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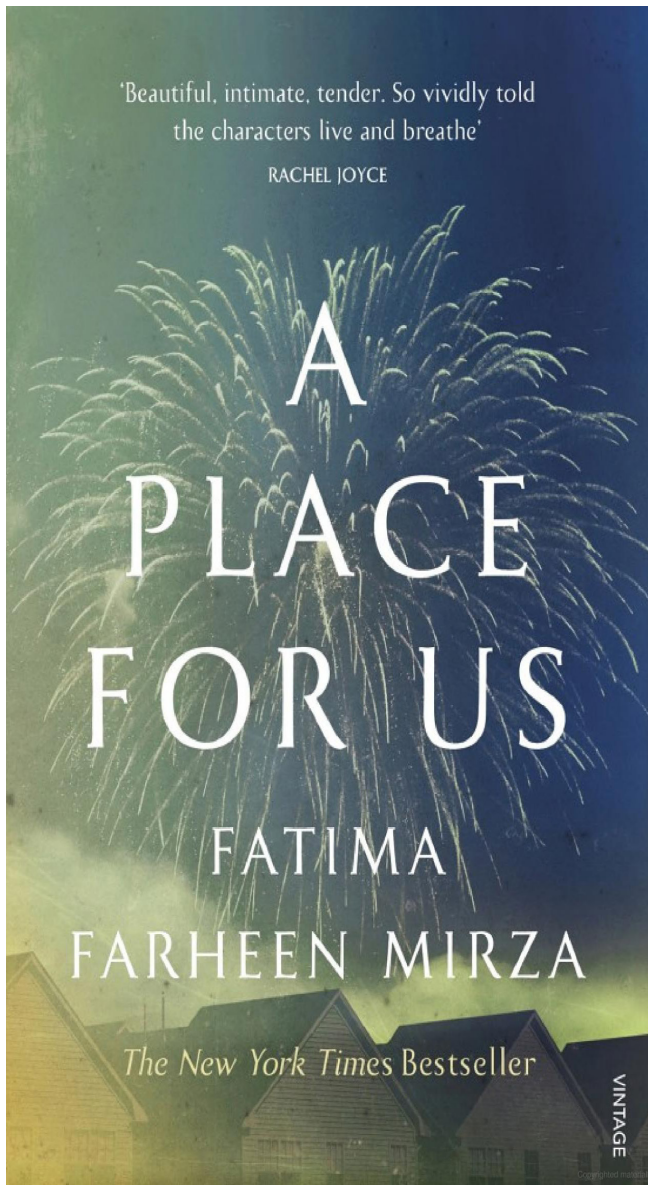


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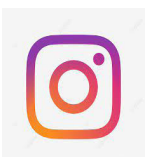
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Dear Readers,

Greetings!

The government's policies play a decisive role in the movement of people. Sometimes the policies encourage people to migrate, and sometimes it forces people into mass displacement. The current issue focuses on specific aspects related to policies, mobility, and migrant issues.

The current issue presents a brief article by Jesula SIMON that argues about a lack of social integration between immigrants and natives in France. The article noted that despite enacting policies to reduce inequalities among immigrants and natives, the implementation and structure are hindering social cohesion. Another brief article in the issue by Lolita Gogokhia argues that in the current Russia-Ukraine war, why Georgia became the safe haven for Russian migrants. The article provided a brief historical background of the USSR, its strategic location, and the bilateral relation between the two countries that helped the migrant choose Georgia as their favoured nation.

The current issue also carries a book review titled "A Place for Us," written by Irram Irfan.

We invite readers to participate and share their experiences with us for a meaningful engagement. You can communicate with us through email at editorinchief@grfdt.com. We wish you happy reading and look forward to your suggestions and comments.

Happy Reading!

Feroz Khan

THE FOREIGNERS FACING THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

International law does not pronounce the definition of the notion of ‘migrant,’ and its meaning comes from the use made of it by international and national organizations. For example, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the ‘migrant’ is a generic term reflecting common usage to designate any person who leaves their usual place of residence to settle temporarily or permanently and for various reasons, either in another region of the same country or in another country, thus crossing an international border. It encompasses many well-defined legal categories of persons, such as migrant workers, people whose particular types of movement are legally defined, and smuggled migrants, whose status and forms of travel are not expressly specified by international law, as reflected in the International Students’ Glossary on Migration or IOM policy papers.

