafficking. The section devoted to the pros and cons of domestic civil litigation is particularly interesting in regards to how domestic law can be an effective mechanism for trafficked persons within the United States.


Annotation: This compilation includes the background of human trafficking, regional issues of human trafficking in Central Europe and Asia, and current mechanisms employed to eradicate human trafficking. The contributing authors include experts in the topic of human trafficking from all over the world, which offers a variety of perspectives in one concise volume. Although the collection could be strengthened by including a specific section devoted to international law and human trafficking, it does provide sufficient information on the topic of human trafficking. However, the volume does not offer region-specific information outside of Europe or Asia, and could not be utilized a comprehensive guide for human trafficking issues.

Annotation: This hearing before the United States Senate provides a detailed account of the United States’ approach to the issue of human trafficking. Not only does it document the accomplishments of the United States in regards to this problem, it also presents the recommendations of the Senate for continuing to combat this issue. This document is especially useful for someone researching the United States’ approach to human trafficking. Detailed accounts such as these are helpful for states that are in the process of developing reforms and passing legislation on similar issues, in order to note what has been successful in other states.


Annotation: One of the major debates of the discourse of human trafficking is the issue of prostitution. In some states, prostitution is legal, which makes proving sexual exploitation of trafficked victims problematic. This article criticizes the debate at its core, asserting that all prostitutes are sexually exploited victims, regardless of the legal status of the act of prostitution. The authors assert that prostitution and trafficking are undeniably linked, and attempt to prove the link through the statistics and research in the article. Additionally, the article depicts the different legal approaches to prostitution throughout recorded history. The strength of this article is the section that refers to the shortcomings of the research in the field of human trafficking, and how the lack of consistent information is a hindrance to the elimination of the practice.


Annotation: Lindo’s article is a criticism of the European Union’s adoption of legal measures to combat trafficking without substantial elements in place to actually combat the problem. Throughout the piece, she asserts that the rhetoric lacks credibility because the enforcement and prevention mechanisms are insufficient. Regions that are attempting to model the European Union’s strategy could learn the shortcomings of implementation of anti-trafficking measures through articles such as this. The article focuses primarily on trafficking in terms of sexual exploitation. As an appendix, Lindo includes the United States Department of State 2005 Trafficking in Persons Statistical Summary Table, which is a helpful outline of where trafficked persons are transiting.

Annotation: Mattar is an Adjunct Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Protection Project at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. This compilation of resources is quite helpful for researches seeking sources on international law and human trafficking. The list is concisely categorized and thorough, which makes it accessible and useful for any user. Articles are often written on one particular scope of human trafficking, but this bibliography includes a wide range of topics. This list of sources would be quite helpful for scholars researching the topic of human trafficking, especially if the topic is unfamiliar.


Annotation: Although this article is a bit dated, the material of this short, concise piece is still relevant and helpful for understanding the complexities of compliance with international law. It illustrates who the actors are and how each interacts with each other in the international arena. The resource should not be considered an updated source for data concerning signatories to treaties and conventions. The most accurate data can be taken directly from the United Nations' web sources. In regards to human trafficking and international law, this source provides just one piece of a greater picture, especially considering that the most relevant protocols were established after its publication.


Annotation: Obokata is a consultant for governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations on human trafficking. He has pulled from his experiences and extensive research to provide a guide for states and those who are working towards combating human trafficking. Many authors approach the possible solutions to human trafficking from the final result, but Obokata widens the spectrum by addressing trafficking issues by identifying applicable human rights norms and principles from the beginning to the end of the trafficking process. He then outlines the states’ legal obligations to address the issue of human trafficking. This piece provides a few case studies at the domestic, regional, and international levels, which aim to connect the principles that he is advocating.


Annotation: The international community must work in cooperation in order to effectively combat human trafficking. At the 2005 U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, the United States issued a proposal for a statute to further protect the rights of trafficked
women. This brief fact sheet includes the text of the adopted resolution, which links human trafficking and the sex tourism industry. Although this resolution is brief, it is an important step of the international community’s recognition of the status of trafficked persons as victims, and the particular need to protect women and girls. The United States’ Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issues a number of publications that provide updated information on human trafficking statistics, resolutions, and legislation, most of which can be found on the website. The Trafficking in Persons report is produced annually, and can be downloaded from the site, as well.


Annotation: Ollus’ short paper briefly classifies human trafficking as one of five problem types: migration, criminal, human rights, labor, and health. These categories compartmentalize human trafficking for the reader so that he or she can analyze how best to deal with human trafficking. Her main focus, however is to clarify the United Nations protocol regarding human trafficking for persons interested in the legal instruments available for combating this problem. Although this paper is short, it provides a clear, concise resource for someone who desires to work with the U.N. trafficking protocol.


Annotation: This volume is devoted to the legitimization of international law in relation to human rights violations. Although the chapters focus primarily on the human rights violations and legal mechanisms in North America and Europe, the volume is comprehensive in its approach to the criminalization of human rights violations. Perhaps the most supportive chapters in regards to human trafficking and international law are the chapters by Albrecht, Burssens and Walgrave, and Parmentier and Weitekamp.


Annotation: Rassam’s article asserts that human trafficking is a form of slavery, and therefore fits within the scope of customary international law. This link is provocative and worth considering in the case against human trafficking. If the international community considered human trafficking as a form of slavery, the legal approach would be more straightforward, as slavery is included in customary international law. Other than this particular point, much of Rassam’s article is similar to other articles on human trafficking. Sections II and IV are of particular interest in terms of international law and human trafficking.

Annotation: This article concludes that current international laws on contemporary forms of slavery and forced labor are outdated and non-responsive to the current situation regarding trafficked persons. Rassam asserts that there must be a shift from “abolition and criminalization to a more inclusive affirmation of the socio-economic rights of the enslaved in a new comprehensive multilateral instrument.” Rassam defines the characteristics of contemporary slavery and illustrates the issues of contemporary slavery through examples in Thailand, India, Pakistan, and Mauritania. The remainder of the article focuses on the international instruments that can be employed to combat human trafficking, and on pointing out the shortcomings of these instruments.


Annotation: Rijken provides a comprehensive assessment of the European and international mechanisms for combating human trafficking, and concludes that it is necessary to include both approaches in order to effectively approach the dilemma. This volume contains detailed information regarding the legal instruments available for prosecuting cases of human trafficking more effectively, based on the concept of regional jurisdiction. Rijken not only lays out the different legal mechanisms available; she also includes an overview and analysis of these instruments, including case studies from the Netherlands.


Annotation: One of the major complaints of researching and reporting human trafficking abuses is the inconsistency of the information collected. The authors of this piece attempt to compare and contrast the methods of monitoring human trafficking, including both qualitative and quantitative. Currently, there is not one standard for reporting human trafficking abuses; the authors emphasize the need to devise a consistent method in order to accurately hold states accountable to human rights standards. This source is most helpful for someone researching the data related to human trafficking.


Annotation: This site is an accurate source for determining which states have signed and ratified the U.N. Trafficking Protocol. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is charged with monitoring ratification of and compliance with the convention and treaties.
related to human trafficking. Additionally, the reservations that states have regarding the treaties are listed on this site. Information about the protocols, including the date that each entered into force, and links to each of the protocols, makes this site easily accessible for research related to the protocols.


Annotation: Thomas’ concise article clearly explains the role of NGOs in the realm of international human rights reporting. Although the article does not specifically focus on human trafficking, the principles are the same in regards to compliance reporting. One of the major problems of enforcing anti-trafficking laws is a lack of monitoring and compliance. NGOs aid in the monitoring process so that the state and other international agencies, such as the U.N., are aware of non-compliance issues. NGOs, Thomas claims, are fostering a legitimization of international human rights law.


Annotation: Tiefenbrun’s article is a critical study of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA), its effectiveness in controlling human trafficking within the United States, as well as the international impact of the TVPA. Persons studying the effectiveness and progress of domestic law in controlling human trafficking would find this article useful, as Tiefenbrun explores the challenges and changes that have occurred as a result of implementing the TVPA. This well-organized, concise piece could be strengthened if it provided more information on the international and domestic impact of the TVPA, but overall, it is a useful piece.


