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Book Review: Migration and Freedom: Mobility, Citizenship and Exclusion by Brad K. Blitz

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Blitz, Brad K. *Migration and Freedom: Mobility, Citizenship and Exclusion*. Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2014. xiv + 229 pages. Hardcover, \$120.00.

Dr. Brad Blitz, a professor of International Policy, explores the complex relationship between mobility and citizenship. Blitz discusses a state's or nation's right to autonomy based on the concept of sovereignty, and elaborates on the role of official and unofficial, social and legal factors that serve to limit mobility. He balances the state's interest with the freedom of movement that developed nations are to foster in order to encourage a global economy which must be achieved with international cooperation exemplified by multi-lateral legal agreements. Here, Blitz surmises that when a state opens its border there is no automatic, inalienable right to freedom of movement within the state.

Blitz focuses on the descriptors of 'push-pull' and 'freedom of movement' as a framework to guide the reader in understanding reasons a person chooses to migrate. Generally, push factors include the limitation of opportunity in one's homeland such as a shrinking industry or legal restrictions which prohibit freedom of movement within a nation-state. Pull factors are actions which a host state initiates that cause a foreign national to emigrate such as incentives offered to foreign nationals.

The author examines five European-based case studies that detail the experiences of foreign nationals, whether refugee, skilled worker, or professional. Due to governmental restrictions that inhibit the subjects' ability to migrate within their own homeland, they sought a safe habitat, financial gain, or professional development elsewhere. The first case study involves Spanish doctors who migrated to the United Kingdom for work in their field. As a pull factor, the United Kingdom made affirmative changes to its system which encouraged an influx of Spanish doctors. The Spanish doctors who were interviewed cited several push factors encouraging their migration to the United Kingdom including the fact that being a physician was not a respected profession in Spain. Unfortunately, once Spanish nationals entered the United Kingdom, they experienced limits in pay, usage of facilities, and hours which directly affected their physical and mental well-being. Notably, Blitz states that often times the migrants are treated as second class citizens regardless of their professional or trade skills that benefit the host state. In addition, the author points out that the international community has not accepted the right to labor, or basic labor conditions, as a fundamental human right, and this is difficult to litigate in national courts or the European Union courts under international law.

The next case study, exemplifying the same problems, examines European teachers who migrated to Italy for job opportunities. Italy enacted special legislation which encouraged migrants to enter Italy primarily as teachers of foreign languages (pull factor). Even though professors then migrated to Italy, the Italian government gave preference to academics who were native to Italy. Over an extensive period of time the aggrieved sought redress in the European Union Court of Justice which found that the Italian government discriminated against the migrant teachers which violated European Union charter and treaties that Italy was party to.

Blitz then provides a synopsis of the ethnic and national conflict of the Former Yugoslavia which heavily contributed to the divisiveness of Bosnian Serbs, ethnic Serbs and

Croats. Eventually, Serbs wanted to return to Croatia but the Croatian government implemented laws and policies which inhibited many Serbs to exercise this right. This case study abundantly relies on the socio-political history of Croatia rather than a legal perspective as, at the time, ethnic and political disputes were at their apex, Croatia was a newly formed nation-state, and only recently had become a member of the European Union. Therefore, a solidly formed infrastructure had to be formalized in order to consistently implement the controls needed for fair adjudication of war crimes and skewed public perception of Serbs that encouraged discrimination against their return.

For the fourth case study Blitz analyzes the restriction of migration within Russia against Russian federation nationals who seek to migrate to Moscow. Blitz explains that economic factors, as well as a regime that sought to perpetuate a monitoring system that was similar to the controls under the former Soviet Union, were responsible for the lack of freedom of movement.

Lastly, Blitz provides a case study describing the discrimination and immobility of residents and citizens in Slovenia. As Slovenia was one of the nearly birthed states of the former Yugoslavia, ethnic tensions were an inherited by-product of independence resulting in discrimination against non-Slovenes with a new religious and ethnic hierarchy. He discusses the pivotal changes in citizenship, sovereignty and migration under an interpretation of the Alien Act which stripped non-ethnic Slovenes who were not born in Slovenia of citizenship. This push factor had the impact of forcing the 'Erased' out of Slovenia to neighboring territories or other newly formed states, as well as split families, and alienated friends and former coworkers. Blitz argues these tactics had a direct bearing on non-ethnic Slovenes freedom of movement.

Overall, throughout *Migration and Freedom: Mobility, Citizenship and Exclusion*, Blitz takes great care in detailing the influence of national laws, the European Charter, international customs and principles, and social factors on the freedom of migration movement. Although the data provides a sober insight with respect to the opportunities and challenges of migration, the book is practical and adds valuable insights to the social, political and legal aspects of the migration literature. The book is suitable for students and academics of several fields including political science, international studies, and law as it discusses the efficacies of – as well as deterrents to – freedom of movement in an evolving global society.

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