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*Založila / Published by*  
ZRC SAZU, Založba ZRC

*Izdal / Issued by*  
ZRC SAZU, Inštitut za slovensko izseljenstvo in migracije /  
ZRC SAZU, Slovenian Migration Institute, Založba ZRC

*Tisk / Printed by*  
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*Naslov uredništva / Editorial Office Address*  
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Revija izhaja s pomočjo Javne agencije za  
znanstvenoraziskovalno in inovacijsko dejavnost  
Republike Slovenije in Urada Vlade Republike Slovenije  
za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu /  
Financial support: Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency and  
Government Office for Slovenians Abroad

# TRANSIT MIGRATION IN ARMED CONFLICTS: NEW TRENDS AND CHALLENGES FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY

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COBISS: 1.01

## ABSTRACT

### Transit Migration in Armed Conflicts: New Trends and Challenges for International Policy

This study analyzes the transformation of migration routes and volumes through transit states and the resulting challenges for international policy amid armed conflicts. A comparative analysis of cases in the Mediterranean, Middle East, Latin America, and Europe reveals rising pressure on transit infrastructures, tighter border controls, and more displaced persons. Conflicts in Syria, Libya, and Central America redirect migration movements and fuel irregular migration, while Russia's war against Ukraine created Europe's largest crisis since World War II. Findings show that migration has become both a humanitarian and political issue, requiring comprehensive, internationally coordinated policies and adaptive transit mechanisms.

**KEYWORDS:** migration policy, migrant transit, global security, refugees and displaced persons, international cooperation, border control

## IZVLEČEK

### Tranzitne migracije v oboroženih konfliktih: novi trendi in izzivi za mednarodne politike

Avtorji v študiji analizirajo spremembe migracijskih poti in obsega migracij skozi tranzitne države ter s tem povezane izzive za mednarodno politiko v času oboroženih spopadov. Primerjalna analiza primerov v Sredozemlju, na Bližnjem vzhodu, v Latinski Ameriki in v Evropi kaže na vse večji pritisk na tranzitno infrastrukturo, strožji mejni nadzor ter večje število razseljenih oseb. Zaradi spopadov v Siriji, Libiji in Srednji Ameriki se migracije preusmerjajo, število nezakonitih migracij pa narašča, medtem ko je ruska vojna proti Ukrajini povzročila največjo krizo v Evropi po drugi svetovni vojni. Kot kažejo izsledki študije, so migracije postale tako humanitarno kot politično vprašanje, ki ga je treba obravnavati s celovitimi, mednarodno usklajenimi politikami in prilagodljivimi tranzitnimi mehanizmi.

**KLJUČNE BESEDE:** migracijske politike, tranzit migrantov, globalna varnost, begunci in razseljene osebe, mednarodno sodelovanje, nadzor meja

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## INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, migration became one of the most debated and pressing issues in world politics. This problem is particularly acute in the context of armed conflicts, when war not only destroys the lives of millions but also forces them to abandon their homelands in search of safety. The issue of transit migration routes during armed conflicts gained particular relevance between 2010 and 2020, becoming central to the understanding of new trends in international migration policy. Against a backdrop of global instability and an increasing number of armed confrontations, migration processes have acquired new characteristics, necessitating a review of existing regulatory mechanisms.

For a deeper understanding of migration processes, several theoretical aspects must be considered. Migration theories, such as the “push-pull” model, examine how socioeconomic, political, and environmental factors influence people’s decisions to leave their homes and seek refuge abroad. The concept of “remote migration control” describes how states, acting within the framework of global politics, attempt to manage migration movements through repressive measures, including tighter border control and restrictions on migrant rights. The notion of “humanitarian migration” focuses on migration as a response to humanitarian crises, including armed conflicts, and underscores the need to protect the rights of refugees and displaced persons under international agreements and norms.

Numerous scholars have addressed these issues, identified key dimensions, and developed recommendations. However, as Prieur and Schumacher (2022) demonstrate, the problem of migration in the context of armed conflict requires a comprehensive approach that considers not only the humanitarian dimension but also political, economic, and social challenges. Research by Niemann and Zaun (2023) emphasizes that migration during global crises demands cooperation in managing internal and external migration policies, a key factor in ensuring the resilience of migration and safeguarding migrant rights. Likewise, FitzGerald (2020) analyzes the concept of “remote control” of migration, highlighting how states operating within global frameworks seek to restrict migration through various forms of pressure and repression.