Annotation: Part two of the Legislative Guides is the most relevant to this article, as it focuses on the Trafficking Protocol. This guide is probably the most useful piece in understanding the protocols and the language within the treaties. The most useful distinction of the guide is defining which measures of the treaties are mandatory, and which are aspirational. Additionally, the guide indicates the relationship between the Trafficking Protocol and the Convention, since the Trafficking Protocol is supplementary to the Convention. These guides will be most useful for policymakers who intend to implement the protocols or scholars studying the legal requirements of the protocols.
Annotation: The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa, spoke at the Vienna Convention to Fight Human Trafficking in February 2008. Included in the speech, Costa demands cooperation between governments, parliamentarians, private companies, religious leaders, the media, actors and entertainers, and civil society in order to effectively combat human trafficking. Costa outlines a set of concrete goals for policymakers to implement to help eradicate trafficking.

Annotation: This Toolkit is perhaps the single most useful tool for implementing a comprehensive legal strategy to combat human trafficking. Designed for policymakers, non-governmental organizations, criminal justice systems, intergovernmental organizations, and law enforcement agencies, this guidebook outlines the tools available and the most effective means for implementing those instruments. Additionally, it provides suggested strategies and partnerships for working towards eliminating human trafficking. As suggested, the approach adheres to a legal framework. The Toolkit uses the U.N. Trafficking Protocol as its primary reference, therefore making all information throughout the piece cohesive and coherent.

Annotation: The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto. The primary protocol that is of concern for this article is the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The significance of these treaties is that a definition of human trafficking was established by the international community and the trafficked persons are treated as victims, and therefore provided a certain degree of protection. This protocol is the most specific regulation in international law, which provides specific requirements for states to take legal action against trafficking as well as certain provisions to protect trafficked victims.

Annotation: The report published annually by the United States includes information regarding trafficking throughout the world. This report is useful as a prototype for other
reporting references. The Department of State is required to submit an annual report to Congress. The comprehensive report focuses on worldwide efforts to combat human trafficking. Countries are divided into Tiers of compliance to the guidelines of the TVPA: Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 3. One of the strengths of the Trafficking Report is that it focuses on all trafficked persons, not just women and children. The Trafficking Report is accessible, thorough, and inclusive of states throughout the world. The Country Narratives section gives a brief evaluation and set of recommendations, which is a useful resource for research on various states or regions.


Annotation: This volume is an immense collection that provides comprehensive information in regards to international and European instruments for international law. Van den Wijngaert served as a judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and is an international law expert. The intended audience of the volume is students and practitioners of international law; it is not the most decipherable work for basic information, as it is very thorough. It includes the most relevant treaties, conventions, and agreements, and therefore serves as an invaluable resource for these instruments in one volume.

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/61124.htm

Annotation: The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, often referred to as TVPA, was issued by the United States in order to have a legal remedy for human trafficking. Although it is a legal statute, the jargon is easily understood. The TVPA could easily serve as a model for other states wishing to implement similar laws. It clearly defines the United States’ policy on trafficking and the measures necessary to eradicate it. Adhering to the U.N. Trafficking Protocol, the TVPA is aligned with international law, but includes a few aspects that are unique to the United States, such as reinforcement of principles of certain Supreme Court findings, United States Code, and the Declaration of Independence.


Annotation: This is a comprehensive introductory volume concerning international law and human rights. Both Weissbrodt and De La Vega are renowned authors and experts in the field of international human rights law. The book comprises three sections: an overview of the development of human rights as a domain of international law; a collection of brief summaries of each of the rights specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other critical human rights instruments; and a review of the national, regional, and international procedures for implementing human rights precepts.

Annotation: This case study is an excellent example of the type of evaluation and scrutiny that states should undergo in regards to compliance with international laws—in this particular case, human trafficking laws. Yun’s article compares Japan’s domestic law to international law, and analyzes the level of compliance or lack thereof. This critical analysis is thorough yet concise, and would be the ideal prototype for other domestic comparisons. Scholars and policymakers would find this article useful for comparing the legal rhetoric versus the actual implementation. This article specifically focuses on the sex tourism industry; researchers needing a more broad scope may not find this article as useful.
Smuggling versus Trafficking: Do the U.N. Protocols have it right?
By Carolyn Burke

The terms “human trafficking” and “human smuggling” are often thought of as interchangeable due to their similar connections with irregular migration and the clandestine movement of people. However, trafficking and smuggling maintain their own differences, especially pertaining to their organizational dynamics, their forms, and their voluntary and involuntary natures that revolve around trust and exploitation. Current understandings of these terms stem from the widely accepted United Nations Protocols that were resultant from the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. These Protocols were the first real attempts to differentiate between human trafficking and human smuggling, and provide a significant foundation for a general definition of these terms. Yet, human smuggling and human trafficking differ beyond the basic distinctions made by the U.N. Protocols. Although the Protocols highlight fundamental differences, they fail to expand upon further distinctions between these two terms.

The United Nations Protocols, entitled the “Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air” and the “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,” provide a basic foundation upon which smuggling and trafficking definitions begin. The first protocol defines smuggling as “the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident.” This protocol establishes smuggling as the mutual financial agreement, between the smuggler and migrant, to illegally transport a person across an international border. In contrast, the second U.N. Protocol defines trafficking as:

the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

This second protocol establishes trafficking as the illegal transportation of an individual against their will through the use of coercion, bribery, force, or deception.

Through these definitions, smuggling can be understood as a transaction between migrant and smuggler that provides agency to the migrant in the process. In comparison, the definition of trafficking emphasizes exploitation, and thus the absence of choice. These definitions provide an excellent foundation for understanding the basic differences between smuggling and trafficking; however, they are inadequate because of their inherent simplicities that exclude further differentiation between the two terms. This further differentiation begins with an examination of the organizational dynamics in which smuggling and trafficking operate. Transnational crime is usually associated with the notion of hierarchical organized crime structures that determine operations. However, smuggling strays away from this broader perception by operating on an individual level or within loosely structured smuggling networks. These small-scale operations are carried out by independent actors and maintain a circulatory element. Within
this element, smugglers assist migrants, migrants assist relatives, and relatives return to the smuggler to emigrate. The smuggler is encouraged to do his or her job well in order to retain business.

In comparison, trafficking uses highly organized crime structures. Instead of operating within a loose framework of one or two individuals carrying out operations on a small-scale level, trafficking operates within an intricate system of varying levels of power. Trafficking follows the more traditional hierarchical structure of transnational organized crime, with one individual or group issuing orders and various sub-levels carrying out the orders. The use of centralized structures facilitates the illegal transport of human beings through recruitment, deception, harboring, and trade, thereby exemplifying the involuntary nature of trafficking. Although trafficking is also a business, it thrives under rigid control and job separation.

In addition to their organizational breakdown, smuggling and trafficking further vary in their forms. Human smuggling, with its mutually voluntary participation from both the migrant and the smuggler, largely occurs within labor and asylum migration. Individuals involved are looking for either a better profit margin or a better life. A smuggler enters into a contract with a migrant to receive compensation for his or her services during the transitory portion of the crime. In comparison, a migrant enters into a contract with a smuggler to seek a better, economically stable life within a specific destination country. Whether it is for the purpose of better work, a better life, or political asylum, smuggled migrants willingly enter into a contract with a smuggler to escape from the difficulties that perpetuated their desire to leave their homes.

Particularly with asylum, the various benefits offered in Western countries for migrants who seek asylum can be highly desirable and may ultimately influence a migrant’s decision to immigrate to a particular destination country. However, regardless of a successful smuggling operation, migrants are still vulnerable to deportation. The mutually voluntary nature of smuggling can lead to legal repercussions. Unlike the recent development of victim protections for trafficking victims, smuggling continues to be viewed as an illicit crime committed by both parties involved, subjecting both smuggler and migrant to a host of legal consequences.

In comparison, human trafficking predominantly occurs within the forms of forced sex and forced labor. Women and children are the most vulnerable to being trafficked for sex. They are transported illegally, unwillingly, and sometimes unknowingly within a specific country or across international borders. Labor trafficking is similarly conducted, but with a wider pool of victims. Additionally, labor trafficking is completely involuntary, unlike the voluntary and contractual nature of labor smuggling. Ultimately, both sex and labor trafficking victims are sold into trafficking by deception, coercion, exploitation, and force. Unlike with smuggling, where a migrant is willing to be smuggled throughout the process, trafficking presents a complete violation of an individual’s agency and their basic human rights. In trafficking, there is a victim and a perpetrator, whereas in smuggling there are two illegal actors, the smuggler and the migrant.

