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INŠTITUT ZA SLOVENSKO IZSELJENSTVO IN MIGRACIJE ZRC SAZU
p. p. 306, SI-1001 Ljubljana, Slovenija
Tel.: +386 (0)1 4706 485; Fax +386 (0)1 4257 802
E-naslov / E-mail: dd-th@zrc-sazu.si
Spletna stran / Website: <https://ojs.zrc-sazu.si/twohomelands>



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THE IMPACT OF POLITICAL CONFLICTS ON MIGRATION PROCESSES

Meiramgul ALTYBASSAROVA,^I Gulsara KAPPASSOVA,^{II} Serik ALMUKHANOV,^{III}
Amergaly BEGIMTAYEV,^{IV} Bakhyt SMAGULOVA^V

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ABSTRACT

The Impact of Political Conflicts on Migration Processes

This study examines how political conflict drives internal displacement and international migration, drawing on cases across the Middle East, Africa, South America, and Asia, with particular attention to Kazakhstan, to identify patterns shaping forced migration. Findings show that political conflicts are a significant driver of migration, especially to neighboring countries. Key triggers include the destruction of infrastructure, deteriorating economic conditions, and increased social instability. The study emphasizes the importance of international coordination, including the allocation of resources between countries and the development of strategies to improve migration management.

KEYWORDS: demographic changes, forced displacement, global challenges, social adaptation, migration regulation

IZVLEČEK

Vpliv političnih konfliktov na migracijske procese

Avtorji v prispevku analizirajo vpliv političnih konfliktov na notranja preseljevanja in mednarodne migracije, pri čemer na primerih držav iz Bližnjega vzhoda, Afrike, Južne Amerike in Azije, s posebnim poudarkom na Kazahstanu, identificirajo vzorce, ki vplivajo na prisilne migracije. Njihove ugotovitve kažejo, da politični konflikti pomembno vplivajo na migracije, zlasti v sosednje države. Med ključnimi vzroki zanje so uničenje infrastrukture, poslabšanje gospodarskih razmer in povečana

^I PhD in political sciences; Toraighyrov University, Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Pavlodar, Republic of Kazakhstan; m.altybassarova@outlook.com; ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0415-339X>

^{II} PhD in political sciences; Toraighyrov University, Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Pavlodar, Republic of Kazakhstan; kappassovagulsara@gmail.com; ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4656-1861>

^{III} PhD in philosophy; Toraighyrov University, Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Pavlodar, Republic of Kazakhstan; almukhanov@hotmail.com; ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7894-6443>

^{IV} PhD in political sciences; Toraighyrov University, Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Pavlodar, Republic of Kazakhstan; a_begimtayev@outlook.com; ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6852-4845>

^V MSc in philosophy; Toraighyrov University, Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Pavlodar, Republic of Kazakhstan; baksmagulova@hotmail.com; ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6332-3534>

socialna nestabilnost. Avtorji izpostavljajo tudi pomen mednarodnega usklajevanja, vključno z razporeditvijo virov med državami in razvojem strategij za izboljšanje upravljanja migracij.

KLJUČNE BESEDE: demografske spremembe, prisilno preseljevanje, globalni izzivi, socialno prilagajanje, regulacija migracij

INTRODUCTION

The relevance of political conflicts as a factor affecting migration processes in the modern world is underscored by the constant and significant phenomenon of migration throughout human history. Modern processes of globalization, coupled with intensifying political conflicts, have markedly increased the complexity of migration patterns, as the breakdown of political stability and increasingly interconnected global networks accelerate displacement and force populations to seek refuge across borders, particularly in neighboring countries. Migrations caused by military conflicts are particularly notable as one of the most acute manifestations of political conflicts (City Population, 2022). Military hostilities, as an extreme form of resolving political disagreements, often result in mass forced displacement. This phenomenon has significant consequences for both destination and origin countries.

Migration refers to the relocation of individuals from one location to another, often across borders, for reasons such as employment, education, or improved living standards. Forced displacement occurs when individuals are compelled to leave their homes due to armed conflict, persecution, or natural disasters. Refugees are individuals who have escaped their place of origin out of fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, or political beliefs and are incapable of returning safely. Migrants are people who relocate, often voluntarily, from one region or country to another, usually in pursuit of better economic prospects or improved living conditions.

From a global perspective, migration is not only the movement of labor but also a complex socioeconomic phenomenon that affects many aspects of social life (Zastavna, 2021). Globalization processes contribute to the removal of barriers and the simplification of migration procedures, allowing labor resources to move almost freely within the framework of voluntary migration. As of 2024, about 230 million people live outside their homelands (National Bureau of Statistics, 2024). Many factors can cause this phenomenon, but they all relate to the search for security and prospects.

Migration processes affect all regions of the modern world. While in the past, countries could be clearly divided into states of departure and destination, many countries are now sources, destinations, and transit zones for migrants. Approximately 40% of all migrants worldwide move to the nearest countries in their region,

which underlines the importance of studying the regional aspects of migration (European Training Foundation, 2021).

Migration provoked by political conflicts is one of the most significant socio-demographic phenomena of modern times. Political instability and armed clashes force millions to leave their homes, significantly affecting both countries of origin and receiving countries. In Kazakhstan, located close to conflict-affected regions, migration processes are often a consequence of political crises. The country's geographic location makes it both a transit territory and a place of permanent residence for a significant number of migrants. This creates new challenges for national migration policy and requires integration strategies to help migrants adapt to the state's socioeconomic structure.

The study of migration is an interdisciplinary field that encompasses international relations, political science, sociology, and international law. This interdisciplinarity reflects the fact that population movements are a defining challenge of our time. Migration is perceived not only as the physical movement of people but also as a complex process that affects the socioeconomic, political, ethnocultural, and psychological life of entire states and communities.

The pressing issue of population displacement in the modern world underscores the relevance of this study. Forced migration arising from armed conflicts has put groups of people in more vulnerable situations, including refugees, displaced persons, and stateless individuals. This phenomenon can substantially affect individuals, states, and the global community.