According to Triandafyllidou et al. (2024), the development of effective migration policy requires consideration not only of the immediate impact of current conflicts but also of the long-term consequences, including the effects of climate change, which may also shape migration. Within this framework, particular attention is paid to the role of the European Union in migration regulation and to the influence of foreign policy on internal migration processes, as highlighted by Triandafyllidou and Yeoh (2023).

The work of Anderson et al. (2021) underlines that in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, labor migration issues gained particular salience, as many migrants found themselves in precarious conditions, jeopardizing both their rights and the

economic stability of host countries. Collins and Bayliss (2020) stress how different forms of nationalism shape perceptions of migrants in temporary-migration countries such as New Zealand, and how this affects migration management strategies.

Other research, such as that by Vesco et al. (2025), examines the impact of armed conflict on human capital and education, which has important implications for the development of long-term migration policies that support vulnerable groups. These studies underline that armed conflicts exacerbate social and economic inequalities, which in turn increase the number of refugees and migrants in need of international assistance.

Further, the work of Kinacioglu (2023) explores the militarization of migration governance in the Mediterranean, focusing on how military and foreign policy directly affect migration processes. The author analyzes the use of force and harsh security measures applied by EU states and others to control migration in this region. This includes heightened military presence, reinforced border controls, and repressive practices aimed at migration and refugee movements. Such measures not only physically restrict access to territory but also regulate sea routes, where tragic incidents frequently occur when migrants attempt to reach Europe. According to Kinacioglu, the militarization of migration policy creates a situation where the priority of security and territorial control often conflicts with human rights, raising new ethical and legal concerns. Moreover, these approaches fail to address the root causes of migration, such as war and poverty, while simultaneously creating new risks and humanitarian challenges.

Meanwhile, Rosina (2023) focuses on migration in the context of soft power, with particular attention to EU migration policy in response to the conflict in Ukraine. This crisis triggered profound changes in migration, requiring the EU to adopt new strategies to manage the influx of refugees and displaced persons. Rosina analyzes how EU visa and asylum policies were adapted to safeguard Ukrainian citizens forced to flee due to the war. She highlights the EU's use of soft power in these circumstances—through diplomacy, humanitarian initiatives, and the extension of temporary protection for refugees. Migration policy thus becomes an instrument of foreign policy, enabling the EU to strengthen its global influence and demonstrate its capacity to address humanitarian crises and support those facing violence and injustice. The study emphasizes that political decisions taken in response to the Ukrainian crisis may serve as a model for future strategies in the migration domain as Europe confronts mounting challenges from humanitarian and political crises in other parts of the world.

Accordingly, the objective of this research is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of transit migration through states in the context of armed conflicts, while identifying new trends and challenges for international migration policy. To achieve this, the following tasks are set: to review theoretical approaches to the study of migration in crisis conditions; to analyze contemporary practices of migration management; to investigate the factors shaping the specificity of transit migration; and to assess the

role of international actors and foreign policy strategies in migration governance and humanitarian responses to armed conflicts.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

To investigate migration processes during global crises, a comprehensive methodological approach was employed, incorporating several analytical methods that enabled an in-depth examination of the impact of armed conflicts on cross-border movements. As the study of migration is interdisciplinary, the research combined theoretical approaches with case analysis, accounting for political, socioeconomic, and humanitarian dimensions.