A predominant factor in smuggling and trafficking distinctions is the voluntary or involuntary nature of the crimes. Smuggling definitions imply a voluntary nature where the smuggler and migrant enter into some kind of a contract to illegally transport migrants for a profit. Unlike trafficking, the smuggler develops a relationship with the migrant that ends upon completion of the transaction. There is a level of trust between the smuggler and the migrant that does not exist in trafficking. Without trust, the migrant will not enter into an agreement with the smuggler.
 Trafficking, however, involves an initial establishment of trust that disappears almost immediately. Trafficking definitions imply a significant involuntary nature where the trafficker and the victim only enter an arrangement through coercion, force, or exploitation. There is no relationship and there is no trust within the trafficking process. Traffickers illegally transport human beings for a profit with no mutual contract ever established between the trafficker and the victim. Trafficking remains rooted within deception, bribery, and bondage. The U.N. Protocols do provide basic definitions of human smuggling and human trafficking; however, they fail to mention trust in their differentiations, a factor which is integral to how these crimes operate and continue to thrive. Although the crimes are similar in their illegal transport of humans, they differ greatly in their levels of trust. The voluntary and involuntary natures of these crimes are often dependent upon the existence or absence of trust.

Another main exclusion of the U.N. Protocols involves the potential for exploitation to occur within smuggling as well as trafficking. The trafficking protocol addresses the exploitative nature of trafficking within its text and is used as a differentiation between human smuggling and human trafficking. However, the Smuggling Protocol fails to address the potential for smuggling to use exploitation to increase profits, blackmail migrants, or even segue into involuntary trafficking. This broad generalization of human trafficking and human smuggling is only further reinforced by current literature’s failure to recognize that smuggled migrants, although offered agency within the activity, are highly vulnerable to exploitation as well. Ultimately, there is a very thin line between these two crimes that can be easily crossed by a specific scenario, no matter how great the differences between the two crimes are.

Human smuggling and human trafficking are inherently linked as both contribute to illegal migration; however, they are fundamentally different. Human smuggling and human trafficking vary in their organizational dynamics, their forms, and their voluntary or involuntary natures. Although the U.N. Protocols touch briefly on these topics, they are largely ignored. Additionally, the Protocols exclude the important trust variable within their definitions and mistakenly associate exploitation with only human trafficking. Although they provide an excellent foundation for a differentiation between the human smuggling and human trafficking terms, they remain too broad to elicit proper understandings, and thus proper responses to these highly complex issues. It is universally understood that these issues must be addressed, but a thorough differentiation between the two is necessary to better understand the issues and how best to confront them. Knowing how human smuggling and human trafficking operate, who is involved, and for what purpose, is integral to determining the best course of action.

Annotations


Annotation: This collection of essays addresses the trafficking of women and children into prostitution and the global sex trade. The essays includes an analysis of policies on and responses to illegal sex trafficking. The essays are separated into various subheadings, including: migration and trafficking; national security, organized crime, and civil conflict; laws, legislation, and international intervention; as well as national and local initiatives and
service models. This volume also provides a valuable and comprehensive introduction to sex trafficking and outlines steps currently being taken to address this issue.


Annotation: Within this brief article, the author asserts that the increase in sex trafficking in women is largely the result of the globalization era. The first section of the article addresses the nature of consumer demands, citing women and children as sexual commodities within a consumer culture. The second section looks at various responses to sex trafficking, finding sex industry laws unable to combat trafficking effectively. The final section addresses the false impressions of sex trafficking as a form of illegal immigration by various governments.


Annotation: This report provides practical steps for federal, state, and local agencies to use in human trafficking investigations. The article outlines best practices for conducting federal investigations by citing proper first responses, the stabilization of victims, garnering victim cooperation, the proper process of evidence collection, and effective interview techniques. This is a great piece for understanding the criminology of human trafficking, as well as the process of bringing human traffickers to justice.


Annotation: The authors of this article seek to differentiate between smuggling and trafficking by using migrant interviews in Austria to establish smuggling as a service industry based on client supply and demand. The authors stress that Austria, as a transit country, continues to provide easy access into the Schengen countries from Central and Eastern Europe. Supported by quotes from interviews and quantitative analysis, this article examines the importance of smuggler-client relationships, the role of credit in smuggling, the various organizational structures of smuggling networks, and the larger concept of smuggling as a market structure.


Annotation: This document evaluates the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. It begins with an introduction to trafficking, using the U.N. Protocols as its foundation. This introduction is followed by background information on the Act and an examination of its basic framework that includes immigration regulations, prosecution efforts, and an analysis of the Trafficking in Persons Report. The article concludes with policy recommendations for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act that the author suggests would better combat trafficking and protect victims.

Annotation: Buckland provides a new approach to understanding human trafficking by addressing the social, economic, and political factors contributing to forced and illegal migration. The author suggests that trafficking extends far beyond the current over-emphasis on the victim. By focusing on the motivations behind forced and illegal migration, Buckland argues that a more complete understanding of who is trafficked and for what reasons will ultimately emerge, and thereby provide better insight into how to address the issue and its policy implications.


Annotation: This piece studies the recent development of the illegal organ market within human trafficking. The authors look at how this market surfaced, who participates, and how international efforts to combat this industry remain unsuccessful. The article notes that although the sale of organs is illegal in most countries, the socio-economic factors that contribute to this industry's success continue to occur. Several of the article's contributors suggest new approaches to combating the sale of organs and seek to provide a better understanding of how this market operates within the context of human trafficking.


Annotation: This article evaluates the intentions and effectiveness of the United States Trafficking Victims’ Protection Act of 2000. Included are examinations of various aspects of trafficking, such as the question of consent and the issue of border protection. The author ultimately argues that the Protection Act, while beneficial to the individuals it seeks to protect, maintains an ulterior motive targeted at the migrants excluded from its protections. Chapkis asserts that this ulterior motive represents a larger political agenda on immigration.


Annotation: Within this article, Corrin explores the emergence of human trafficking throughout Central and Eastern Europe since the fall of the Soviet Union. Several aspects of trafficking in this region are identified, including: economic factors, trafficking routes to and through the region, links between trafficking and prostitution, the abuse of women during times of war, and the development of international legislation. This article provides an excellent Central and Eastern European case study on the subject.

Annotation: Desyllas argues how human trafficking should be viewed within a more constructive framework of labor rights, migration, and human rights. Desyllas emphasizes how Western understandings of trafficking and their policies suffer from underlying fears of female sexuality, migration, and race. These policies then reinforce third world stereotypes and fail to address issues in trafficking effectively. The article demonstrates how a change in the policy approaches of the United States, the international community, and non-governmental organizations would help to better represent the multi-layered and highly complex issue of forced migration.


Annotation: This article is an excerpt from a larger body of work on the contemporary practices of the United States, specifically pertaining to human trafficking. It examines the efforts being made by the United States to combat trafficking, beginning with an explication of the United Nations Trafficking Protocol adopted by the United States in 2000. The author dissects the U.N. Protocol in addition to identifying both the United States’ Congressional findings and current legal recourse on this issue.


Annotation: This study recognizes the U.N. Smuggling and Trafficking Protocols as the first use of international law to combat transnational crimes. The author claims that these protocols stem from security and sovereignty issues, citing how both trafficking and smuggling disrupt legal migration and undermine the immigration policies of nations. Included are overviews of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the established protocols, current responses to trafficking, trafficking and smuggling definitions, as well as current prevention and protection efforts.


Annotation: Geddes’s article identifies persistent themes within the human trafficking and human smuggling debate in the United Kingdom. Particularly, the article reflects on how debates on migration and its legal responses do not adequately address human smuggling and trafficking issues. Geddes asserts that both irregular migration and human smuggling and trafficking have an impact on identity perceptions of migrants, stating that although irregular migration, trafficking, and smuggling present new legal, social, and political
challenges, they continue to be categorized as illegal immigration within British immigration policies and debate.


Annotation: This article examines the social organization of the smuggling process by utilizing a methodological approach to study illegal migration. Heckmann identifies current trends of illegal migration within a German case study to successfully introduce a broader understanding of human smuggling and its various forms, actors, and conditions. This is a thought-provoking and highly instrumental article for identifying the various elements of smuggling beyond the traditional organizational understandings of human smuggling operations.


Annotation: Herro’s article briefly examines human trafficking by introducing various statistics that allude to the staggering number of individuals and countries impacted by this issue. Herro also elaborates on some positive national and international responses to human trafficking, particularly in Asia, that effectively confront the issue. The article concludes by briefly addressing the potential problems presented by human trafficking if it continues to thrive, including the spread of HIV/AIDS among victims. The article suggests that the addition of this health element establishes human trafficking as more than just a human rights violation, but a public health issue as well.