In this context, the study of the impact of political conflicts on migration processes is also relevant. An analysis of historical migrations demonstrates that studying them can help forecast negative consequences for receiving states, enable timely adjustments to migration legislation, and improve international migration agreements. This helps prevent "migration crises," which, as recent practice shows, are becoming increasingly common in Europe (International Organization for Migration, 2024).

The analysis of the impact of conflicts on migration policy aims to comprehensively address all aspects of this phenomenon. Those forced to flee their homes due to armed or ethno-political conflicts are one of the most vulnerable categories of the world's population, and both national states and international organizations should address their protection.

Thus, the scale and complexity of modern migration processes require scientific analysis. Research in this area should adopt a comprehensive approach, as migration affects all countries worldwide and their national communities. A broad international and national source base was used, encompassing diverse scientific and political views from researchers across countries.

According to many scholars, such as Pyshchulyna et al. (2023) and Buchin and Markhaychuk (2022), migration in the context of modern conflicts is increasingly serving as an instrument of political influence and geopolitical manipulation. The

study demonstrated that Russia is actively using migration processes to influence its opponents, thereby weakening political and economic stability. This renders the issue of migration associated with political conflicts even more important to analyze within the framework of international relations and security issues. In addition, other researchers, such as Tchaikovsky (2019), highlighted the sociocultural and political aspects of migration's impact on refugee destination countries. The study found that migration processes can seriously affect the domestic policies of migrant host states, thereby undermining their social stability, economy, and security. This confirms the importance of studying the mechanisms for managing migration and developing an effective migration policy.

On the other hand, a study of migration policy in Europe by Makhortov and Ponomariova (2018) demonstrated that European countries are experiencing significant difficulties in addressing problems related to mass migration. Their recommendations on the need to study and apply the principles of European migration policy are important for developing more effective strategies to manage migration.

Studies show that the mass migration of Ukrainians to European countries due to Russian military aggression in 2022 is especially noteworthy. Yadlovska (2024), in an analysis of the social problems faced by Ukrainian refugees in Europe, highlighted the difficulty of determining the number of Ukrainians who fled the country because of the war. The consequences of this migration are contributing to the demographic crisis in Ukraine, which requires creating conditions for Ukrainians to return home (Shimchenko, 2023).

Current research on migration driven by political unrest predominantly emphasizes urgent humanitarian responses and the socioeconomic challenges faced by host countries. Nonetheless, there is a gap in understanding the long-term impacts of such migration on both countries of origin and host countries, especially regarding labor market assimilation and social cohesion. The study aims to investigate the leading causes of forced displacement and analyze their impact on countries that provide asylum to such people. Its aims are:

1. To determine and assess the principal variables that lead to forced displacement, especially political conflicts.
2. To examine the socioeconomic effects of migration on both origin and destination countries, emphasizing labor markets, infrastructure, and social systems.
3. To assess the impact of international collaboration and policies on the management of migration arising from political conflicts.
4. To analyze the legal frameworks governing migration in countries impacted by forced displacement and evaluate their efficacy.
5. To examine the problems and opportunities for the host countries in integrating migrants, especially in conflict-affected regions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research used a mixed-methods design, integrating quantitative statistical analysis, qualitative examinations of legal documents, and case studies of countries impacted by political crises. The study was conducted between February 2023 and August 2024 and covered several countries affected by the consequences of political conflicts.

The data for this study were obtained by a thorough evaluation of secondary sources, covering national and international migration statistics, reports from relevant international organizations, and legal texts governing migration processes. The analysis of statistical data was conducted using international and national databases, such as the United Nations Population Division (2015), the World Bank (2023), national statistical agencies (Home Office, 2013; Bongiorno et al., 2023), and specialized research centers (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, 2023; Migration Data Portal, 2024).

The study examined demographic changes, the structure of migration, economic conditions, and the level of infrastructure destruction in conflict-affected regions. Countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Jordan, Germany, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Yemen, Ethiopia, Venezuela, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Rwanda were addressed. This stage quantified the scale and dynamics of migration and identified key factors influencing population movements.

The study also analyzed the legal acts regulating migration processes. In Kazakhstan, for instance, migration processes are regulated by several legal acts. Among them is the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 477-IV "On Migration" (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2011), which establishes the legal framework for migration, the rights and obligations of migrants, and the powers of state bodies. The Joint Order of the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 08-1-1-1/457 and the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 488 "On Approval of the Rules for Issuing Visas of the Republic of Kazakhstan" (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2009) specifies the procedures for obtaining various types of visas, such as work, study, and tourist visas. The rules for issuing temporary and permanent residence permits were also considered, detailing the conditions for obtaining documents, including proof of income and medical examinations (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2015).

Upon collection, the data underwent a cleansing procedure to guarantee consistency and completeness. Incomplete or duplicate entries were eliminated, and absent values were either imputed or marked for additional examination. The research examined migratory patterns using both statistical data analysis and case studies from conflict-affected areas. The analysis focused on identifying critical factors affecting migration, including infrastructure devastation, economic instability, and political instability, and how these factors influenced the movement of

displaced populations. Descriptive and trend studies were used to clarify migration dynamics and the socioeconomic effects on both origin and destination countries.

The case-study method was used to analyze in detail the specifics of migration processes in specific countries. The analysis included studies of the experiences of Germany (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, 2021), which faces mass migration, especially within the framework of European migration policy, and of Jordan (Alshoubaki & Harris, 2018), which receives a significant number of refugees from Syria. The study of Germany was used to analyze the robustness of the economic and social structures that facilitate migrant integration and help cope with the challenges of mass migration. In Jordan, the study focused on the strain on infrastructure, health, and social systems, as well as the national resource constraints that make refugee integration difficult.

A content analysis approach was used to examine legal documents, incorporating thematic coding to identify essential rules and legal frameworks governing migration in the selected countries. A comparative analysis was conducted to investigate the distinctions and commonalities of migration policies, emphasizing their adaptation to political tensions and their efficacy in addressing forced migration. Data processing and analysis were performed via NVivo for qualitative analysis.