An analysis was conducted of countries such as Turkey, Libya, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Jordan, Mexico, Guatemala, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Germany, and France, as they play a key role in contemporary transit routes and have been significantly affected by armed conflicts including the Syrian civil war, conflicts in North Africa, and Russia's war against Ukraine. Thus, Norman (2020) examined the features of Turkey's migration diplomacy under conditions of political liberalization. Kaya (2020) studied Turkey's use of migration as an instrument for leveraging foreign policy. Tolay (2022) offered a critical assessment of the emerging narrative of migration diplomacy in the context of Ankara's policies. Kinacioglu (2023) explored the militarization of migration governance in the Mediterranean region, with emphasis on Libya, Greece, and Italy. Fakhoury (2019) analyzed the characteristics of multilevel migration governance in Lebanon and Jordan in the context of the Syrian conflict. Rosina (2023) investigated the responses of Poland, Romania, and other Eastern European states to the Ukrainian migration crisis from the perspective of the European Union's soft power. Niemann and Zaun (2023) examined the EU's external migration policy, focusing on the roles of countries such as Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland. Frank-Vitale (2020) focused on migration in Mexico and Guatemala, emphasizing the transit role of these states. Angulo-Pasel (2018) analyzed the gender-specific experiences of women migrating from Central America through Mexico.

These countries were selected as the most illustrative examples of regional dynamics in migration movements under crisis conditions, as well as due to the availability of analytical data.

To analyze the theoretical aspects of migration, a descriptive method was applied, enabling the study of key concepts such as humanitarian migration, remote control, and border militarization. This approach enabled the identification of how humanitarian, economic, and political factors influence migration in contexts of armed conflict.

To examine the effects of armed conflicts on migration movements and the adaptation of national policies, a comparative method was used. The criteria for comparison included approaches to regulating refugee movements, institutional

changes in migration regimes, the gender dimension and its risks within migration, and the degree of state engagement in international cooperation (legal regulation). Content analysis drew upon a range of academic publications. For example, Niemann and Zaun (2023) considered the evolution of the EU's external migration policy under crisis conditions. FitzGerald (2020) investigated mechanisms of remote migration control, which is particularly important for understanding restrictive practices in transit states. Triandafyllidou et al. (2024) emphasized the need to reconceptualize migration studies in light of future challenges. Anderson et al. (2021) examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the resilience of migration systems, while Rosina (2023) analyzed the EU's response to the Ukrainian crisis through the lens of soft power. The analysis also encompassed Middle Eastern countries, including Turkey and Lebanon, as well as Latin American states such as Mexico, where, according to Fakhoury and Mencütek (2023), return-migration mechanisms and pressures on national systems have become particularly significant.

To assess the role of international organizations, a systems method was employed, allowing the tracing and systematization of patterns of interaction among states, international agencies, humanitarian organizations, and local structures in migration governance. The forms of coordination, burden-sharing arrangements, emergency-response mechanisms, and the participation of different levels of authority in the formulation of migration policy were systematized. Particular attention was paid to countries, such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Libya, where international and national institutions demonstrated close cooperation under pressure from migration.

A historical method was also applied to trace the dynamics of migration movements in the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Latin America, and Europe from 2000 to April 2025. Special attention was devoted to changes prompted by major crises of the last two decades—including the Syrian conflict, the 2015 migration crisis, the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine. The sample included data on the scale and directions of migration, the number of asylum applications, migrants' demographic characteristics, and forms of migration regulation at international and national levels. Sources comprised academic publications analyzing the impact of armed conflicts and climatic factors on migration processes (Prieur & Schumacher, 2022), the transformation of EU migration policy (Niemann & Zaun, 2023; Rosina, 2023), as well as concepts of remote migration management and the resilience of migration governance in the post-pandemic period (FitzGerald, 2020; Triandafyllidou et al., 2024). This ensured a comprehensive, multifaceted treatment of the issue within its historical dynamics.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Contemporary migration processes passing through transit states—particularly amid instability and conflict—are highly volatile and depend on a multitude of political, economic, and social factors. Not only are the directions of migrant movement changing, but so too are the migration-management systems themselves, which include legislative initiatives, border-protection mechanisms, schemes for delegating authority to international organizations, and practices for accommodating and distributing migrants. These transformations affect both the domestic politics of transit countries and international relations, within which these states function as key links in the global migration chain.

In particular, Abdelaaty's (2021) research demonstrates the importance of understanding how states facing a large-scale arrival of refugees often delegate their obligations to international organizations, thereby minimizing their own direct involvement in addressing migration issues. This mechanism of delegation is especially evident in transit countries such as Turkey and Libya, where, despite internal instability and external pressure, hybrid models of migration governance are actively taking shape, combining elements of international and national management.

