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Exploring Refugee Crises: A Comparative Study of US Withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan

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ABSTRACT

The refugee crisis is a recurring consequence of the long-term conflict and political turmoil. This research aimed to study and compare the refugee crisis resulting from the U.S. involvement in the complex political dynamics of both Vietnam and Afghanistan. The study analyzes the causes, reactions and impacts of these refugee crises and gives insights into the complexity of the displacement and international response. The qualitative research design focused on content analysis. Books, academic papers and reports are used as data sources. The framework of realist and forced migration theory was applied to identify the root causes of the refugee crisis in Vietnam and Afghanistan, allowing comparative analysis. The study examined the US military's involvement in the refugee crisis since 1975 in Vietnam, highlighting its impact on refugees and host communities. The US's withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 led to the Taliban's takeover, increasing Afghan refugee numbers and posing political tensions and security risks. In Vietnam, an estimated 2 million and in Afghanistan, an estimated 1 million refugees fled the country after the withdrawal due to push and pull factors. The Vietnam and Afghanistan refugee crises share similarities, but they have significant differences. Vietnamese refugees primarily fled by sea, while Afghans used land, air, and sea routes. Vietnamese refugees settled in Southeast Asia and the US, while Afghan refugees sought asylum in various countries. The U.S. government's policy response to refugees exhibited a mix of welcome and skepticism, influenced by Vietnam's strategic importance during the Cold War. The study recommended enhancing international cooperation, prioritizing humanitarian aid, implementing comprehensive refugee policies, promoting conflict prevention, enhancing resettlement programs, addressing socioeconomic factors, raising awareness, combating stigma, strengthening legal frameworks, investing in education, and learning from past experiences to address refugee crises.

INTRODUCTION

The US military involvement in Afghanistan and Vietnam, both protracted and costly, significantly influenced American foreign policy and society during the Cold War and post-Cold War eras (Lovvorn, 2023). The US involvement in Vietnam began in the 1950s, aimed at preventing communism from spreading. The war escalated, leading to a peace agreement in 1973, but North Vietnam invaded in 1975, resulting in Vietnam's collapse (Grinter, 1975). The US war in Afghanistan, initiated by Carter in the 1970s, escalated with the Soviet Union's invasion in 1979. The Reagan-Bush presidency saw the Soviet withdrawal, leading to the US Army's two-volume history (den Ouden, 2011). Critics argue the war caused significant damage and committed war crimes. The US supported the Afghan mujahideen in 1979 and 1980, leading to the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991. The Taliban seized control in 1996, and the US invaded in 2001, but the Taliban retook power in 2021 (Tripathi, 2023). The US war strategy has evolved over time, influenced by geopolitical factors. Post-9/11, the US launched military invasions in Afghanistan and Iraq, integrating sea, land, and air power to maintain regional balances. Geopolitical theorists emphasize controlling key regions.

The US's involvement in the Vietnam War, initially a secret affair, failed due to misunderstandings and secrecy. The US involvement in Afghanistan and Vietnam, despite similarities, differed in strategy and immediate objectives. The US's direct interventionist approach in Vietnam and indirect approach in Afghanistan led to the refugee crisis (Scalettari, 2023). Since the Vietnam War, the US has repeatedly failed to achieve its initial objectives in wars and military interventions, leading to resource depletion, strain on forces, and public support. Interventions often employed political, military, and diplomatic tactics. The US invasion of Vietnam was motivated by China's perceived support for North Vietnamese communists, fear of a potential power shift in Southeast Asia, concerns about closed economies, and the desire to establish a post-colonial world order (Komar, 2018). The US wars in Vietnam and Afghanistan share similarities in duration, resource investment, and decisional failings. Both failed to achieve early objectives, leading to the Vietnam Syndrome. The 2020 US-Taliban agreement aims for troop withdrawals and negotiations.

The US invasion of Afghanistan, driven by geopolitical factors, Soviet misrepresentation, democracy, ignorance of Afghanistan's history, and potential wealth, led to a spiraling out of control. The US withdrawal from

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Vietnam and Afghanistan, involving a phased troop withdrawal with the Taliban, has raised concerns about the credibility of American power and its implications for regional stability and security. The US withdrawal from Vietnam and Afghanistan significantly affected refugee crises, with the Orderly Departure Program facilitating legal emigration in Vietnam and a migration crisis in Afghanistan. The Taliban's seized power threatens a larger crisis, with challenges including resettlement, healthcare, language barriers, and integration.