RESULTS

Political conflicts are among the key drivers of migration, affecting the socioeconomic conditions in countries experiencing instability. In a globalized world where people can move between countries, migration has become not only an individual choice but also a necessity for many. In Kazakhstan, a neighboring country to several conflict-affected regions, migration processes often respond to political crises.

Studying migration processes in political conflicts is vital for understanding population movement dynamics and the effects on the host country. Political crises in neighboring countries, such as Afghanistan, led to an increase in the number of refugees and labor migrants arriving in Kazakhstan (UNHCR, 2023). These migrants often face many challenges in integrating into a new society, including economic, social, and legal barriers.

In the context of growing migration, it is necessary to address how political conflicts affect migration laws and procedures in Kazakhstan. By analyzing the legislation governing migration, it is possible to identify how the state adapts its policies to respond to external challenges. It is necessary to address how changes in legislation and administrative procedures can simplify or complicate the processes of obtaining residence and employment permits for migrants seeking refuge from political conflicts.

The Republic of Kazakhstan, located near regions with high political instability, faces several challenges related to migration. Kazakhstan's geographic location

makes it both a transit zone and a destination country for many migrants. This puts significant pressure on infrastructure, including healthcare, education, and social support systems. The growth in the number of migrants in certain regions is overloading existing social and economic resources, creating challenges for local communities and governments.

The existing legal framework, including the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 477-IV “On Migration” (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2011), the Joint Order of the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 08-1-1-1/457 and the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 488 “On Approval of the Rules for Issuing Visas of the Republic of Kazakhstan” (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2009), and the Order No. 992 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Approval of the Rules for Issuing Temporary and Permanent Residence Permits to Foreigners and Stateless Persons in the Republic of Kazakhstan” (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2015), establishes the basic norms and procedures for migration management. However, despite this framework, administrative processes, such as visa and residence permit applications, remain complex and often poorly adapted to crises. This can slow the legalization process for migrants and create additional barriers to their integration.

In addition to legal difficulties, the social integration of migrants remains a key challenge. Many migrants face language and cultural barriers, which lead to isolation and increase social tensions in host communities. With a lack of state programs to support integration, migrants often find it difficult to adapt.

To improve the situation, Kazakhstan needs to simplify migration-related administrative procedures, making the process of obtaining residence and work permits more accessible and transparent. At the same time, comprehensive social integration programs, including language courses, cultural initiatives, and educational opportunities for migrants, should be developed and implemented.

Kazakhstan can also draw on the experience of other countries, such as Germany and Jordan, which have successfully addressed migration challenges. These countries have demonstrated effectiveness in distributing migrant, coordinating between regions, and attracting international resources to support integration processes. Adapting such strategies to Kazakhstani realities can alleviate the burden on individual regions and enhance the overall management of migration processes. Thus, Kazakhstan needs to reconsider its migration management approaches in light of contemporary global challenges. This includes adapting legislation, developing infrastructure, and strengthening international cooperation. This comprehensive approach can help cope with the challenges of migration and create conditions for its successful regulation and integration.

According to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (2023), the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide exceeded 60 million in 2022, a record high in recent decades. Most IDPs are concentrated in the Middle East and Africa,

where civil wars are destroying infrastructure and threatening the lives of civilians. In Syria, for instance, more than half of the population has been displaced since the civil war began in 2011. In 2020, the number of IDPs in Syria totaled 6.7 million, thus ranking the country among the world leaders in the number of IDPs (Table 1).

Country	IDPs (2020, million)	IDPs (2022, million)
Syria	6.7	7.1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	5.3	5.5
Yemen	4.0	4.3
Colombia	5.5	/
Afghanistan	3.5	/
Ethiopia	/	3.8
Sudan	/	2.7
Ukraine	1.45	/

Table 1: Number of IDPs in conflict-affected countries at the end of 2020 and 2022. Source: compiled by the authors based on Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (2021; 2023).

Similar trends are evident in other countries. Citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia are relocating to other regions within their home countries in search of safety. In Colombia, the number of IDPs was 5.5 million at the end of 2020, due to prolonged armed conflict. Of particular interest is Ukraine, where, since 2014, as a result of the armed conflict between Russia and Eastern Ukraine, internal migration has been a response to the fighting in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. According to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine (2024), the number of IDPs in the country was about 1.45 million at the end of 2020. As of October 22, 2024, 4,646,735 IDPs were officially registered in the country. The significant rise in Ukraine’s internally displaced persons (IDPs) from 1.45 million in 2020 to over 4.6 million in 2024 was primarily caused by Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This invasion markedly intensified the conflict, displacing millions of residents due to substantial infrastructure destruction, intensified violence, and worsening living conditions in impacted areas (Kireitseva & Yatsenko, 2023). The resulting military actions and threats to personal safety compelled numerous individuals and families to abandon their residences, exacerbating the large-scale displacement both within Ukraine and beyond its boundaries.

Thus, internal migration resulting from political conflicts remains a significant global problem. In most cases, IDPs seek to remain within their country due to cultural and linguistic commonalities, as well as for economic reasons. However, their displacement was accompanied by significant humanitarian and socio-economic challenges, which required an active international response.

CAUSES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The following factors are the leading causes of internal displacement in conflict-affected countries (UNHCR, 2023):

1. Threat to physical security. Armed clashes, bombings, and massacres are forcing people to flee dangerous areas.
2. Destruction of infrastructure and homes. Conflicts often destroy homes, roads, schools, and hospitals, making it impossible to live in affected regions.
3. Disruption of access to essential services. During conflicts, many areas lose access to healthcare, education, and social services.
4. Deterioration of the economic situation. Job losses, the destruction of agricultural land, and the cessation of economic activity are forcing people to seek safer, more stable places to live.