Historical parallels discussed by Comte (2020) suggest that during the Cold War, migration was often used as a tool of geopolitical influence, with transit countries playing a key role in the competition between blocs. Similar patterns are evident today: for example, Belarus's strategy in 2021 and Turkey's actions vis-à-vis the EU illustrate how migration routes are still leveraged as a means of political pressure. These analogies highlight how historical experiences continue to shape the politicization of migration and the reconfiguration of migration routes in response to the shifting global power balances.

In the work of Atak et al. (2023), the implementation of the United Nations Global Compacts on migration and refugees is examined, with direct relevance for transit states such as Turkey, Lebanon, and Greece. The authors stress that these countries face growing challenges, including rising migration volumes, tighter border controls, and an increasing number of irregular migrants. In the context of armed conflicts, transit states occupy a pivotal position in the redistribution of migration movements, which in turn drives changes in migration-control mechanisms and necessitates the adaptation of domestic infrastructure. The results underscore how these countries are transforming their migration policies to cope with new challenges arising from armed conflicts.

Duncan (2020) analyzes migration as an element of foreign policy and notes that, in conditions of armed conflict, migration becomes an important instrument of political pressure. This is particularly evident in transit countries such as Poland and Hungary, where migration routes influence both domestic and foreign policy, becoming part of a broader diplomatic strategy. It is important to recognize that transit states find themselves in a difficult position, balancing the fulfillment of

international obligations with domestic political challenges—factors that also shape the transformation of migration routes and volumes in response to new political realities.

Norman (2020) highlights the role of migration diplomacy. The author indicates that transit countries such as Turkey play a significant role in regulating migration within the framework of international agreements. In situations of armed conflict, these states are at the center of international negotiations, participating in the regulation of migration and the formation of international policy. Considering the political role of transit states, it becomes clear how, in times of war and crisis, they become not merely points of passage but key actors on the international stage—something that, in turn, influences the reconfiguration of migration routes and the political mechanisms designed to govern them.

Migration can serve as a tool of foreign policy for transit states—particularly in Turkey's case, where migration movements are actively leveraged to achieve political goals. This aspect is especially salient in the context of armed conflicts, when migration becomes part of more complex international strategies. Kaya (2020) stresses that transit states are placed at the heart of political negotiations, requiring them to adopt new approaches to migration management; this directly affects the direction and volume of migration, as well as the political situation in the region.

Offering an expanded view of migration diplomacy, Tolay (2022) underscores the importance of forming new political structures to manage migration—an approach highly relevant for countries affected by armed conflict. A critical view of current migration governance methods enables the development of more effective mechanisms that take account of rapid political and social change in transit states.

Koinova (2025) emphasizes informal and formal channels of migration—an especially important issue for countries through which migration movements pass, such as Mexico and Guatemala. These countries, like Libya and Turkey, face the problem of irregular migration, which intensifies under conditions of armed conflict. Consequently, in this context, it is crucial to continue examining the impact of informal migration routes and the methods used to regulate them on international policy.

Based on the arguments of Adamson et al. (2024), it can be concluded that migration processes through transit states may be used to reshape international relations. Under conditions of armed conflict, migration becomes not only a humanitarian problem but also an important element of geopolitics. For transit countries, this represents not only a challenge to domestic policy but also an opportunity to influence the external political environment. At the same time, Borrelli and Andretta (2019) highlight the bureaucratic and legal barriers in transit states, which create additional difficulties for migrants. In situations of armed conflict, such barriers become not only obstacles for migrants but also important factors influencing the transformation of migration routes. Thus, alongside geopolitical aspects, bureaucratic hurdles also play a key role in altering and redistributing migration routes, opening new perspectives for the analysis of migration governance amid global crises.

Studies by Costello and Mann (2020) underscore the central role of legal mechanisms and accountability for human rights violations in transforming migration routes, particularly under conditions of armed conflict. In such circumstances, migration is often forced: people flee not only violence but also the threat of violations of their fundamental rights, such as the right to life, security, and liberty. Legal protection, therefore, becomes a core element determining not only the safety of migrants but also the dynamics of cross-border movements.