This definition given by the IMO leaves a void on the length of time the person remains in the host territory to be considered a migrant. If the IOM definition may seem simple, the [Comité Inter-Mouvements Auprès Des Évacués](#) (La Cimade) calls for vigilance when it comes to using the notion of migrant.

In addition, La Cimade indicates that the term migrant makes it possible to distinguish people who leave their country by taking into account the reasons for their departure. Indeed, in practice, people who leave their country for economic reasons are called migrants, and those forced to do so for political reasons are considered refugees or asylum seekers. According to [La Cimade, this distinction between different categories of ‘migrants’ is often arbitrary because of the merger of economic and political constraints.](#)

France and immigration

The history of immigration shows that France is one of the first countries to experience the migratory phenomenon. The period of the First World War is considered a pivotal period for immigration. Indeed,

France recruited foreigners and brought them to its territory to support the war economy (Cour des Comptes, 2004).

The High Council for Integration (HCI) establishes a difference between immigrants and migrants and recommends defining an immigrant as someone born outside French territory but who entered France and resides there permanently. The migrant, according to the HCI (France), refers to one who is the subject of seasonal or temporary movements. According to a document published by HCI, it is better to rigorously define an immigrant as someone who was born abroad, who entered France, and who generally lives there permanently. The term ‘migrant’ is more appropriate for seasonal or temporary movements. In this article, I use the term foreigner to refer to people who do not have French nationality but have been on French soil for at least twelve months.

The precariousness of migrants

Unlike nationals, foreigners do not have an inherent right to remain on French territory. To access the French part, to stay there for more than a year, foreigners are confronted with institutions fulfilling sovereign functions of the State, such as the consulate, the police, and the prefecture (the institution which the foreigners should contact to validate their visas when arriving in France). Before entering France, refugees must send a request to the French consulate of their home country. When submitting the application, they must present a set of documents (financial means, place of accommodation, and means of repatriation) proving that they meet a group of required criteria, which indicate whether they can stay in France.

Everything is not over yet, even if they obtain the visas and pay for a plane ticket to land in France. Arriving at the border, they are obliged to present to the agents of the Central Directorate of Immigration Control and the Fight against Illegal Employment the same documents

that he submitted to the consulate to obtain the visa, which, precisely, authorizes him to stay in France. If the DICCILEC agents consider that the people who move represent a potential danger to public order, they may be refused access to French territory (Lochak, 2000). Otherwise, the foreigner has the green light from the DICCILEC to access the French territory.

After his contact with the consulate and the DICCILEC, the foreigner will have to contact the prefecture (the institution which the foreigners should contact to validate their visas when arriving in France), which will issue a residence permit. The duration of the residence permit varies according to their situation. In the case of international students enrolled in the bachelor's or master's program, the residence permit is valid for one year. The residence permit must be renewed each year. With each request addressed to the prefecture, the person concerned must provide documents that are often exact as those he had submitted to analyze his request for obtaining the visa.

The foreigners are in a precarious situation due to their ambiguous status regarding the right of residence. This situation of precariousness has a negative impact on the possibility of finding accommodation, finding a job (if they hold a work permit), having access to loans, and continuing his studies in France.

Relations between foreign countries and the administration

The foreigner maintains unbalanced relations with the administration. This imbalance can be apprehended by analyzing the two aspects of the immigration policy developed since 1974, which aims to control migratory flows and combat illegal migration, on the one hand, leading to an approach of control and sanctions, while on the other hand, to integrate those who have arrived on the territory regularly (Lochak, 2000). This policy would imply allowing foreigners to access public services under conditions similar to those of nationals. But the reality is very different.

Foreigners do not have the right to access all public services like nationals. Abdelmalek Sayad, quoted by (Michèle Leclerc-Olivier, 2002), speaks of a "demarcation line, invisible or barely perceptible,

but whose effects are considerable, which radically separates "nationals" and "non-nationals". This difference in treatment between the national and the migrant makes the situation of the latter fragile.

Indeed, the foreigner is instead seen as someone to be controlled. He must constantly prove that he complies with the administration and remains so.

However, certain conditions that do not depend on the foreigner's will may prevent him from proving that he complies with the administration. One thinks particularly of the processing time of the application for renewal of the residence permit, and some requests may take several months to be processed. In this case, the foreigner may be issued a certificate of instruction-extension, which indicates the maintenance of the rights granted under the residence permit previously held.