These problems were most pressing in countries such as Syria and Yemen, where years of armed conflict caused catastrophic consequences for the population. In Ethiopia, in particular, where armed conflict in the Tigray region began in 2021, more than 3.8 million IDPs were registered by the end of 2022. Political conflicts provoke internal displacement and cause significant international migration. The study determined that approximately 30% of all international migrants in 2022 were forced to leave their countries due to political instability and armed conflicts (UNHCR, 2023).

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2023), the number of refugees at the end of 2022 exceeded 26 million, a historic high. The largest number of refugees came from countries in long-term conflict, such as Syria, Afghanistan, Venezuela, and South Sudan. As shown in Table 2, most migrants come from countries with highly unstable political situations over several years. For instance, the migration crisis caused by the Syrian civil war peaked in 2015–2016, when millions of Syrians sought refuge in Europe and neighboring countries such as Turkey and Lebanon. At the end of 2022, well over 6 million Syrian refugees were still outside their country.

Country	Number of migrants (million)
Syria	6.8
Afghanistan	3.8
Venezuela	3.6
South Sudan	2.4
Myanmar	1.5

Table 2: Number of international migrants from conflict-affected countries in 2022. Source: compiled by the authors based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2023).

Political conflicts are a key factor triggering mass international migration. This is evidenced by significant migration from countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, and Venezuela, which have experienced prolonged political instability. Most migrants leave their countries because of threats to physical security, destruction of basic infrastructure, and economic instability. These factors have significant implications for migrant-receiving countries. Countries neighboring conflict regions host the largest numbers of refugees. This requires the international community to develop effective support measures to adapt migration policies and mitigate the crisis’s effects.

MODELS OF MIGRATION BEHAVIOR

Research on cross-border migration identifies several patterns of migration behavior, each associated with a particular type of political conflict. For instance, during a civil war, migration is chaotic and uncontrolled (UNHCR, 2023). In such situations, rapid migration to neighboring states is observed, often leaving those states unprepared to receive large numbers of people. This overloads the social infrastructure in the receiving countries, creates temporary camps, and worsens the living conditions of migrants.

In cases where political conflict is limited to a specific area within the country, migration is more localized, and most migrants stay within the country, moving to safer regions. This can be either a temporary solution or a long-term process, depending on the intensity and duration of the conflict (Table 3).

Type of conflict	Basic migration pattern	Country example	Migration numbers (people, million)
Civil war	Refugees to neighboring countries	Syria	6.8
Armed coup d’état	Forced internal migration	Myanmar	1.1
Ethnic conflicts	Migration to neighboring regions	Rwanda	2.5
Political repression	Mass emigration to third countries	Venezuela	5.6

Table 3: The relationship between types of political conflict and major migration patterns. Source: compiled by the authors based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2023).

The study showed that the nature of migration depends not only on the type of political conflict but also on a country’s geographical location, its level of economic

development, and the presence of social ties with neighboring states. For instance, countries with high levels of integration into international organizations or strong economic ties with neighbors are more effective at managing large numbers of migrants (McAuliffe & Triandafyllidou, 2021).

The findings confirmed that state-level political decisions are central to regulating migration processes. The stricter migration legislation in European countries led to a significant decrease in the number of accepted refugees from conflict zones. At the same time, countries with more liberal migration policies, such as Canada and Germany, have demonstrated successful examples of integrating migrants into society (UNHCR, 2023).

The study also determined that the main burden of receiving refugees falls on countries neighboring conflict regions. Turkey, for instance, has become the largest host country for Syrian refugees, receiving more than 3.7 million people. Lebanon and Jordan are also among the countries where the share of migrants in the total population has increased significantly, putting serious pressure on their social and economic systems (McAuliffe & Triandafyllidou, 2021).

The data show that countries near conflict regions receive the bulk of refugees (Table 4). For instance, Lebanon, despite its limited economic resources, has received a significant number of Syrian migrants, which has become a serious challenge for its economy and social sphere.

Country	Number of refugees (million)	Main countries of origin
Turkey	3.7	Syria
Lebanon	1.5	Syria
Pakistan	1.4	Afghanistan
Uganda	1.2	South Sudan
Germany	1.0	Syria, Afghanistan

Table 4: The main countries receiving refugees from conflict regions. Source: compiled by the authors based on United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2023).

The economic impact of migration prompted by political conflicts is substantial for both countries of origin and receiving countries, affecting labor markets and social systems in many ways. Models of migratory behavior indicate that during civil wars, migration patterns tend to be erratic, characterized by swift relocations to neighboring nations, resulting in labor-market pressures and heightened strain on social infrastructure. These migrants often induce brain drain, diminishing skilled labor in their countries of origin, while simultaneously transforming labor markets in host countries. Conversely, when wars are localized, internal displacement frequently occurs, altering the local labor force, albeit with diminished immediate effects on neighboring countries. The migration trends illustrate that the movement of displaced populations is intrinsically connected to economic difficulties, including

labor shortages, economic stagnation in countries of origin, and heightened social expenditures in host countries, all exacerbated by political instability.

ECONOMIC IMPACT ON COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES

In conflict-affected countries, migration often results in a loss of skilled labor and a reduction in the working-age population. This process, known as brain drain, presents an existential threat to the economic recovery and development of affected countries. A notable example is Afghanistan, which has suffered a mass departure of highly skilled professionals in recent decades. It is estimated that more than 20% of Afghans with higher education have left the country as a result of the conflict. This has significantly weakened the national economy and caused a shortage of specialists in key sectors such as medicine and education (World Bank, 2021).

In receiving countries, migrants often occupy jobs in sectors experiencing labor shortages. However, in the short term, such mass migration can create additional pressure on the labor market and social systems. For instance, in Germany, where large numbers of refugees from Syria have arrived, migration has increased the costs of social welfare and integration programs (OECD, 2021). However, in the long term, this country expects a positive impact from attracting a young, able-bodied labor force.