In armed conflicts, transit states find themselves on the frontline of efforts to combat irregular migration and violations of refugee rights. They face two primary challenges: first, ensuring security and upholding international human rights standards on their territory; and second, managing large numbers of migrants, which often overwhelm national systems. In their study, Fakhoury and Mencütek (2023) emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to the governance of return migration within the international system, particularly in countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, and Mexico, where migration mechanisms are under pressure due to conflicts and instability in neighboring regions. The key regulatory systems analyzed included national asylum mechanisms, procedures for processing applications for international protection, temporary-protection systems, and bilateral and multilateral arrangements in migration governance.

The legal mechanisms applied in transit states play a crucial role in shaping migration routes. In seeking to escape violence and violations of rights, migrants look for states that will provide protection and guarantee respect for their rights. When transit countries are unable to provide adequate protection, migrants begin to seek alternative routes, leading to a reconfiguration of traditional routes and the creation of new, often more dangerous, pathways. In particular, when transit states restrict access to rights and services or adopt measures that worsen conditions for migrants, people may be forced to resort to irregular routes—through unguarded and riskier borders—where they are vulnerable to criminal groups and violence.

An important aspect concerns how changes in the geopolitical situation, in domestic politics, and in the wider international context affect the direction and volume of migration. This includes changes in the economic and social spheres, as well as the adaptation of transit states to new migration-related challenges (Table 1).

Criterion	Europe	Latin America (Mexico, Guatemala)	Response to International Challenges
<b>Change in migration directions</b>	The tightening of migration control and agreements with the EU (e.g., European Commission, 2016) are aimed at containing movements and redistributing migrants	The increase in the number of migrants heading to the United States leads to the use of dangerous routes and growth in irregular border crossings	Support from international organizations (UNHCR, IOM), the introduction of agreements on joint border management, and humanitarian assistance

<b>Migration-governance mechanisms</b>	Clear asylum procedures, a temporary-protection mechanism, systematic registration, and participation in resettlement programs	Limited procedures, a high level of informal migration, insufficient resources for processing applications, and the use of military structures for border security	Strengthened technical assistance from the UN and the United States, development of regional cooperation (e.g., via the "MIRPS" platform)
<b>Impact on domestic politics</b>	Rising xenophobia and pressure on the government from the public and opposition; migration influences election outcomes and foreign policy	Growing internal instability and increased strain on legal and social institutions. Migration exacerbates domestic political conflicts	International recommendations on human rights compliance and enhanced monitoring (including sanctions or aid in exchange for reforms)
<b>Economic impact</b>	Financial support from the EU partially offsets migration-related expenditure; job creation and infrastructure development	Limited resources and infrastructure; the economic burden falls on local communities and exacerbates poverty	International investment and humanitarian funds, though uneven distribution of support intensifies regional disparities
<b>Social and cultural challenges</b>	Integration programs (language courses, cultural adaptation) partly help, yet societal tensions persist	High levels of social isolation among migrants; absence of integration programs; stigmatization and discrimination, especially of Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants	Participation of NGOs and faith-based organizations in social support for migrants; attempts to foster intercultural dialogue at the local level

Table 1: Analysis of the transformation of migration routes through transit states. Source: compiled by the authors based on Fakhoury and Mencütek (2023).

Analyzing the studies of several authors allows us to identify key challenges facing international policy in situations of armed conflict shaped by migration routes and volumes through transit states. The influence of migration on international relations and on the domestic politics of transit states in the context of armed clashes is multifaceted and complex.

Drawing on Frank-Vitale (2020), it was concluded that migration across Central America shows how migrants in transit countries face prolonged waiting and uncertainty. This overloads social systems and creates challenges for local authorities, who must regulate routes while under pressure from the international community. Migration routes shift in response to political, social, and economic factors, necessitating flexibility in the migration policies of transit states.

Angulo-Pasel (2018) emphasizes that migration—especially among women from Central America—is not only a personal journey but also a social process driven by instability, violence, and human-rights violations in countries of origin. Women migrating from such regions face specific difficulties that distinguish their

experiences from those of men. They frequently flee violence perpetrated by state actors or criminal groups. However, their migration is not limited to escape; it also involves seeking safety and a better life, as well as aspirations for education and employment in more stable countries.