Even in possession of this certificate of extension of instruction, the foreigner may find himself in undesirable circumstances for two reasons:

- the duration of its validity being too short;
- the rights granted by the previous residence permit are lost contrary to what is written there.

The foreigner is then blocked, and he cannot prove to the administration that he is in good standing by presenting the papers.

According to Danièle Lochak (2000), the relationship of subjugation and control materializes in a privileged connection with sovereign public services, which often takes repressive forms. Often a repressive approach remains predominant in contaminating foreigners' relations with other foreigners 'public services. This situation leads to doubt, distrust, and a lack of empathy.

Conclusion

The instability of foreigners in France demonstrated through this article is a major policy concern as it constitutes an obstacle to social cohesion. Indeed, the "National Plan for Social Cohesion" decreed in 2005 and whose objective is to reduce inequalities, particularly those faced by populations with an immigrant background- living in degraded living and housing conditions- can be successful only when these structures are taken into account. The precariousness

faced by the foreigner in his de facto instability can lead to questions as to the actual political will for his social integration.

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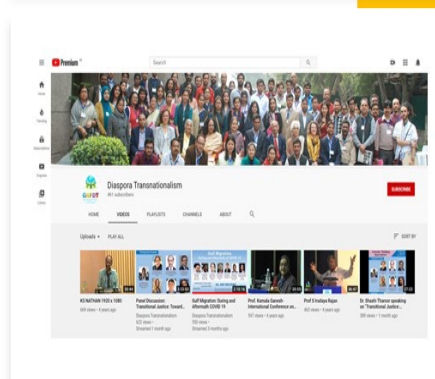
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Georgia: A New Destination for Russo – Ukraine Conflict-induced Russian Emigration

Introduction

Since the outbreak of hostilities in Ukraine in February 2022, thousands of Russians have fled Russia. Some of them are politicians, journalists, and activists who have opposed Putin and his regime for years. The others are ordinary Russians who have become exhausted of anti-Russian sanctions. Georgia, a country located in the South Caucasus, has become one of the centers of their attraction. This article is about how the emigration of Russians is affecting Georgian society. The article will be interesting for those who are interested in the Russian diaspora and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.



Graffiti on a street corner in downtown Tbilisi, Georgia, shows Russia crossed out and the flag of Ukraine next to it.

Claire Harbage/NPR

Why are Russians fleeing to Georgia?

After 24 February 2022, Georgia, preoccupied with its internal political crisis, was shaken by a new wave of Russian immigration caused by Russia's military actions in Ukraine. As the adage goes, "tables have turned."

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Georgians were among those who would emigrate to Russia as refugees or economic migrants. Georgian immigrants in Russia would face varied challenges, including abuse by Russian authorities[1]. Nevertheless, everything has changed – Russians are now the ones fleeing to Georgia.

Georgia has always been a favorite tourist destination for Russians. Firstly, Georgia has a land border with Russia and a simplified visa regime. Russians can stay in Georgia 365 days a year without a visa[2]. Secondly, Georgia's prices of housing and food are lower than in Russia, thus attracting those who travel on a low budget. Thirdly, the country has been listed among the safest countries in the world[3]. In other words, the choice was a no-brainer for Russians fleeing from their country, and soon, Georgia became a hub for the Russian immigrants. Statistical data provided by the Federal Security Service of Russia reveals that, in the first quarter of 2022, more than 38 thousand Russians entered Georgia. This is five times more than in the first quarter of 2021[4].

Who are the Russian immigrants?

It is worth categorizing Russian immigrants in Georgia into two groups. The first group includes politicians, journalists, and activists who have been opposing Putin's regime for years. Their voices were heard at rallies, and they were often prosecuted by the Russian authorities. For example, editors of the well-known Russian liberal TV channel "Dozhd" (officially blocked in Russia) have settled in Georgia, and among them are the editors of the "The Bell", an online journal about Russia's politics and business[5]. Since 24 February 2022, Russian laws have become even tougher: for spreading information that is different from the official position of Russia, one can be jailed for 10 to 15 years[6]. As such, most actively political Russians prefer to flee the country. Yet not all of them plan to stay in Georgia for a long time and hope to come back soon[7].