Annotation: This case study on sexual trafficking in the United States provides a new approach to the subject by taking a social work perspective. The article highlights the transnational nature of the crime, trafficking patterns, recruitment, and rates, as well as the role of organized crime in trafficking’s development. With regard to the United States, the author addresses online victimization, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, and several alternative approaches to dealing with trafficking, such as the Swedish Model on sexual violence.


Annotation: This report makes several recommendations to help improve the United States’ efforts to combat trafficking by identifying major weaknesses that currently exist within these efforts. Several flaws are identified within the United States’ overall trafficking strategy, national and international data collecting, and the annual US Trafficking in Persons Report.
This report is useful as it provides a brief background of US involvement in human trafficking, several pertinent statistics, and a thorough evaluation of anti-trafficking efforts.


Annotation: The authors of this article explore the vagueness of trafficking definitions and examine how different stakeholders, governments, and organizations have sought to define and address this issue. The article provides three sections on the topic, including a brief history of trafficking, a quantitative approach to understanding the issue, as well as an examination of the various definitions and frameworks tied to this term. This is an excellent article that provides a fresh perspective on the topic.


Annotation: Jandl asserts that since the EU’s recent enlargement, smugglers have adapted to and taken advantage of the new European environment. The article supports this claim by examining data provided by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development on the 2004 enlargement of the European Union. The data suggest that smugglers are now utilizing official road borders and false travel documents to make illegal east-to-west crossings. Identified within the article are current human smuggling trends in Europe and the significant smuggling issues that have arisen that need to be addressed by the EU and its new member states.


Annotation: Ann Jordan’s article examines the weaknesses of current efforts to combat trafficking. She establishes four major reasons for ineffective responses, including: denial of the trafficking problem, the objectification of victims, the conflation of the issue with undocumented migration, as well as the existence of inadequate definitions. Jordan then cites the failure of the 2000 U.N. Protocols to bring about an effective international framework to combat trafficking. Finally, she closes by identifying the opportunities and challenges now facing domestic legislation, arguing that by working together, the opportunity to end this human rights abuse will not be lost.


Annotation: The authors of this article examine irregular migration in Belgium and place a particular emphasis on irregular migration’s relationship to organized crime. Within the article, Belgium is identified as a prominent trafficking and smuggling transit country due to its geo-strategic location in Europe. Further examined are the accepted definitions of
trafficking and smuggling, the characteristics of migrants, the links between irregular migration and organized crime, and the methods used by trafficking and smuggling groups. The article closes with policy recommendations made by the authors.


Annotation: This book is a comprehensive introduction to illicit trafficking in all its forms. Included is a chapter that provides a thorough history of illicit trafficking with specific countries, regions, forms, trends, contributing factors, and responses highlighted. Also included are biographies, pertinent statistics, data and research, and information on agencies and organizations that are seeking to combat the issue. The book provides a very broad introduction to illicit trafficking but elements of human trafficking can be found in every chapter.


Annotation: This collection of essays argues against the traditional understanding of trafficking as a form of prostitution by highlighting that trafficking today occurs in several other forms which deserve international attention. The book approaches the effects of globalization on labor migration and subsequently human rights by citing rights violations within the following: freedom of movement, the existence of strict migration laws, the lack of decent laborer protections within employment, as well as the struggle for social and economic security. This book utilizes an Asian regional focus to identify broader concepts in trafficking that can be linked globally to all forms of trafficking.


Annotation: This book provides an examination of various forms of human smuggling and particular areas highly impacted by this issue. The authors address smuggling for migrant labor, asylum passages, sexual labor, and transnational crime. A particular emphasis is placed on labor smuggling into the United States from both China and Mexico; however, the book does explore smuggling occurrences in former Soviet Union countries and Japan. The book cites globalization as a major contributing factor, and remains somewhat limited with its focus on labor smuggling.


Annotation: This piece examines the debate currently surrounding migration policy in Europe. In addition to identifying other European migration trends, the author provides trafficking and smuggling sub-sections. Within these sub-sections, Laczko highlights the
U.N. Protocol definitions as well as the current trends within each crime. Ultimately, this article is useful for studying all aspects of European migration policy as it extends beyond the current trafficking and smuggling debate.


Annotation: This book, divided into two parts, reflects on the global rise of migrant trafficking and human smuggling. The first part of the book looks at existing research within this topic while also providing information on trafficking definitions, forms, routes, frameworks, and victim characteristics. The second part of this book includes three individual case studies on Hungary, Poland, and Ukraine. Included are interviews conducted with migrants and members of national anti-trafficking agencies. These interviews are used to better understand case-specific occurrences of trafficking and smuggling within these countries.


Annotation: This collection of essays seeks to establish a broad understanding of the human trafficking issue within the context of transnational crime. The book addresses several topics within trafficking, including: historical approaches to trafficking, issues and problems within trafficking research, regional case studies, transnational rights within government policies, and human rights theories. These studies identify major trends within human trafficking at both a conceptual and concrete level and highlight trafficking’s emerging role in globalization and transnational crime.


Annotation: This brief U.N. article on irregular migration pays particular attention to illegal organizational networks used by migrants to reach destination countries. Although several works have distinguished between trafficking and smuggling, this article identifies migrant smugglers as the equivalent to criminal traffickers, noting that smuggling can very easily transcend into an illegal trafficking and exploitative network. This article pays particular attention to migrants, offering insight on the migratory process and the details of United Nations’ efforts to elevate current understandings of migration trends from the illegal framework in which they reside.


Annotation: Full of quantitative research, this conference report argues that making distinctions between smuggling and trafficking is significantly more difficult to do than
language suggests. The report suggests that differences between smuggling and trafficking remain highly convoluted and are subject to change with each scenario. By briefly examining smuggling within the topics of Chinese merchant ships, the Western Hemisphere, Europe, and prostitution, the authors provide an excellent exploration of smuggling and trafficking terms.


Annotation: This article tries to distinguish between migrant smuggling, human trafficking, and irregular migration within the legal context of Italian, British, and European Union laws. The author notes that only migrant smuggling and human trafficking are transnational crimes, stating that irregular migration, stemming from poverty, is not a criminal act. McCreight closes by drawing several conclusions about immigration laws and policies that might better combat smuggling and trafficking issues and emphasize a decriminalization of migration. Ultimately, this article is useful for readers looking for legal interpretations of these terms.


Annotation: This short work addresses sex trafficking in Japan and provides an in-depth look into the Japanese sex trade and steps being taken to combat it. The article highlights several valuable statistics, the trafficking process, typical victims, as well as the latent laws being developed by the Japanese Parliament to reassess the situation and address this crisis. Providing a wealth of information on the status of sex trafficking in Japan, this article is useful for either a specific case study or a brief study of human sex trafficking in general.


Annotation: This journal article addresses how traditional definitions of human trafficking fit within the context of transnational crime but remain within the limited realm of prostitution. The article identifies the problems of trying to define trafficking by critiquing the widely accepted U.N. Protocol definition. To address policies that better and more broadly approach trafficking and its cessation, the article uses a case specific study of Australia’s developing migration laws and policies. The article effectively argues that trafficking in women should be viewed and approached as both a traditional criminal justice issue and a form of forced migration within current international migration patterns.

Annotation: This Canadian case study explores the nation’s responses to human smuggling within the broader context of a nation-state’s behavior regarding immigration policies and immigrant identities. The author uses information from a smuggling episode in Canada to make the larger claim that a state revolves around the people living within it. Both highly methodological and conceptual, this piece remains limited in its use for conducting thorough research on human smuggling; however, it does provide a different approach to understanding the concept of the nation-state.


Annotation: The main focus of this article is an examination of human smuggling in Germany. By identifying common migratory experiences and using relevant court cases, the piece intends to provide a better understanding of organizational elements within human smuggling processes. The author breaks down the smuggling process into three different categories, including: individual smuggling with a high degree of self-responsibility, visa smuggling as a pure service, and pre-organized stage-to-stage smuggling. The article effectively differentiates smuggling from trafficking and is highly valuable for understanding processes and characteristics of human smuggling within Germany and within a broader context.


Annotation: This article is an introduction to a larger body of work that examines human smuggling within Austria, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. Included are the research methods employed by the authors of the case studies, the specific findings within these four countries, as well as the varying organizational processes of smuggling identified by the authors. The article concludes with an assessment of the work’s findings while asserting that human smuggling must be approached as a complex and multi-faceted dilemma that transcends both border and national policies.