The situation of women migrants in transit countries is particularly vulnerable. On their way to their final destinations, they often become targets of violence, exploitation, and discrimination. This may include sexual violence at the hands of migration authorities or local residents, as well as more insidious forms such as psychological coercion, labor exploitation, or trafficking in human beings. Women generally have fewer rights and fewer avenues of protection than men, which renders them even more exposed.

These factors require transit countries to develop policies that account for the gendered and socioeconomic dimensions of migration. Such states must implement strategic measures to protect women, for example, creating safe spaces for women migrants, developing mechanisms to prevent violence, and increasing awareness of migrants' rights. Policies should address not only physical safety but also the provision of psychological and legal support, since migrants—especially women—often face protracted integration processes and barriers to healthcare and legal services.

It is also important, against this backdrop, to improve social conditions for women migrants, including access to education, employment, and healthcare. Migration is not solely a physical process of movement; it is also a social process that requires a comprehensive approach addressing all aspects of migrants' lives, particularly those of women in vulnerable situations.

Natter and Thiollet (2022) examine the impact of political regimes on migration governance and the regulation of transit migration patterns. The authors highlight how political will and domestic decision-making in transit states can not only alter migration routes but also shape approaches to migrant integration. Different political regimes employ different strategies to manage migration, directly linked to their domestic and foreign policy goals. This raises the important question of how political regimes can adapt their migration strategies in situations of armed conflict to not only manage migration challenges but also minimize their political consequences.

Panizzon and van Riemsdijk (2019) underscore the importance of international cooperation in governing migration, particularly during large-scale movements. This requires transit states to align their migration strategies with international standards and practices. In conditions of armed conflict, such cooperation becomes even more complex, as transit states must balance their obligations to international organizations with the need to ensure domestic security.

In his study, Bisong (2019) stresses the importance of multilevel migration governance, in which transit countries play a pivotal role. In situations of armed conflict, when migration routes and volumes become increasingly unmanageable, transit countries stand at the center of international efforts to govern migration. This requires cooperation at regional and international levels, which can facilitate

more effective regulation of movements and help to minimize the political fallout of migration.

The transformation of migration routes through transit states—such as those in the Middle East—is driven by political instability, armed conflict, and international pressures. These states are at the heart of global migration dynamics and face new challenges in both domestic and international policy.

Shifting migration routes, changes in economic and social policy, and the need to balance international obligations with domestic realities create a complex picture for states on the frontline of migration processes (Table 2).

Criterion	Effect on Migration	Role of Transit Countries
Route changes	Reconfiguration of migration routes due to the conflict	Transit states become crucial links for redistributing migrants
Migration numbers	Rising numbers of refugees and irregular migrants	Transit countries experience system overload
Economic pressure	Increasing strain on the economies of transit states	Countries must adapt their economic and social structures
Diplomatic challenges	Heightened diplomatic tensions surrounding migration	Transit states play key roles in international agreements

Table 2: Key challenges for international policy during armed clashes: an analysis of the Syrian conflict. Source: compiled by the authors based on Fakhoury (2019).

Ewers et al. (2021) emphasize the importance of bargaining power in the context of migration, particularly during armed conflicts. Their analysis shows that migrants in such circumstances often find themselves in extremely vulnerable positions with limited room for maneuver—ranging from the choice of route to their ability to ensure personal safety. Amid instability, violence, and the lack of reliable pathways, migrants are drawn into processes frequently fraught with risks and threats. Such conditions heighten migrants’ dependence on transit states, which become key actors in regulating these movements.

The significance of bargaining power lies in the fact that transit countries, under these conditions, are compelled to leverage their capacities and offers both to ensure migrants’ safety and to manage movements—actions that are also tied to their political and economic interests. Lacking the ability to resolve migration issues purely on humanitarian grounds, transit states act in line with national interests. This may include using migration movements as a tool of pressure in international politics or within economic agreements with other countries.

During armed conflicts and migration crises, transit states must strike a balance between, on the one hand, providing asylum and meeting international obligations and, on the other, accounting for political and economic benefits. For example, they may use their position as a strategic lever in negotiations with other states or international organizations in order to secure more favorable terms. This may take the form of pressure on destination countries to accept more migrants, or of agreements on financial assistance in exchange for continued compliance with commitments on refugee reception or migration control.