Vietnam

The Vietnam War, also known as the Second Indochina War, lasted from 1955 to 1975, involving North and South Vietnam, with covert military support from the US, Soviet Union, and China (Rostow, 1996). The Vietnam War, originating from French colonial rule in Indochina, began in 1941 with the Viet Minh resistance movement (Katz, 1980). After WWII, French attempts led to the First Indochina War, ending French rule in 1954. The US's military and economic aid to South Vietnam in the 1950s led to a covert war against North Vietnam in 1964, resulting in a costly conflict (Davidson, 1991). The Vietnam War, marked by the Tet Offensive in 1968, marked a turning point in the US's struggle against communist forces. The Vietnamization in 1969 gradually withdrew US troops and trained South Vietnamese forces. It authorized secret bombings in Cambodia, causing civilian casualties. In 1973, a peace agreement ended US involvement (Schulzinger, 2006). The Vietnam War, despite a peace agreement, ended in 1975 with North Vietnamese forces capturing South Vietnam, causing widespread protests, social unrest, and economic damage, as well as millions of deaths and displacement (Starr, 1991). The Vietnam War resulted in political repression, economic hardship, and social upheaval in Vietnam, with communist regimes threatening citizens' safety and freedom, leading to land reform and nationalization. The new government promoted communist ideology, suppressed traditional practices, and enforced strict social norms, leading to fear of violence and retribution, causing desperate boat people to flee.

The Vietnam War (1955-1975) saw South Vietnam defeat North Vietnam, resulting in the deaths of over 3 million Vietnamese civilians and 58,000 US soldiers, and 1.2 million Vietnamese fleeing to neighboring countries, facing dangerous journeys, overcrowded refugee camps, and cultural and language barriers (Schulzinger, 2006). The mass exodus of refugees following the fall of South Vietnam was a tragic event, a testament to the human spirit of survival and the desire for freedom, but also a reminder of the devastating consequences of war and conflict (Wiest, 2003). The Indochina Migration and Refugee Act of 1975 and the Refugee Act of 1980 addressed the Vietnam War refugee crisis, admitting 130,000 refugees and establishing a resettlement program. The US government provided humanitarian assistance, facilitating the emigration of over 800,000 Vietnamese citizens and

enhancing the US refugee system (Vu & Satzewich, 2016). Vietnamese refugees are influenced by various factors such as ethnicity, religion, and socioeconomic status. Cochinchinese, Kinh, and ethnic Chinese refugees are diverse and often face suspicion and discrimination from the communist government (Tawardros, 1981). Affluent, middle-class, and poor refugees face different resettlement experiences in the US. Affluent refugees find employment easily, middle-class professionals integrate smoothly, while poor refugees face challenges like employment and discrimination (Troeng & Lê, 2016). Vietnamese refugees face numerous challenges in their new host countries, including language barriers, cultural differences, economic hardship, mental health issues, discrimination, loss of identity, and family separation. These challenges could lead to feelings of isolation, stress, anxiety, and mental health issues. Despite these challenges, many Vietnamese refugees had successfully adapted, establishing businesses, preserving their cultural heritage, and embracing new cultures (Gartner & Segura, 2000). The US government initially provided humanitarian aid and family reunification to Vietnamese refugees after Saigon's fall in 1975. The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) later shifted focus to economic integration and family reunification. The US government has expanded its resettlement options, collaborating with private organizations and faith-based groups, and focusing on refugee empowerment to develop leadership skills and advocate for their needs. The US government offered 1,500 refugee visas annually to Vietnamese citizens at risk of persecution, demonstrating its commitment to support their rebuilding and societal contribution (Lipman, 2020).

Afghanistan

The US-led invasion of Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom, began on October 7, 2001, following the September 11 attacks, aiming to dismantle al-Qaeda and its Taliban hosts (Miller, 2021). The 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan led to the rise of militant Islamic groups, including the Taliban, which seized significant territory by the mid-1990s (Ghiasi, 2021). On September 11, 2001, al-Qaeda killed nearly 3,000 people in the US, marking the deadliest terrorist attack in human history, and U.S. President George W. Bush pledged to bring them to justice. Operation Enduring Freedom, launched in 2001, aimed to dismantle al-Qaeda and Taliban hosts in Afghanistan. Initially successful, Bush administration's Iraq focus allowed Taliban re-emergence (Idrees & Anwar, 2017). Despite US aid, the 20-year Afghan war aimed to counter the Taliban, leading to their resurgence and ongoing conflict in the country.