Annotation: Using contributions from several different authors, this article places a particular emphasis on the occurrence of human smuggling and trafficking for the purpose of forced labor. The piece begins with an introduction to contemporary slavery, followed by a series of contributions concerning slavery’s relation to migration. The article then provides an examination of various organizational efforts and polices being used to combat the smuggling and trafficking of human beings for labor. Concluding with general recommendations for the global community to use in addressing this global crisis, this article effectively springboards further debate on this topic.

Annotation: Through an examination of irregular migration in Italy, the authors of this article seek to contest the widely accepted view of human smuggling as an illicit activity conducted by highly centralized organized crime structures. Using court cases to support their claim, the authors argue that smugglers operate within little more than loosely organized networks, emphasizing the impact of borders, border-relations, and border control on smuggling networks. The text begins with a methodological review of human smuggling that is followed by two sections on the evolution of land and sea border smuggling dynamics in Italy. The authors conclude by suggesting the internationalization of smuggling policies.


Annotation: By examining the nature of transnational crime today, Pickering asserts that refugee protection should no longer be viewed within the context of the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime but instead reintroduced as part of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Pickering asserts that transnational crime, and more specifically, the criminalized view of refugee migration, ultimately marginalizes human rights. This article includes a narrative of transnational crime in relation to issues of sovereignty, external threats, internal challenges, human rights, policing practices, previous periods of migration, and the current trend of associating migration with transnational crime.


Annotation: This article provides an analysis of the United Nations’ Trafficking Protocol. Beginning with a brief background, the author examines the need for the protocol, the definition of trafficking, and the specific text within the issued statement. Also addressed are the various interpretations of the protocol, the relationship between trafficking and sexual exploitation, and current international responses to the crime. Ultimately, this piece is an excellent resource for dissecting the U.N. Trafficking Protocol and current efforts being taken to combat this issue.


Annotation: This United Nations article expands upon U.N. efforts to combat people smuggling and provides several of its own suggestions. The author asserts that illicit people smuggling remains a threat to a country’s sovereignty and thus its immigration policies. To combat smuggling, the author stresses greater cooperation among governments and international organizations and highlights the need for the U.N. to provide greater support
to states hosting large refugee populations. The strong tone of this article suggests that human smuggling should be identified as illegal migration instead of as a human rights issue.


Annotation: Salt’s article utilizes a methodological, theoretical, and empirical approach, including statistical data, to examine the existence of human trafficking and human smuggling within Europe. This approach provides discourse on the definitions and concepts of trafficking and smuggling and examines the various characteristics of trafficking victims and traffickers. Also discussed are the organizational structures of trafficking operations, the implications of trafficking on European migrant policies, and the relationships between trafficking and organized crime. This article is incredibly useful for a general introduction to trafficking.


Annotation: This book addresses the emergence of human trafficking within transnational crime by specifically examining the trafficking of women from Russia and Eastern Europe. The editors argue that although a recent increase occurred in activism and legislation regarding this issue, very little is actually known about the dimensions of the trafficking problem at international and national levels. The book tries to present trends and elements of the crime while providing both recommendations for and evaluations of trafficking policies. However, the book narrowly focuses on sex trafficking in Russia and neglects to address the supranational nature of the issue.


Annotation: This short piece focuses on trafficking and smuggling by providing a key distinction between the two terms, asserting that the differences between smuggling and trafficking lie within the very nature of their processes, suggesting that smuggling is a contractual business, whereas trafficking is a crime rooted in deception and bondage. The article concludes by emphasizing the need to create economic and social opportunities in vulnerable regions and the need to strengthen current victim protection laws.


Annotation: Very different from other literature on the global phenomenon of human trafficking, this book consists of a series of essays that emphasize the security risk factors stemming from the illegal and transnational trade of weapons, drugs, and human beings. The book largely argues that the current emergence of transnational crime has the ability to affect the security of societies at both the regional and international level. Chapters three and
fourteen in particular focus on the rise of human trafficking and smuggling. Both provide an examination of the various forms, roles, understandings, responses to, and motivations of human trafficking and smuggling within the United States and the international community as a whole.


Annotation: This study provides an overview of international migration and in particular the various increasing trends in migration identified by the United Nations. Included in these trends is a portion on international human trafficking and smuggling. The article recognizes the various ways in which the United Nations is addressing issues in international migration, including such topics as special agencies for human rights, internally displaced persons, family reunification, undocumented migrants, trafficking, and the social and economic integration of migrants.


Annotation: This is the sixth annual Trafficking in Persons Report submitted to the United States Congress by the Department of State. Addressed are the following: sexual slavery and sex labor, labor trafficking through recruitment, the methods of traffickers, the causes of trafficking, and victim protection. Particular notes of interest include a portion on bride selling in Iraq and an evaluation of the human and social costs of trafficking, such as with human rights, the growth of organized crime, social and societal breakdown, and public health. The report also assesses current actions being taken by foreign governments to combat trafficking and identifies the most effective strategies.


Annotation: This text is a transcript of the hearing before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee and provides first-hand testimonies from Senators and experienced government officials. Included in the statements are data specific facts regarding alien smuggling and human trafficking as well as agency specific responses to this global issue. This transcript is useful in identifying the steps the United States is taking to combat the emerging problem of migrant smuggling and trafficking.


Annotation: Utilizing a cross-country study of trafficking in the Philippines and Belgium, the author of this article seeks a better approach to combat trafficking within the European
Union. Van Impe suggests that trafficking is a phenomenon of migration cycles that must be seen within the scope of illegal migration as well as economic and social dynamics to elicit proper response. He ultimately asserts that a multi-disciplinary approach is the only way to effectively address this highly complex issue, citing how singular approaches, whether through legal, social, or administrative means, remain too narrow to make an impact.


Annotation: Specifically focusing on the Netherlands, the authors of this article study the agency of migrants in smuggling processes by interviewing recent migrants from Iraq, the Horn of Africa, and the former-Soviet Union. Topics addressed include: how migrants perceive their smugglers, how migrants make contact with smugglers, the level of control migrants have in choosing their final destination, as well as the appeal of the Netherlands to smugglers as both a destination and a transit country. The article concludes that stricter immigration policies in the Netherlands have done little to combat, if not increase, human smuggling incidences in the past decade.


Annotation: This book provides a thorough analysis of human trafficking in the United States by examining various factors contributing to its existence. The book highlights how and why human trafficking occurs by citing sexual labor, slavery, irregular population migration, the use of counterfeit documents, the use of illegal and legal channels, as well as the organizational element of transnational crime. In the closing chapters, Zhang addresses the implications of trafficking on the United States by examining the connections between trafficking and terrorism and the trafficking-specific issues the United States must further address.
Considering the Margins: Developing a Broader Understanding of Vulnerability to Trafficking
By Christopher Anderson

Efforts aimed at combating human trafficking should be directed at protecting those most vulnerable to being trafficked. There have been substantial efforts to create national and international laws punishing the act of trafficking, directed at those individuals caught trafficking people. While these laws create means by which to punish traffickers, they have not necessarily led to a reduction in the estimated numbers of trafficked people. This implies that simply approaching trafficking as a criminal activity is not enough. Instead, trafficking should be understood by the systemic factors that make populations vulnerable to trafficking. There may always be potential markets for trafficked individuals so the challenge confronting activists must be to understand how to approach the existing “supply” of people who are susceptible to being trafficked.

In order to more effectively combat the practice of human trafficking, it is important to understand common characteristics of trafficked people. Contrary to the popular perception of trafficking, it is not something solely affecting women and children. The truth is that trafficking is perpetrated on men and women, old and young, from various countries and to various countries. While some physical characteristics may make some people vulnerable to being trafficked for particular types of work, these characteristics do not necessarily make these people more vulnerable to being trafficked in general. Therefore, it is important to gain a better understanding of the economic and political conditions that make trafficking more prominent in some regions rather than others.

One of the misconceptions about trafficking is the role of gender in determining vulnerability. An initial review of the literature available on the topic of human trafficking provides an inaccurate picture of the gendered nature of trafficking. It might appear women are trafficked substantially more than men. While completely accurate data on the field is challenging to find, one study suggests roughly 58% of young trafficking victims are female and 42% are male. (Bokhari: 2008). Other reports suggest over half of all victims worldwide are male. Clearly, there is a difference in the rate at which men and women are trafficked, but the disparity may not be as great as commonly believed.