Countries of origin face more negative economic consequences of migration compared to destination countries. With the emigration of skilled professionals, the overall qualifications of the population decline as highly qualified personnel leave their home countries in search of better opportunities. This results in a loss of talent, weakening the economy's competitiveness and hampering its development. In contrast, receiving countries benefit from in-migration, which strengthens the labor force's skillset. New workers bring experience and knowledge, which can enhance innovation capacity and increase productivity.

In addition, countries of origin are experiencing a decline in their working-age populations, which negatively impacts economic growth and consumption. The decline in the labor force causes a shortage of personnel in key industries. In contrast, receiving countries are experiencing an increase in their working-age populations, creating new opportunities for economic development and expanding the labor market. Social spending also varies by country status. In countries of origin, a declining population can reduce social spending but also decrease state support for those remaining. In receiving countries, social spending on migrant adaptation increases, as it requires additional investment in education, health, and other social services.

Lastly, economic growth is highly dependent on migration processes. In countries of origin, economic development slows due to labor losses and lower investment, which can reduce government revenues and lower living standards. In contrast, receiving countries can expect economic growth from new sources of

labor, which can increase productivity and stimulate innovation. When migrants are successfully integrated, receiving countries can reap long-term benefits, making migration a complex and diverse process with different implications for countries' economic status (OECD, 2021).

In the long term, migration can bring significant benefits to host countries. If their integration is successful, migrants often find jobs in sectors with labor shortages and contribute to economic growth. Migration in receiving countries can have significant social consequences. The social consequences of migration in receiving countries are an important part of a comprehensive analysis. Migration driven by political conflicts affects not only the economy but also the social structure and interactions in the receiving countries. The study has shown that migration processes, especially in countries with large numbers of refugees and migrants, lead to demographic changes and impact both cultural and ethnic aspects.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

A sharp increase in the number of migrants often causes significant demographic changes in host countries. In countries such as Turkey and Lebanon, migrants have significantly increased the population, creating pressure on infrastructure and social services and changing the structure.

Data show that in Lebanon, migrants constitute a significant proportion of the population, thereby altering the country's ethnic and cultural structure (Table 5). This example emphasizes that, in resource-limited settings, such changes can substantially affect domestic politics and social processes. An increase in the proportion of migrants can heighten social tensions, shift the balance of power between different ethnic groups, and influence public sentiment.

Country	Total population (million)	Share of migrants in the population (%)
Turkey	85.3	4.4
Lebanon	6.8	22.0
Germany	83.2	1.2
Jordan	10.3	7.8
Uganda	47.7	2.5

Table 5: Demographic changes in countries receiving migrants (data for 2022). Source: compiled by the authors based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2023).

Demographic changes in countries receiving migrants indicate that migration substantially affects the composition of the population. Lebanon has the highest share of migrants, indicating their significant presence and the need for effective

integration measures. Turkey, Germany, and Jordan also have significant migrant populations, indicating that these countries are taking active measures to integrate migrants into the labor force. Although Uganda has a relatively low share of migrants, it still emphasizes the importance of addressing migration issues and supporting those seeking better living conditions. Overall, the data demonstrates that successful integration of migrants requires adapting policies and programs in host countries to achieve social and economic well-being.

Cultural integration of migrants was also an important issue for host countries. Research has shown that cultural differences between the local population and migrants can lead to social tensions, especially in countries with pronounced ethnic and religious diversity. For instance, in European countries such as Germany and Sweden, cultural differences between the local population and migrants from the Middle East pose challenges to social integration. Examples of successful integration can be seen in certain countries where programs to facilitate migrant adaptation, such as language courses and cultural and educational initiatives, have been established. For instance, Turkey introduced programs for the integration of Syrian refugees, which included access to education and work, thereby reducing social tensions. However, such initiatives require significant financial and organizational resources, which are not always possible in countries with limited resources.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON MIGRANTS

Political conflicts and migration substantially impact the mental health of migrants. Studies have shown that many migrants face severe psychological problems, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety disorders. For instance, about 35% of refugees who have fled conflict-affected countries have symptoms of PTSD. The most vulnerable categories are children and adolescents, who experience severe stress due to family separation, loss of home, and adaptation to a new culture. In receiving countries, such as Turkey and Germany, there are special programs to support migrants' mental health. However, these efforts are often insufficient due to the scale of the problem. More comprehensive approaches are needed, including both psychological care and support for social integration, to ensure the well-being of migrants and help them adapt to their new living conditions (Ventevogel et al., 2021).

One of the key findings of the study is that migration caused by political conflicts requires not only economic and social resources but also the creation of legal mechanisms to protect migrants' rights. International organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration are central to this process. These organizations develop and implement programs to protect the rights of refugees and migrants. The legal systems of host countries also significantly affect migrants' situations. The study analyzed legal

mechanisms in different countries. For instance, in Germany, migrants can obtain refugee status and thereby access certain social and legal rights, such as the right to work and to housing. At the same time, in some countries, such as Lebanon and Jordan, migrants do not always receive full legal protection. They may face discrimination, thus restricting their access to vital services such as healthcare, education, and employment (European Commission, 2024). The absence of legal recognition may lead to exploitation, substandard living conditions, and heightened susceptibility to discrimination, limiting their ability to integrate into society. Migrants without legal status face substantial obstacles in getting steady employment, receiving social welfare, and securing legal protections against abuse, hindering their chance to establish secure and productive lives in their host countries. These differences highlight the need to adapt the legal systems of receiving countries to better protect migrants' rights and to integrate them into new societies.

Analysis of the economic consequences of migration for the countries of origin was a substantial part of the study. Political conflicts and related migration processes result in significant economic losses for these countries. The results demonstrated that labor out-migration, reduced production capacity, and lower tax revenues negatively affect the economies of conflict-affected countries. One of the key drivers of economic losses in the countries of origin is brain drain, the loss of the labor force. As a result of political conflicts, many are forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in other countries. This process reduces the labor force in source countries, thereby slowing economic growth and lowering production levels. Additionally, the loss of skilled labor, especially in sectors such as health and education, impairs these countries' ability to rebuild and develop their economies. In the long term, such economic losses may become an obstacle to achieving sustainable development and improving the living standards of the remaining population.