The US intervention in Afghanistan from 2001-2021, involving fighting the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, resulted in over 170,000 Afghan civilians and 2,400 US soldiers, and displaced over 2.2 million Afghans, leading to difficult living conditions, insecurity, and challenges in integrating into new societies (Miller, 2021). President Biden announced US withdrawal from Afghanistan by

September 11, marking the end of America's longest war, but the chaotic and poorly executed withdrawal resulted in Taliban control. The Afghanistan war had cost trillions, resulted in thousands of deaths, and left Afghanistan in chaos. It was too long, expensive, and unreliable, with a growing consensus on military used as a last resort (Joshua, 2022). The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 caused push factor among Afghans, leading to unemployment, economic hardship, and fear of human rights abuses. The withdrawal of US and allied forces caused panic and desperation, leading to a mass exodus of Afghans seeking refuge in neighboring countries. The Afghan refugee crisis is complex and requires international assistance to address its root causes (McNamara, 2023). The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan sparked fears of persecution and economic hardship, prompting many Afghans to seek refuge abroad. The collapse of the Afghan economy and limited US and allied forces withdrawals exacerbated the refugee crisis. Despite US efforts, the situation requires international cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

Realist & Forced Migration Perspectives

Realism theory suggests that states are the primary actors in international relations, driven by self-interest and power pursuit (Kreutz, 2023). It explains the refugee crises resulting from US withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan. The US interventions in Vietnam and Afghanistan were aimed at preventing communism spread in Southeast Asia and preserving the US-led alliance system. In Afghanistan, the US aimed to dismantle al-Qaeda and overthrow the Taliban regime, which harbored al-Qaeda and threatened US national security interests. Realists argue that states pursue policies in their national interest (Collinson, 2011), as seen in the US withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan. In Vietnam, the public became weary of the war, leading to a lack of consensus on its goals. In Afghanistan, the US achieved its initial objectives of dismantling al-Qaeda and overthrowing the Taliban regime (Mazzola, 2018), but the war became unpopular and costly, and the government was no longer willing to commit resources to sustain the intervention. The security dilemma is a significant issue in international relations, where states enhance their own security but are perceived as threats by others, leading to a cycle of arms races and conflict (Betts, 2009). For example, in Vietnam and Afghanistan, US interventions were seen as threats to communist governments and al-Qaeda, escalating conflicts and causing refugee crises due to US withdrawals. The realist perspective on international relations offers a valuable understanding of the refugee crises caused by US withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan. It highlights the influence of power politics, national interest, and security dilemmas on state behavior and conflict generation, enabling a better comprehension of the complex dynamics contributing to these crises (Kreutz, 2023). Forced migration theory provides a framework for understanding addressing conflict, poverty, and inequality

through conflict prevention, human rights enhancement, international cooperation, and sustainable development is crucial for addressing refugee crises and promoting global order (Collinson, 2011). Forced migration theory emphasizes human agency in decision-making, influenced by personal networks, world knowledge, and perceptions of safety and opportunity, despite circumstances beyond control. Forced migration theory suggests US withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan led to a surge in refugee flows due to the collapse of governments, allowing armed groups to target vulnerable populations. The forced migration theory explains the differences in refugee experiences in Vietnam and Afghanistan. Vietnam's US government successfully resettled refugees, while Afghanistan's less prepared government led to a longer, more protracted crisis for Afghans (Mazzola, 2018). Forced migration theory offers a framework for understanding refugee crises, including US military withdrawals, by examining push and pull factors and human agency, aiding in identifying root causes. The forced migration of South Vietnamese refugees to the US was influenced by factors like the Vietnam War victory, government collapse, and fear of persecution. The US resettlement program mitigated the crisis. The US withdrawal in 2021 led to the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, causing a refugee crisis. The crisis has been exacerbated by the ongoing economic crisis and drought in the country. Forced migration theory aids in understanding the long-term impacts of refugee crises, including challenges in integrating into new communities, potential social and political tensions, and their economic and societal impacts (Betts, 2009).