Gender, however, in part determines the type of work for which one may be trafficked. Most of the time the primary reason for trafficking men and boys is for labor, but the type of labor may vary. Young boys are usually trafficked to work in homes for domestic service while in some cases boys become child soldiers. When they get older, the trend towards labor continues, but is usually more physical and industrial in nature. With regards to girls and women who are trafficked we again see a trend towards particular types of labor. At younger ages, females work in domestic service positions, similar to young boys. As women get older, they are more likely to be trafficked for the sex trade.

Given the lack of substantial research on this issue, it is hard to clearly define the roles or characteristics that make males or females comparatively desirable to be trafficked. What is important to understand is at any age, and for either gender, it is possible to be desirable for some purpose. There is a substantial market for peoples of all genders and all ages. As long as conditions
push people to seek exits from challenging situations and there are conditions allowing trafficking to take place, it will be hard to change the existing market for trafficked peoples.

Children are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked because they rarely enter into any agreement on their own accord. Family economic weakness is a primary factor that puts these children in danger. For example, in Africa, trafficked children are commonly either given up by their families because it is too expensive to have another child at home, or because of the potential cash flow a child can send back through labor away from home. In Russia, the most vulnerable children are those who are poor and homeless and separated from their families. While both of these cases are clearly very different, the commonality remains that children in both of these regions are in danger when there is a weak or fragile economic situation.

People who have been trafficked once are clearly still vulnerable and the issues seem even to be magnified considerably. People who are trafficked find themselves in a foreign country (often illegally), in debt to their traffickers, and without resources for assistance. Given the relative weakness of laws against trafficking and their usually singular focus on issues of sex trafficking, there is little legal recourse available for trafficked people once they are “free.” There is considerable attention in human trafficking literature devoted to this concern. Much suggests that victims of trafficking are vital to legal efforts to prosecute traffickers, but that legal systems do not protect these victims from deportation, criminal prosecution, nor are there protections against retribution from the traffickers.

As argued above, economic vulnerability is one of the factors that can “push” people into a situation where they can be trafficked. The regions from which people are trafficked are generally countries experiencing significant economic troubles, however there is no one single economic indicator that can point to the likelihood of trafficking. People are not necessarily rounded up en masse and transported to distant locations where they are forced to work. The trend is that people in different countries look for a way to make a living either for themselves or as a way to support a larger family. Adults make rational choices to consider working abroad based on the promise of earning better money than is available at home. They often know something about the nature of the work that will be performed (i.e. physical labor, sex industry, etc.), but do not know exactly what their future employer/trafficker has in store for them. Once they leave their home, they find themselves in a position that is very difficult to escape.

Weak political institutions can make trafficking more prevalent as well. When a government is not able to provide adequate policing mechanisms, the poor and disenfranchised have fewer resources and recourse. While many countries have signed international protocols against human trafficking, and many have created domestic laws prohibiting such action, many states simply do not have the ability to enforce these protocols and laws. Without the ability to enforce the laws already on the books, the laws are altogether meaningless. This creates an environment where traffickers are relatively free to operate with little fear of punishment for their illegal activities.

It would not be prudent to conflate economic and political weaknesses. On some levels, a weak government can be linked to creating a situation of economic vulnerability. When there are significant numbers of people living in poverty and there is no governmental body that is able to be of assistance, the economically vulnerable look for a way out of their poverty away from the government. A weak economic situation and fragile political institutions can mutually reinforce one another in creating conditions that make someone vulnerable to be trafficked.
Humans are trafficked from all corners of the globe with all sorts of characteristics to a variety of locations. Until it is possible to do more detailed research on the differences between different genders, ethnicities and ages, it will be difficult to decipher more specific generalizations. In almost any part of the world where there exists particular conditions where people are vulnerable, there is likely going to be someone who is willing to take advantage of that vulnerability. At the same time, there are many other parts of the world with the economic resources to create a market for trafficked individuals.

Trafficking creates conditions that continue to make citizens vulnerable. Countries where people are trafficked from see continual decreases in human capital and social networks as more people are removed from society creating weaker economies and weaker domestic institutions. In the recipient countries, organized crime is able to make inroads into civil society and thus promulgate more trafficking. Trafficking is insidious on a societal scale, not just for individuals. It creates a continuing downward spiral leading to more trafficking by creating entrenched factors that allow for vulnerability and new markets to thrive.

Trafficking is not simply a problem for one country or region to deal with, nor is it an issue that solely faces one gender, ethnicity or age group. This is not to imply some groups do not see higher occurrences than other groups, but rather to suggest that limiting our understanding to a few variables does the study of trafficking and those who suffer from it a disservice. The best indicators for the potential of trafficking then do not seem to be one’s gender, ethnicity or age. Instead, the primary factors that we need to consider are on a larger level. An impoverished or fragile economic situation combined with weak political institutions make for an incredibly vulnerable population.

By identifying who is vulnerable we can start to identify the conditions that make them vulnerable. It is not enough to merely enact anti-trafficking laws and prosecute traffickers if we hope to adequately address the issues of human trafficking. As long as a lucrative market for trafficked persons exists alongside poverty and weak political institutions, traffickers will step in to fill the void. The answer to combat trafficking does not reside solely in the realm of prosecution and protocols; it resides with effective efforts to identify who is vulnerable to trafficking in the first place and addressing the issues that make those people vulnerable.

Annotations


Annotation: This article examines the correlation of prostitute trafficking to areas where international peacekeeping forces have been deployed. The United States and NATO have made policy changes to address concerns over these issues. The author suggests the United Nations needs to make similar reforms. The concern over such trafficking is that it is antithetical to the work that troops are doing. The author covers U.S. and NATO responses to these cases and suggests the U.N. enforce tighter control on soldier movements, create off-limits areas, and establish required training for troops.

Annotation: Ariyo identifies a trend in which children are trafficked to the United Kingdom from Nigeria. This practice is referred to as “fostering”: Nigerian families send their children to family and friends in the UK with the prospect of better schooling and employment. These young people end up being forced into labor under assumed identities and are denied access to education and other social services. The article is short, its purpose is clear: to identify the lack of prosecution for child slavery in the UK, which allows the practice to continue with little public awareness.


Annotation: Askola argues the gendered, ethnic and social components, which are significant in shaping the dimensions of trafficking, have been ignored. Instead, the focus has been on organized crime and irregular immigration. The author provides a detailed examination of trafficking laws in the European Union and blurs the distinctions between smuggling and trafficking, suggesting that both involve coerced action based on particular circumstances. Askola concludes that efforts to combat trafficking need to be focused on issues within Europe and need to address the conditions in countries from where people are trafficked.


Annotation: The true number and nature of human trafficking is difficult to grasp because it is hard for victims of trafficking to come forward and work with the authorities to prosecute traffickers. Baker suggests victims do not come forward in the United States because they fear retribution against their families. She suggests a number of ways to provide family members and trafficking survivors protections including use of the Witness Security Program and granting humanitarian paroles. The United States is a good model for developing prosecution of traffickers, but it could do better by addressing the possibility of retribution against family members.


Annotation: Batsyukova seeks to differentiate sex trafficking from prostitution. She argues prostitution itself does not create sex trafficking, but the exploration of prostitution by particular individuals creates markets for sex trafficking. She considers the policies of European countries and how the different levels of prostitution regulation have impacted the ability to create markets for trafficking. The article concludes by noting the conflation of these two topics means there is greater likelihood of not punishing traffickers and providing necessary social services to those trafficked.

Annotation: A lucrative trafficking market for children exists in the United Kingdom. Children trafficked to the U.K. usually come from countries where “poverty, gender and ethnic discrimination, and the resulting lack of education and work opportunities make promises of a better life abroad sound appealing.” Most children trafficked are girls, but studies show that about 42 percent are boys. The lack of enforcement of laws allows many children to slip through the cracks of social service systems. The author concludes by suggesting children need to be granted asylum and residence permits so they can effectively work with the government to prosecute traffickers.


Annotation: The author provides a meaningful and detailed approach to understanding the nature of child trafficking. She discusses the international legal definitions of children and the social conceptions of “home.” The article also includes information from interviews with 15 trafficked children in the city of Marseilles. The author suggests child trafficking irreparably harms young peoples’ abilities to ever find security in life, and legal definition of child trafficking denies children faculty and agency by always placing them as subordinate to parental control.