As shown in Table 6, the largest decline in the working-age population was observed in Syria, where almost 21% of the population fled the country due to the conflict. This seriously affected the economy, as a reduced labor force led to lower productivity, a smaller tax base, and a more difficult post-conflict economic recovery.

Country	Pre-conflict population (million)	Post-conflict population (million)	Decrease (%)
Syria	21.3	16.9	20.7
Afghanistan	32.5	27.1	16.6
South Sudan	11.1	9.3	16.2
Venezuela	28.9	26.0	10.0
Ukraine	44.6	38.4	13.9

Table 6: Change in the working-age population in countries of origin as a result of political conflict (data for 2022). Source: compiled by the authors based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2023).

In the context of political conflicts and civil wars, governments of countries of origin often lose control over internal migration. In such situations, international organizations, such as the UN and the International Organization for Migration, are central providers of support to IDPs and refugees. For example, in Syria, UN humanitarian programs have become an important source of assistance for the war-affected population. However, such measures are temporary and do not address the long-term problems associated with migration.

Political conflicts also reduce investment by both private and public institutions. Investors view countries in conflict as high-risk, leading to capital outflows and reduced inflows of foreign direct investment. Consequently, the source countries face a shortage of financial resources to maintain and expand infrastructure, production capacity, and social services. The study found that foreign direct investment in countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, and South Sudan has declined by more than 70% compared to the pre-conflict period. This was supported by the following data (Table 7).

Country	FDI before the conflict (billion USD)	Post-conflict FDI (billion USD)	Decrease (%)
Syria	7.1	1.9	73.2
Afghanistan	3.8	1.1	71.1
South Sudan	2.3	0.7	69.6
Venezuela	11.2	4.3	61.6
Ukraine	6.4	3.2	50.0

Table 7: Decrease in foreign direct investment (FDI) in source countries (2010–2022). Source: compiled by the authors based on International Monetary Fund (2024).

A decline in FDI has a long-term impact on countries’ economic potential, as reduced investment hinders economic recovery and development in the post-conflict period. Political conflicts also contribute to the growth of public debt in the countries of origin. In times of crisis, governments are forced to increase spending on the military, social programs, and infrastructure, widening the budget deficit and increasing the debt burden. According to the International Monetary Fund (2024), over the past ten years, many countries affected by conflict have increased their public debt by 30–50%. The highest debt burdens are in countries such as Syria and South Sudan, where political instability and the destruction of economic infrastructure have led to a significant increase in external debt.

The study also considers the environmental aspects of migration resulting from political conflicts. The analysis revealed that mass movements of people place additional pressures on natural resources in host countries, especially in regions with limited water and land resources. Examples of the negative environmental impacts of migration include the situation in Lebanon and Jordan, where large groups of

migrants have increased pressure on water resources and agricultural land. In Jordan, for example, where access to water is limited, the large-scale arrival of Syrian refugees has increased the demand for water resources, reducing water availability for the local population.

As shown in Table 8, migration has led to a significant increase in water consumption, negatively affecting residents' water availability. Similar problems are observed in Lebanon, where in-migration has also increased pressure on natural resources.

Year	Total water consumption (million m ³)	Share of consumption by migrants (%)	Water availability per capita (m ³)
2011 (before migration)	870	0	145
2020	1,000	12	115

Table 8: The impact of migration on access to water resources in Jordan (2020 data). Source: compiled by the authors based on The Ministry of Water and Irrigation (2023).

The study found that political conflicts have complex, multilevel impacts on migration processes. Conflict-induced migration has a significant impact on both countries of origin and host countries, affecting economic, social, psychological, and environmental aspects. In the countries of origin, there has been an outflow of labor, a decline in investment, and an increase in debt, which has seriously slowed economic recovery in the post-conflict period. The host countries, on the other hand, are facing demographic and cultural changes, as well as increased pressure on social services and infrastructure. One of the key findings of the study was the need for international cooperation to address migration issues related to political conflicts. Only a comprehensive approach, including economic, legal, social, and environmental measures, can help mitigate the effects of migration and create conditions for the successful integration of migrants into new communities.

Political conflicts significantly stimulate migration both within and outside the country. The study found that severe political crises, accompanied by human rights violations, military operations, or a change of government, create conditions that prompt citizens to leave their country on a massive scale. Furthermore, periods of intense hostilities or repression against the civilian population record largest increases in displacement and cross-border departures.

The study found that political conflicts often force migration. Citizens leave their homes under the influence of external factors, such as threats to life, political persecution, and the lack of basic infrastructure and economic opportunities. Internal displacement is also an important element in the overall migration picture, especially in regions where armed conflict is confined to certain parts of the country.

DISCUSSION

Our findings underscore the complex relationship between political conflicts and migration processes. The main conclusions on the impact of political instability on forced migration are consistent with several international studies, although certain aspects remain unclear and require further analysis. Hoffmann et al. (2020) emphasized the impact of environmental changes on migration, particularly the role of climatic factors. Their findings demonstrated that migration increases significantly during periods of political conflict driven by infrastructure destruction and economic instability. Although climate change was not a key factor in our analysis, we found that in regions with limited natural resources, political instability exacerbates environmental problems, which is consistent with their findings on the complex nature of migration. Thus, the impact of political conflicts can be seen as an additional catalyst that increases migration in regions prone to environmental crises.

Malmberg (2021) emphasized the importance of the spatial and temporal aspects of international migration and found that in conditions of political conflict, migration often takes on a chaotic, uncontrolled character, confirming the researcher's thesis about the temporary shift in migration during crises. In the studied regions, such as Syria and Afghanistan, mass migration was associated with the urgent need for security. However, in contrast to Malmberg's findings, our analysis indicates that in the context of long-term conflicts, migration patterns become more structured, with the gradual formation of transit routes and the growing role of neighboring countries as zones of temporary stay.