The second group is ‘apolitical’ and ordinary Russians who left the country due to the imposition of sanctions by the West. For example, economic sanctions imposed on Russia include the banning of Russian banks from SWIFT and limiting the banking operations of Russians[8]. As a result, Russians cannot use abroad the cards issued by their banks[9]. Many companies such as H&M, Ikea, Inditex, etc., have closed their stores in the protest. Fast food restaurants, such as McDonald’s, have left the Russian market[10]. Additionally, organizations like Netflix, Sony, The Walt Disney Company, and Airbnb have also suspended all operations in Russia[11]. The current situation in Russia resembles the one that was during the pandemic, with everything being closed. Therefore, those, who are deprived of the blessings of civilization, also prefer to leave the country.

What do Georgians think of the Russian immigrants?

It would be a mistake to generalize all Georgians by one attitude toward the Russian emigrants. Some Georgians welcomed Russians, especially anti-Putin politicians and activists, with empathy, while some have become irritated with the exodus of Russians to Georgia. With the mass migration of Russians, housing prices in Tbilisi have increased by several times[12]. Indeed, the Russian presence in Tbilisi is more visible than before, and it raises fears among Georgians. They argue that Russia can use the presence of the emigrants as a pretext for military intervention in Georgia[13]. It is worth mentioning that Georgia lost 20% of its territories as a result of pro-Russian separatist uprisings in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region[14]. However, the Georgian leadership does not prevent Russians from living and working in Georgia, and no immigration restrictions have been introduced yet[15]. On the other hand, some Georgian banks, shocked by the number of requests, have begun restricting the opening of accounts for Russian citizens[16]. The Bank of Georgia went much further and later introduced special applications for opening accounts[17]. The applicant had to sign under terms and conditions that they condemn Russia’s occupation of Georgia and Ukraine. Apparently, these actions confuse and alienate many Russian emigrants in Georgia. However, at the end of the day, one thing might unite both Russians and Georgians, and it is the willingness to help Ukrainian refugees.

Can they help the Ukrainian refugees?



Russian emigrants help Ukrainians in Georgia, “Volunteers Tbilisi”, 2022

In the heart of Georgia, Tbilisi, some Russian activists organize charity events, humanitarian aid allocations, and fundraisings for Ukrainian refugees. They mostly operate on Telegram, as the platform is one of the most secure for messaging[18]. For example, initiatives, such as “Volunteers Tbilisi” with an audience of 4 thousand subscribers, helps Ukrainians to settle in Georgia and advise those who have not left Ukraine yet[19]. “Emigration for Action,” with an audience of 1 thousand subscribers, posts daily about allocating humanitarian aid to Ukrainians[20]. In addition, activists organize creative and educational spaces for cooperation and gatherings, such as “Frame”[21]. Activists also create online guides for Ukrainians who seek help in Georgia[22]. Russian emigrants also try to communicate with each other. For example, “Relocation and Life in Georgia” posts about the opportunities in the emigrant community and shares interesting places

to discover in Georgia[23].

Are Russians guilty?

As we can see, the conflict in Ukraine not only has changed the daily worries of the Russian emigrants, but also challenged their national identity. One might argue that Russians should feel guilty about their government's actions. However, is the question of collective guilt and responsibility being discussed in the Russian emigrant community?

This question is more than complicated for Russians, who usually separate themselves from the actions of their government and sometimes have a blurred notion of what is happening in Ukraine[24]. Nevertheless, a very popular Russian historian Tamara Eidelman, who also had to flee Russia in 2022, decided to take action. She organizes face-to-face lectures in Tbilisi to address these issues[25]. For whom are we responsible? The question has just started being raised among the Russian emigrants. One might point out that the situation is similar to the one in which the Germans found themselves in 1945[26]. Obviously, it will take time and patience for the Russians to realize the damage.

Conclusion

All in all, Russian emigrants have found their 'safe haven' in Georgia. Although some Georgians have fears about their presence in the country, the emigrants try to be as active as they once were in Russia. They have already succeeded in organizing charitable events for the Ukrainian refugees and educational lectures for themselves. The question of the collective guilt and responsibility will bug them, but it will make room for something good to happen. Ultimately, it leaves optimism and hopes about the future of Russia once they come back.

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A Place for Us by Fatima Farheen Mirza

A Place for Us by Fatima Farheen Mirza is a story of an American family about faith, honour, and betrayal. It is the coming-of-age story of Amar, a young Indian American Muslim in post-9/11 America. The novel revolves around Amar's place within his family and the Indian Muslim community's place in the United States. Amar questions the faith and culture of his parents, who have migrated with them to the US.