Annotation: Buckland provides a critique of the current language and discourse surrounding human trafficking. He argues that trafficked individuals have been portrayed as helpless victims and such a portrayal denies agency to the victims and tends to disregard the economic reasons why people may choose to leave their homes. The current focus on victims and organization crime has led to a decline in the resources available to alleviating conditions that push people into trafficking situations. The author disputes the emphasis on women and children by pointing out that over half of those trafficked are actually male.


Annotation: The Middle East is a unique region for trafficking due to the high volume of internal migration that takes place. Women from the former Soviet Union, Southeast Asia and the horn of Africa are brought to the region for prostitution. Men are often brought from Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia for labor. Trafficking victims from the region are overwhelmingly female and to a lesser degree children. The author provides a thorough analysis of the available research and proposes more intensive study to account for the highly migratory nature of the population.

Annotation: The author approaches human trafficking from Third World and post-modernist feminist perspectives, in an evaluation of how Northern male discourse has impacted efforts to combat trafficking. She develops a historical context of U.S. perspectives that are rooted in dominant racist, heterosexist and hegemonic frameworks, and discusses these frameworks from a feminist point of view. Special emphasis is given to U.S. law and to the language used to portray women in developing countries as helpless. She concludes with a variety of options for creating a more appropriate approach.


Annotation: This article highlights the nature of work and life in Japan for women trafficked for forced sexual labor. Trafficking in Japan is a $90 billion per year industry. Recently Japan revamped their domestic laws and boosted support for survivors of trafficking. The author highlights the precarious position and trapped nature of trafficked women in the country and the problems they face if they are able to escape from their traffickers.


Annotation: This article is a response to the December 2000 Protocol to Suppress, Prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The main concern is the language used to identify the nature of sex workers. Historically, efforts to combat trafficking have justified prostitutes in the name of protection. This has put the tone of trafficking rhetoric into a light that suggests these people cannot help themselves. The legacy of this abolitionist approach to trafficking needs to be reconsidered and instead the dialog should empower women to find their own autonomy.


Annotation: This article suggests young girls are more likely to be trafficked in West and Central Africa than boys are. Gender is a major factor in this particular region; young girls are more desired for domestic labor and are considered more expendable than boys. Girls are more desirable and easy to obtain as commodities. The author does an effective job of identifying the pronounced gender disparity and encourages greater awareness of the gendered nature of trafficking.

Annotation: The authors conduct a survey of national government agencies, research organizations, advocacy organizations and media to determine ways to create levels of cooperation between social organizations addressing trafficking. Most countries where people are trafficked from are poverty stricken, lawless and have corrupt governments. The authors suggest creating social networks of political stakeholders, imposing pressure on countries that do not comply with international laws, and taking the dialog of trafficking to a formal political level.


Annotation: The research for this chapter was based on interviews with eighteen women who legally and voluntarily went to Hong Kong to be hostesses and ended up working as escorts. The authors discuss the U.N. Trafficking Protocol and identify the limits of the protocol to issues of organized crime. This gives women little recourse under international law when work agreements and contracts are changed. The authors conclude women are at high risk of being trafficked and the onus is on the Hong Kong government to monitor the industry.


Annotation: The Russian Far East faces unique challenges to addressing human trafficking. Erokhina notes the challenges in tracking trafficking due to the highly decentralized nature of Russia’s eastern provinces. The complacent attitude in Russia regarding trafficking is the result of economic and political fragility in the country. The chapter traces the recruitment of women into trafficking and the modes by which they are trafficked. Because of the relative remoteness of Eastern Russia, she pays special attention to local law enforcement in the region.


Annotation: Finnegan’s article is an examination of trafficking in Moldova. He follows Stalla Rotaru, a repatriation specialist who works with the International Organization for Migration. Finnegan identifies Moldova as a particularly vulnerable country for trafficking: it is very poor, has a high number of people who work outside the country, and has weak political institutions. Because of this setting, many Moldovan women are trafficked to brothels around the world. When women are repatriated back to Moldova, they are often re-trafficked because they return to the same poverty and weak institutions that allowed them to be trafficked in the first place.

Annotation: Frederick presents an examination of trafficking in Nepal. The article critiques the role of NGOs and governmental agencies in response to trafficking victims and notes many returned victims are institutionalized because of the significant stigma attached to trafficked women and children in Nepalese society. In these cases, standard levels of appropriate care are not provided since victims do not fit the typical mold of mentally ill individuals. Frederick urges the development of a program for reintegration including specific medical facilities and post-integration follow-up.


Annotation: Globalization, regionalization and the wars that followed the collapse of Yugoslavia have resulted in a “political laboratory.” International organizations have been ineffective in addressing trafficking in the Balkans due to weak institutions and contestable borders. At the same time, the lack of an effective approach to trafficking in this region has hindered these states’ abilities to gain access into international organizations. Friman and Reich identify a situation in the Balkans that serves as an indicator of the role, or lack thereof, of institutions in issues of trafficking.


Annotation: Groskop introduces the Women Leader’s Council, a group of female political figures, diplomats, business leaders and celebrities working to fight trafficking. This group suggests that a women’s-only organization is necessary because they feel women’s voices are the most credible on this particular issue. The group creates public campaigns with prominent celebrities to urge women to be cautious when promised foreign travel and work opportunities. Their political work focuses on engaging international organizations such as the United Nations.


Annotation: This brief editorial highlights the significance of addressing trafficking as an issue of public health and wellness. Hanvey suggests that the nature of being a victim imposes a certain kind of invisibility to those who are trafficked. Victims lose their home and their identities, and find themselves in a place without any rights or legal recourses. Most significantly, victims do not have access to social and medical resources: this clearly has impacts on individuals but also on societies at large. Trafficking then is an issue of morality, social welfare, and public health.

Annotation: The author discusses the trafficking of women and children to the United States for sexual exploitation. Hodge highlights startling statistics identifying the particular vulnerability of women and children. He notes most victims come from Asia, the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Destination countries include Italy, the United States, Germany and the Netherlands. Source countries tend to be economically disadvantaged or politically unstable and people are trafficked to wealthy and industrialized states. The author concludes that the focus of advocacy should be on protecting victims, preventing victimization, and on prosecuting traffickers.


Annotation: The authors are primarily concerned about the lack of reliable data on the trafficking of women and the way that lack of data impacts the conceptualization of trafficking. Most research has resulted in poor data; thus, reports are based on rough estimates and do not consider the full potential scope of trafficking. Jahic and Finckenauer encourage considering different ways of perceiving trafficking by expanding the theoretical bounds of trafficking to build a more comprehensive approach to studying the field.


Annotation: This article studies what happens to women after they are trafficked. The authors follow the stories of women in different cities to demonstrate how rehabilitation services can affect the likelihood of women being re-trafficked. They find the more patriarchal a society is, the fewer rehabilitation and networking services will be available. Because of this, they found high numbers of women being trafficked for a second or third time in these cases.


Annotation: The authors provide a perspective on human trafficking from a sociological and social working perspective. They identify the “push” and “pull” factors for trafficking: the push factors include conditions in countries with few economic opportunities and the pull factors include economic prosperity and a demand for cheap labor. Trafficking thus becomes an intersection of vulnerability and exploitation. The consequences for countries where people are trafficked from include a weakened social structure and a loss of human capital. Destination countries see an increase in organized crime.

Annotation: Women’s unequal rights are a factor leading to the surge in trafficking seen at the end of the 20th century. The authors identify the shortfalls in addressing trafficking such as the widespread denial of the problem, the objectification of the victims and the loose definitions of trafficking in many countries. The proposed remedy is to utilize NGOs to work with governments to craft clear and defined laws that adhere to international protocols and agreements. Trafficking will remain prominent where there are not clearly articulated laws and policies to address such activity.


Annotation: Since the events of September 11, 2001, the discussion of immigration has been highly securitized. In the European Union, the discourse regarding EU enlargement has focused on combating labor migration and immigration. As the EU expands eastwards, the new members of the Union have become transit countries for trafficking. The article presents a review of EU policies, clandestine immigration, emerging markets for trafficked peoples, and organized crime. While the author does conflate trafficking and smuggling, this is a solid source for understanding EU policy on trafficking.


Annotation: The purpose of this chapter is to identify the ways in which policies are created by the states in the Balkans to approach issues of trafficking. The author traces how United Nations conventions and protocols are interpreted and implemented in the Balkans. She pays special attention to the protection of trafficking victims and witnesses during judicial proceedings bringing traffickers to justice. The chapter concludes the best ways to craft policies is by enabling various actors and agencies to be able to work closely with other civic organizations in both domestic and international contexts.