Fakhoury (2019) also highlights the concept of resilience in complex social and technical systems. In the context of migration, this reflects the need to create flexible, adaptable structures for governing migration during crises. Transit states must ensure safety and stability for incoming migrants despite internal instability and external challenges. This places a responsibility on international organizations to optimize migration strategies, including mechanisms that bolster the resilience of transit countries amid ongoing conflicts and displacement.

Thus, as the research shows, the role of transit countries in managing migration patterns during armed conflict requires not only international cooperation but also substantial efforts to ensure internal security and social resilience.

The findings demonstrate that armed conflicts significantly reshape migration dynamics, particularly through transit states. These changes stem from numerous factors beyond political instability and military confrontation. Migration during armed conflict profoundly affects not only the countries through which migrants pass but also global migration routes as a whole. Transit states such as Turkey, Libya, and Poland are at the center of this process, balancing external pressures with domestic political challenges.

One of the most notable aspects is that, in armed conflict, transit countries must adapt their migration strategies to ensure the safety of their citizens while complying with international obligations. These states are on the frontline, and their political decisions can substantially influence international relations and even become instruments of foreign policy. Turkey and Libya provide clear examples where migration has become a lever that can be deployed to achieve political aims on the international stage. This interplay between domestic and external political interests makes the issue of migration through transit countries particularly nuanced and complex to analyze.

Equally important is that the transformation of migration routes does not occur solely along the “refugee–transit country” line. The process also involves interaction with international structures and organizations that shape migration governance. In armed conflicts, countries along migration routes often depend on international assistance, which imposes additional constraints on their capacity to manage the situation effectively.

A major challenge for transit states is the redistribution of migrants in line with new political and social realities. Previously, migrants might have passed

through a single state; now, many are forced to seek new pathways and confront heightened border controls. This necessitates adapting domestic infrastructure and legal and policy mechanisms—posing a serious challenge to countries at the center of these processes.

The study also underscores the importance of integrating migrants within the transit country. Problems of social and economic integration can significantly complicate the domestic situation, particularly in states facing socioeconomic difficulties. Respect for human rights likewise becomes crucial, raising questions about how transit states can guarantee protection for migrants without infringing their rights.

In the context of armed conflict, the balance between international obligations and internal security is particularly significant. Transit states must work effectively with international organizations to ensure safety for both migrants and their own citizens. At the same time, it must be recognized that migration can become an additional source of political instability if not governed appropriately.

The results confirm that there is no universal approach to regulating migration routes and volumes during armed conflict. Each transit country faces a unique situation and requires tailored strategies that address domestic challenges while remaining sensitive to the international context. In countries such as Turkey and Libya, migration is not only a humanitarian issue but also a political one, necessitating careful calibration of migration policy to current international relations and strategic priorities.

## CONCLUSIONS

The study of the transformation of migration movements through transit states during armed conflicts established that such conflicts significantly alter migration routes and volumes. Agreements with the EU—such as the EU–Turkey Statement—are aimed at containing routes and redistributing migrants, thereby tightening migration policy in Europe. The rise in irregular border crossings and the use of dangerous routes has increased the number of migrants from Latin America to the United States. In response, international organizations such as UNHCR and IOM provide humanitarian assistance and conclude agreements on joint border management.

Migration-governance mechanisms in Europe include clear asylum procedures, temporary protection, and participation in resettlement programs. By contrast, in Latin America, procedures are often limited, levels of informal migration are high, and a lack of resources for processing applications exacerbates the situation. Transit states such as Turkey and Poland are under political pressure and therefore must employ flexible, sophisticated approaches to migration management.

Economies are heavily affected by migration. Financial support from the EU helps to offset migration-related expenditure in Europe, creating jobs and infrastructure. In Latin America, resource and infrastructure shortages render local communities

more vulnerable and contribute to rising poverty. Humanitarian funds and international investment are not always distributed equitably, leading to imbalances.

The spread of xenophobia in Europe and instability in Latin America demonstrate the impact of migration on domestic politics, intensifying social and cultural problems such as the stigmatization of migrants.