His parents, Rafiq and Layla, have migrated from India to California. They try to raise their three children, Hadia, Huda, and Amar, with their culture and tradition. The culture and traditions of the family both push them together and pull them apart. The parents, who are first-generation immigrants, feel a loss of tradition because they see their children drifting away from their culture. While their children, who are second-generation immigrants, try to integrate both their worlds together. This integration which is both a gain and a loss leads to a generational shift. Rather than choosing sides, Mirza negotiates between the guilt and the excitement experienced by second-generation immigrants.

The novel opens with the wedding scene of Hadia, the eldest sister. Hadia has chosen a love match instead of the traditional arranged marriage. Although she has drifted from the traditional setup, she keeps her relationship with Tariq *halal* (religiously acceptable). Hadia honours where she is from but also chooses the man she wants. Amar, who has been estranged from his family for three years, has come home to attend his sister's wedding. There is a pronounced disconnect between him and his family. This novel explores why he left and what role did the family members play in his decision

to run away.

The novel is narrated from multiple perspectives of all the characters by an omniscient narrator who lets the readers decide their take on the characters and their decisions. The book interweaves the past with the present, migrating back and forth through several decades. It dives into the memories and decisions made by each character that resulted in their family falling apart. The novel discusses the conflict in value systems between the generations. While Amar's decisions are good from his own perspective, it is covered with a selfish tint when viewed from his mother's perspective.

The novel takes an exploratory approach, where both the narrator and readers answer the questions together. It questions if Amar is different because he struggles to believe in the faith that his family does. Amar keeps trying to go back and understand the religious stories his mother told him during his childhood. Hadia, on the other hand, comes across as a practicing Muslim, but in her mind, she does not think of her life in terms of faith.

The title of the book, as stated by the author, "is an acknowledgement" (Mirza). The novel is hopeful that there is a place where the characters can exist without conflict. The novel explores the concept of a homeland and how the space for a home is created. The meaning of home for each character is different. While Rafiq and Layla consider India as their home, Hadia and Huda regard America as their home. Amar, on the other hand, is not spatially bound and thinks "home is home when Hadia is in it" (Mirza). The book discusses the construction of three spaces- the place of each character within

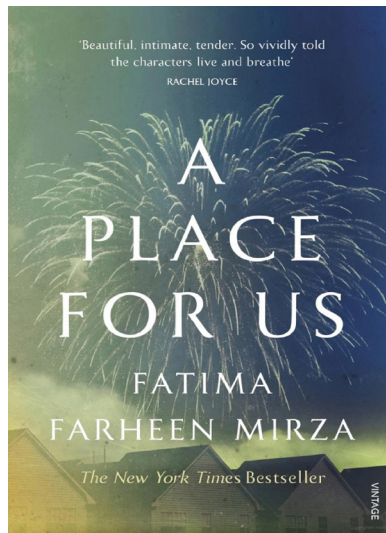


Photo Credit: https://www.amazon.co.uk/books/ref/top/A_Place_for_Us/gk1Dyb6ZBA/zh-mk-bv-14pntsc--frontcover

the family, the family's place within their community, and the place of the Indian Muslim diaspora community in America. Their place in these spaces leads to the formation of their identity.

The book contrasts the identity of the characters as an individual, as a part of their family, and their identity in their community. Identity can be categorised into personal identity and social identity. According to the self-categorization theory, personal identity refers to "the individual as a unique person in terms of their individual differences from other (ingroup) persons" (Turner). Whereas social identity refers to "social categorizations of self and others, self-categories which define the individual in terms of his or her shared similarities with members of certain social categories in contrast to other social categories". Thus, social identity constructs a contrast of "us" versus "them" (Turner). This social construct is thrust not only between immigrants and the host country but also within the members of the immigrant community, of which a family is a basic unit. The novel is structured around Amar and his struggle in the formation of his identity.

A Place for Us is the first book to be published by Sarah Jessica Parker's new imprint for Hogarths. It is a project between a first-time author and a publisher. Fatima

Farheen Mirza invested eight years in writing this enthralling story that resonates with readers beyond the diasporic community. You need not be an immigrant to relate to the shift in family tensions and generational clashes the book discusses.

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