Annotation: Progress has been made in international circles to create a common definition of trafficking, but there has not been much done to address issues of data collection and sharing. Few governments collect data on trafficking specifically, and even fewer are willing to share such data. The authors suggest creating regional clearinghouses, similar to the efforts underway in the Balkans, which will then share data on a global scale. This will allow government officials to create clear indicators for trafficking and provide support for specific anti-trafficking initiatives.

Annotation: This is the text from a speech Mark Lagon presented to the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. Lagon, the Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons for the U.S. Department of State, identifies China as a source, transit and destination country for trafficking and notes the young and mentally handicap are particularly vulnerable. China has many laws against human trafficking, but they have been hard to enforce. Lagon suggests China has started to work with NGO’s and other governments to address trafficking. He identifies the most serious concerns in China as the lack of the rule of law and good governance.


Annotation: This article highlights the role of international adoption in trafficking of children focusing on cases from Ecuador. Leifsen suggests many international adoption agencies have been able to use legitimate state apparatuses and processes to traffic children; such agencies have coerced parents into giving up their children and thus have been able to obtain all of the legal paperwork necessary to sell children. The lesson drawn from the Ecuadorian model is that people tend to look at the external and particular factors of child trafficking instead of looking at the systemic causes at work that allow trafficking.


Annotation: Medige details the 2004 case of John Does I-IV v. Rodriguez from Hudson, Colorado to examine the effectiveness of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). She highlights the positive aspects of the Act, including the pliable definitions of trafficking and the multi-agency approach the TVPA establishes. The author recommends streamlining law enforcement processes through multiple agency coordination and fully funding legal resources provided under the TVPA.


Annotation: The author focuses on child marriages and child prostitution in North Africa and the Middle East. She identifies similarities in these practices: both involve economic transactions between clients and suppliers involving human beings. The author does not utilize many statistical or detailed research studies, and relies heavily on notes and anecdotal stories. She covers the cycles of these practices as a factor of economic vulnerability, but concludes that without further, more detailed research in this specific region, it will be hard to adequately understand or approach issues of child marriage and prostitution.

Annotation: This article is a review of Laura María Agustín’s book, *Sex at the Margins: Migration, Labor Markets and the Rescue Industry*. The author notes the staggering statistics of trafficking and suggests most of these numbers are created to present all women working in sex industries as trafficked even if their decision to migrate was not forced. Agustín identifies the “rescue industry” as feminist social workers, police and particular journalists. These people deny faculty to women who have made rational decisions to leave particular settings and enter into this kind of work. Greater attention should be given to establishing forced from unforced migration.


Annotation: 300,000 women have been trafficked out of Nigeria since the 1990’s. These women have been vulnerable because of a lack of opportunity at home and an eagerness for a better life abroad. The situation in Nigeria is pronounced because of a limited capacity of customs and immigration agencies and a weak legal framework to discourage traffickers. The author notes the increasing poverty levels in the country as a concern that more women will become victims of trafficking. The article contains considerable discussion of the role of HIV/AIDS and the efforts of the Nigerian government to combat the issue.


Annotation: Pemberton, the founding director of CHASTE (Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking Across Europe) discusses how to work with victims of trafficking from a faith-based, capacity-building approach. Victims of trafficking often find themselves in countries with fewer religious networks and more secular settings than the countries they are trafficked from. Pemberton suggests incorporation of religious perspectives into trafficking victim rehabilitation can be an important contribution to helping women regain hope in the recovery process.


Annotation: Raymond covers the discourse that led to the signing of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in December 2000. The article is an examination of the debates about the language that made its way into the protocol. Raymond pays particular attention to the tensions between governments and NGOs with regards to the classification of prostitution. She argues that trafficking and sexual exploitation are intrinsically linked and thus any truly effective policy must address both issues.

Annotation: The author spent four years researching trafficking and modern slavery on five continents. This article is a brief description of his research designed to bring attention to the topics. He details the process of acquiring a domestic and sex slave in Haiti for about $50 U.S. Skinner also presents a critique of the U.S. TVPA and suggests it is not being used as effectively as it could be. He notes that worldwide, for each modern slave engaged in prostitution, there are fifteen trafficked for other forms of slave labor.


Annotation: Stewart and Gajic-Veljanoski provide an update on the scope and nature of trafficking in Canada for medical workers. They focus on women and suggest trafficking is difficult to quantify and that research on health issues for women is hard to do since most women are afraid to ask for help after they escape from their traffickers. Women are promised jobs as nannies, housekeepers and waitresses but are forced into labor to repay debts when they arrive in the country. The authors suggest Canada has been behind other Western countries in enacting significant and meaningful laws to combat trafficking.


Annotation: After the fall of the Soviet Union, organized crime in Russia identified a “market” for women and children in developed countries and created a global network of trafficking. The author notes Russia is an easy target for traffickers due to high poverty and homelessness amongst Russian women and children, and the country’s porous borders, numerous ports, and weak law enforcement. Stoecker suggests the best way to address the problems is by attacking the demand for trafficked persons and to reduce homelessness.


Annotation: Roughly 2000 women are trafficked from Russia into Israel each year. The economic situation in Russia has made foreign work attractive because of the promise of a better life. Once women sign up they are indebted to their “employment” agency for an average of $20,000 and are expected to work off their debt in Israeli brothels. The problem is endemic in Israel because the country has no laws prohibiting the sale of persons and the legal system does not provide protections for foreign workers. Most women get out of their trafficked lifestyle through immigration raids that result in deportation to their home country.

Annotation: Torg’s article focuses on what she calls the “Three P’s” of anti-trafficking: prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims and prevention of future trafficking. She suggests the best single method for approaching trafficking is through prosecution. To this end, she covers the battery of U.S. laws available to combat trafficking suggesting there are many tools that U.S. law enforcement officials have at their disposal to punish traffickers. Through a multilayered approach involving local, state, federal and international actors, the anti-trafficking efforts are most effective when directed at eradicating criminal infrastructures and organizations.


Annotation: The author provides a detailed examination of the nature of trafficking in the United States. Torgoley provides useful definitions of trafficking including detailed data. Most people who are trafficked to the U.S. come from Latin America, Eastern Europe and South East Asia, and are sent to California, New York and Florida. The article includes information about methods of recruitment and the methods of controlling victims once they arrive in the destination country. The author concludes by examining U.S. and international legal frameworks including specific court cases.


Annotation: The author suggests trafficking is possible not just because of poverty, but also because there is an explosion of relative prosperity in the world creating a market for trafficked peoples. Traffickers promise better jobs and living conditions but deliver a person into forced labor. Once in a new country a trafficked person usually cannot escape the situation because they are in the country illegally and fear being sent back to the conditions they tried to get away from. The most likely people to be trafficked are young, virgin females from Eastern Europe. The purpose of the article is not necessarily to propose solutions but instead to highlight that these abuses exist in modern developed countries.


Annotation: This article discusses the process of interviewing traffickers in London in an attempt to develop typology and theory about the nature of trafficking. The authors identify the global scope and economic impact of trafficking and then provide a thorough description of their methodology. They utilized male contacts to meet with men who trafficked women. The article does not discuss many results or findings but rather identifies potential further research possibilities. Another publication is being prepared that will carry more details about the findings from this set of interviews.

Annotation: The authors studied the medical and psychological effects of trafficking on Nepalese women. Given the significant number of people who have been trafficked, there is a notable lack of research conducted on the mental health of trafficking victims. They studied Nepal because roughly 12,000 women and children are trafficked out of the country each year. The study reported high rates of anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress syndrome, especially amongst those trafficked for sex work. Additional concerns were noted due to the lack of basic medical and social services necessary to care for these people.


Annotation: The lack of appropriate methodology impairs the ability of trafficking research to create meaningful models for understanding who is trafficked by seeking to create an adequate model for data collection. The article presents a case study of sex workers in Norway. The authors discuss a variety of data collection models and possibilities used in other fields of empirical research. They conclude by urging caution in data collection and stressing the tentative nature of research results by identifying potential and known biases in the data collection process.


Annotation: The authors explore the phenomenon of child slavery including the aspects of trafficking of minors for forced labor. Children are estimated to be roughly half of all people who are in conditions of force labor in the world, and most are in these situations due to difficult family conditions such as familial debt. They note boys are trafficked for labor and work in the drug trade whereas girls are trafficked for domestic services or sexual exploitation. The authors suggest the best way of dealing with this situation is stronger enforcement of international and domestic laws, and empowering families with greater forms of economic and social assistance.