The research shows that effective migration governance in global crises requires improved international coordination and new mechanisms to support transit states. Migration movements can be used as instruments of political pressure, complicating their management. Future research should focus on analyzing irregular routes and examining the impact of migration on the politics of transit states and the role of international organizations. The study's limitations relate to insufficient data availability and the difficulties inherent in analyzing irregular routes, indicating the need for further efforts to improve understanding of these processes.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

All data presented can be traced through the bibliography and footnotes.

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## POVZETEK

### TRANZITNE MIGRACIJE V OBOROŽENIH KONFLIKTIH: NOVI TRENDI IN IZZIVI ZA MEDNARODNE POLITIKE

Lyudmila Korigova, Aizhan Serikbayeva, Sanat Kushkumbayev

Migracije so postale eno ključnih vprašanj v svetovni politiki, zlasti v obdobjih oboroženih spopadov, zaradi katerih so ljudje v iskanju varnosti prisiljeni zapustiti svoje domove. Avtorji v prispevku analizirajo, kako oboroženi spopadi vplivajo na migracijske trende ter kako se države tranzita spopadajo in odzivajo na izzive, ki jih prinaša pritok beguncev in migrantov. Pri tem izpostavljajo pomen preučevanja migracij ne le s humanitarnega vidika, temveč tudi z vidika političnih, gospodarskih in socialnih dejavnikov. V prispevku je predstavljena obstoječa literatura o migracijah med konflikti, pri čemer avtorji izpostavljajo potrebo po celovitejšem pristopu, ki bi upošteval dolgoročne posledice in vplive globalne nestabilnosti.

V študiji so bile analizirane različne države, ki so imele ključno vlogo v sodobnih migracijskih poteh, kot so Turčija, Libija, Grčija, Italija, Libanon in Poljska. Te države so zaradi konfliktov, kot so državljanska vojna v Siriji, nestabilnost v Severni Afriki in vojna v Ukrajini, doživele znatno povečanje migracij. Avtorji so za razumevanje interakcij med državami, mednarodnimi organizacijami in lokalnimi strukturami, ki se ukvarjajo z upravljanjem migracij, uporabili različne metode, vključno z opisnim pristopom k teorijam migracij, primerjalno analizo politik in sistemsko analizo.

V prispevku izpostavljajo, da na migracijske trende ne vplivajo le humanitarne potrebe, temveč tudi politični in strateški vidiki. Tako so na primer države, kot je Turčija, migracije izkoristile kot orodje zunanje politike, da bi vplivale na politična pogajanja z Evropsko unijo. Podobno v raziskavi ugotavljajo, da na migracije v obdobjih konfliktov pogosto vplivajo politike držav izvora in sprejema, pa tudi vloga mednarodnih organizacij. Avtorji analizirajo tudi, kako oboroženi spopadi dodatno povečujejo obstoječe migracijske izzive, kot so naraščajoče število beguncev, povečan obseg nezakonitih migracij ter pritisk na domače politike in infrastrukturo v tranzitnih državah. Študija izpostavlja tudi specifične izzive, s katerimi se spopadajo ženske migrantke, zlasti tiste, ki bežijo pred nasiljem in kršitvami človekovih pravic. Ženske, ki migrirajo prek tranzitnih držav, se pogosto soočajo z dodatnimi tveganji, vključno s spolnim nasiljem in izkoriščanjem. Avtorji izpostavljajo potrebo po migracijskih politikah, ki bi upoštevale dimenzijo spola ter zagotavljale varne prostore za ženske in naslavljale specifične oblike ranljivosti, ki so jim slednje izpostavljene.

Avtorji zaključijo, da je treba okrepiti mednarodno sodelovanje in vzpostaviti nove mehanizme za upravljanje migracij, ki bodo upoštevali specifične izzive, s katerimi se soočajo tranzitne države, zlasti tiste, v katerih potekajo oboroženi spopadi. Poudarjajo, da morajo tranzitne države uveljaviti prožne, celovite migracijske

strategije za usklajevanje humanitarnih obveznosti in nacionalnih varnostnih interesov. Študija poudarja tudi pomen vključevanja migrantov v družbe držav gostiteljic ter izboljšanja njihovih socialnih in ekonomskih razmer.

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ISSN 0353-6777



9 770353 677013

ISSN 1581-1212



Založba ZRC