Hunter and Simon (2022) emphasized the importance of integrating environmental factors into migration theory. Although the current study addressed political aspects, the destruction of infrastructure resulting from conflict was found to often impair access to natural resources, such as water and fertile land. This concurs with the findings of Hunter and Simon, who noted that environmental challenges are crucial to migration processes. Moreover, they found that migration from conflict zones puts significant pressure on the natural resources of receiving countries, such as Lebanon and Jordan, emphasizing the need for an interdisciplinary approach to the study of migration.

Kosiński and Prothero (2023) investigated internal migration in the context of social change and found that internal population movements driven by political conflicts play an important role in shaping migration patterns. For instance, in Syria, a significant proportion of the population preferred to remain in the country despite security threats, consistent with the researchers' findings on the importance of cultural and social factors. However, they noted that in contrast to observations in other regions, internal migration in the countries studied was often a temporary measure, followed by a shift to international migration in the case of protracted conflicts.

Osler (2023) studied the impact of migration on educational and civic initiatives in Europe, with a focus on human rights and social justice. The current study demonstrated that, in the context of political conflicts, migration requires strengthening educational programs to support migrant adaptation, which aligns with Osler's conclusions on the need to develop civic education in receiving countries. Training and integration programs play an important role in reducing social tensions.

Niemann and Zaun (2023) analyzed migration management within the EU policy framework. They also emphasized that the successful regulation of migration patterns requires international coordination, including the development of common standards for migrant reception. This confirms our conclusions about the need for the deeper integration of migration policy within international cooperation.

Pryor (2023) frames migration as a modernization process, highlighting the influence of social and economic factors. Pryor also argues that political conflicts often undermine the infrastructure of modernization in the countries of origin, forcing the population to seek more stable living conditions outside their country. This aligns with their conclusion that migration is part of the global process of adaptation to new challenges. In turn, Bartels (2024) emphasized the statistical accounting of migration in African countries and found that inadequate, unsystematic migration data is also common in conflict-affected countries such as Syria and Afghanistan, thus supporting their conclusion that improving migration data recording is essential to developing effective policies.

Türel and Şener (2024) analyzed spatial aspects of migration, especially the accommodation of Syrian migrants in Istanbul. Their results suggest that similar trends occur in other countries where migration is concentrated in large cities, creating additional infrastructure challenges. This aligns with their conclusion that spatially oriented migration management strategies are needed. Pettrachin (2024) emphasized multilevel migration management in Italy, noting that such an approach can be adapted to regulate migration in Central Asian countries. These findings confirm the importance of interaction between different levels of government in the process of migration management.

Zickgraf et al. (2024) examined the relationship between migration and sustainability, emphasizing the need for a transformative approach to migration management. Our study confirmed that the sustainability of receiving countries depends directly on the adaptability of their migration policies, consistent with the conclusion that an interdisciplinary approach is important in this field. Pyatnychuk et al. (2024) emphasized the economic and legal aspects of migration, including brain drain as a threat to national security. Our study showed that political conflicts exacerbate this process, confirming the need to strengthen national mechanisms for preserving human capital.

Akpuokwe et al. (2024) conducted a study of migration trends and policies in Africa and the United States, highlighting the challenges of integrating migrants into the socioeconomic structures of host countries. The results showed that migrant

integration challenges are a global phenomenon. This supports the conclusion that inclusive strategies are needed to reduce social inequalities and ensure the sustainability of migration processes.

Brumat and Espinoza (2024) studied changes in migration policy in South America, emphasizing the role of international actors and ideas in shaping new approaches. They note that political conflicts often require adapting migration policies to current challenges, consistent with scholars' conclusions on the importance of international influence and coordination in this process. He et al. (2024) emphasized conflicts in communities receiving migrants displaced by climate change. Their findings confirmed that adopting effective intervention strategies, including educational programs and strengthening social cohesion, is a key factor in minimizing tensions, consistent with the need for a comprehensive approach to conflict management. Mikac and Wahdyudin (2021) emphasized the impact of migration on university education. This study revealed that the mass migration from conflict zones requires adapting educational strategies to integrate students, consistent with the need to modernize curricula and ensure equal access to education for migrants.

Collinson (2009) studied the political economy of migration, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive analysis of the factors that shape migration. Their study demonstrated that political conflicts are central to changes in migration, consistent with the conclusion that both political and economic factors are important for developing effective management strategies. Kapur (2014) examined the political consequences of international migration, emphasizing its impact on host countries' social and political institutions. The results confirmed that migration from conflict zones can increase social tensions and alter institutional structures, consistent with findings on the complex interaction between migration and politics. Oliinyk et al. (2021) studied the impact of highly skilled migration on a country's economic growth and competitiveness. The results of their study showed that political conflicts exacerbate brain drain, which negatively affects the economic potential of the source countries. This is consistent with our findings on the need to develop measures to retain highly skilled labor amid political instability.

The current study's findings confirmed the complex relationship between political conflicts and migration processes. It identified infrastructure destabilization, worsening economic crises, and social tensions in conflict zones as key factors contributing to forced migration. These findings align with Wood (1994), who emphasized the impact of local conflicts on forced population movements and the importance of international coordination to mitigate their consequences. Castles (2004) emphasized the importance of geographical proximity for migration in crisis conditions. The results of the current study demonstrate that host countries' policies are crucial for the scale and nature of migration. These findings are consistent with Castles (2019), who highlighted that the success of migration policy is largely determined by its adaptability to changing conditions.

In our study, we also found that migrants' social integration poses a significant challenge for host countries, particularly given cultural and linguistic differences. Anderson (2003) stressed the need to develop educational programs for migrant children, a need confirmed by our study's results, which highlight the importance of such measures for migrants' successful adaptation. Anderson also demonstrated that the economic consequences of migration can be both positive and negative, depending on labor-management policies. This is consistent with Raleigh (2011), who studied the impact of conflict and economic factors on migration in developing countries, finding that states that integrate migrants into the labor market reap significant long-term economic benefits.

The results of our study emphasize that political conflicts are a multifactorial phenomenon that causes complex changes in migration processes. The findings confirm the need for an interdisciplinary approach that considers political, social, economic, and environmental factors. Particular attention should be devoted to developing adapted migration strategies that address both short-term needs and long-term consequences for countries of origin and destination.

Our findings underscore the urgent necessity for adaptable migration strategies that address both the immediate humanitarian issues and the enduring socio-economic consequences of migration caused by political conflict. Policymakers must prioritize the establishment of adaptable frameworks capable of swiftly addressing unanticipated sharp increases in refugee arrivals, especially in countries neighboring conflict zones, while facilitating the integration of migrants into labor markets and social institutions. Moreover, future studies should investigate the intersection of migration patterns and environmental variables, as well as the influence of international organizations on migration strategies. Examining the enduring impacts of migration on the infrastructure and economy of host countries, particularly in resource-constrained areas, is essential for formulating sustainable solutions. Furthermore, detailed analyses of internal migration trends in conflict areas could offer helpful suggestions for targeted policy measures that alleviate pressure on neighboring countries and foster regional stability.

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis shows that political conflicts significantly affect migration processes, shaping complex, multifaceted migration movements both within and across countries. It also indicates that the destruction of infrastructure, deterioration of the economic situation, and increased social instability in conflict regions are the main factors driving forced migration.

Qualitatively, the findings suggest that mass migration in conflict situations leads to a deterioration in social stability in host countries, increasing the burden on healthcare, education, and social support systems. The results also underscore

the need for international coordination in migration management. Intergovernmental initiatives to share resources and responsibilities between countries can help address the challenges posed by mass migration. This is particularly relevant for countries neighboring conflict regions, which are experiencing the greatest pressure on their infrastructure.

The limitations of this study include insufficient availability of disaggregated data for several regions and insufficient attention to climate factors in the context of political conflict. This creates difficulties in thoroughly assessing the relationship between political and environmental aspects of migration. Nevertheless, these limitations create opportunities for future research.

We recommend expanding the study's geographical scope to include regions with different types of conflict and diverse socioeconomic conditions. It is also important to deepen the analysis of the long-term consequences of migration by examining its impact on the demographic, economic, and political structures of host countries. The study of interdisciplinary approaches to migration management, including environmental, social, and technological aspects, can significantly improve the understanding of these processes and suggest more effective strategies.

In conclusion, the results underline the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to the study of migration. The integration of political, social, economic, and environmental factors into the study of migration processes will enable the development of sustainable, adaptive migration management strategies to address current global challenges.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For this article, we used the archival sources cited.

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POVZETEK

VPLIV POLITIČNIH KONFLIKTOV NA MIGRACIJSKE PROCESSE

Meiramgul Altybassarova, Gulsara Kappassova, Serik Almukhanov, Amergaly Begimtayev, Bakhyt Smagulova

Avtorji v študiji analizirajo znaten vpliv političnih konfliktov na migracijsko dinamiko, s poudarkom na notranjem razseljevanju in mednarodnih migracijskih vzorcih. Študija preučuje dejavnike in učinke prisilnega razseljevanja v državah, ki jih pestijo politična nestabilnost in oboroženi konflikti, kot so Sirija, Afganistan, Libanon, Jordanija, Ukrajina, Demokratična republika Kongo, Kolumbija, Jemen, Etiopija, Venezuela, Južni Sudan, Mjanmar in Ruanda. Kot glavne spodbujevalne dejavnike migracij izpostavljajo uničenje infrastrukture, gospodarsko recesijo in stopnjevanje socialnih nemirov, zaradi česar se tako države izvora kot tudi države gostiteljice, ki sprejemajo migrante, soočajo s še večjimi težavami.

Pri raziskavi so uporabili mešani metodološki pristop, in sicer kombinacijo kvantitativne analize statističnih podatkov o migracijah s kvalitativnimi študijami primerov in preučevanjem pravnih struktur za upravljanje migracij. Kvantitativna analiza temelji na mednarodnih statističnih podatkih o migracijah, poročilih mednarodnih organizacij in nacionalnih podatkovnih bazah. V prispevku analizirajo pravne okvire, ki urejajo migracije, zlasti na območjih konfliktov, pri čemer izpostavljajo pomanjkljivosti sedanjih politik in njihovo neučinkovitost pri odzivanju na pritok migrantov.

Raziskava kaže, da politične krize, zlasti državljanske vojne in vojaški spopadi, znatno vplivajo na povečanje prisilnih migracij, saj številni posamezniki iščejo zatočišče v sosednjih državah. V takšnih primerih so migracijski vzorci pogosto kaotični in neregulirani, kar preobremenjuje infrastrukturo in socialne storitve držav sprejemnic. Migranti se pogosto soočajo z velikimi ovirami, me drugim s predsodki, nezadostno pravno zaščito in težavami pri zagotavljanju ključnih storitev, kot so zdravstveno varstvo in izobraževanje. Kot kažejo izsledki študije, države z bolj prožnimi migracijskimi politikami na splošno omogočajo boljšo integracijo beguncev, na drugi strani so v primeru strogih predpisov možnosti za azil in integracijo omejene.

Precejšnje so tudi ekonomske posledice prisilnih migracij. Države izvora se soočajo z izgubljanjem usposobljene delovne sile (t. i. beg možganov), kar zavira gospodarsko okrevanje in napredek. Nasprotno pa se države gostiteljice soočajo s pritiski na trg dela, socialne storitve in infrastrukturo. Avtorji za izboljšanje sistemov upravljanja migracij in olajšanje uspešne integracije beguncev v države gostiteljice zagovarjajo sodelovanje na globalni ravni. Njihova raziskava kaže na potrebo po celovitih, prilagodljivih politikah in dodatnih raziskavah o povezanosti migracij z okoljskimi in varnostnimi vprašanji.

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