Comparative Study of Refugees' Crisis

The Vietnam and Afghanistan Wars resulted in significant refugee crises, with US withdrawal in 1975 leading to 3 million Vietnamese refugees (Cunliffe, 1995), and 2.2 million Afghans seeking refuge in neighboring countries and the US (Lovvorn, 2023). The Vietnam War, a violent conflict between communist North and South Vietnam, resulted in widespread destruction and instability, with the US military's aerial bombardment causing displacement and political repression, leading to 3 million Vietnamese refugees (Cunliffe, (1995). US withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan resulted in a complex refugee crisis, with refugees seeking refuge from communist regimes with human rights abuses and Taliban regimes with Islamic law violations. The US withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan led to large-scale refugee crises, causing millions to flee their homes. These crises are complex and multifaceted, with no easy solution.

The US government initially addressed the Vietnam War refugee crisis with ad hoc legislation, including the Indochina Migration and Refugee Act in 1975 (Huynh, 2016), and the Afghan Allies Protection Act in 2002, which has been more successful in identifying and protecting vulnerable Afghans (Shen, 2022). The Afghanistan War, a two-decade conflict triggered by the US invasion, has led

to significant humanitarian issues, including displacement, political instability, and economic hardship, resulting in a refugee crisis involving 2.6 million Afghans and 3.5 million refugees in neighboring countries (Lovvorn, 2023). The US government has implemented resettlement programs for Vietnamese and Afghan refugees, with a public and private sponsorship system for Vietnamese refugees and a centralized government-run program for Afghan refugees. Despite criticisms, the programs have been praised for their effectiveness in identifying and protecting vulnerable Afghans (Scalettaris, 2023).

The US government has implemented different strategies for integrating Vietnamese and Afghan refugees into American society. Vietnamese refugees received language training and vocational education, promoting self-sufficiency but causing cultural assimilation. Afghan refugees received basic services, criticized for not adequately integrating them. The initial response to the Vietnam War was less organized, while the Afghan War response was more proactive (Tripathi, 2023). Refugees' reasons for fleeing their home countries significantly influence their perception and treatment in their host countries. War or persecution refugees are generally welcomed, while those with higher education and language proficiency are more likely to succeed and integrate (Shen, 2022).

Vietnamese refugees have shown better integration into host countries than Afghan refugees, largely due to factors like reasons for fleeing, skills, education, language, and community attitudes. Understanding these factors can aid in successful integration (Helbling & Meierrieks, 2022; Lovvorn, 2023). Vietnamese refugees have demonstrated high levels of education, employment, and homeownership, with 73% of those aged 25 and older having a high school diploma or higher, 68% employed, and a median household income of \$78,183 in 2018, compared to 64% of the US population (Grinter, 1975). The American Community Survey reveals that Afghan refugees face significant challenges in integrating into their host countries, with only 45% having a high school diploma, lower employment rates, lower median household income, and less ownership of homes compared to Vietnamese Americans. Vietnamese refugees are generally better educated and skilled than Afghan refugees, with higher English proficiency. US government's resettlement policies are generous, providing housing and job training. The host community's attitudes are welcoming, and Vietnamese refugees are self-reliant and proactive. Understanding factors contributing to successful resettlement can help develop effective policies (Komar, 2018; Faiez *et al*, 2021). The U.S. government did not initiate early, proactive planning for refugee resettlement, ensuring comprehensive contingency plans, well-funded, organized programs, and community engagement. This includes supporting English learning, connecting with neighbors, and finding employment. The U.S. government did not offer comprehensive language training, pre-arrival screening, cultural orientation, long-term support, job training, counseling, and case management to refugees.

International cooperation is crucial to address refugee crises and develop effective solutions (Lovvorn, 2023). Learning from Vietnamese and Afghan experiences can help develop compassionate policies and programs for refugees' integration into their new communities.

Vietnamese and Afghan refugees faced forced flight, political repression, and economic hardship, with dangerous escape routes, overcrowded boats, and border crossing risks. They faced challenges in camps, poor sanitation, and cultural adjustment, but make significant contributions to their new countries (Scalettaris, 2023; Stedman, & Tanner, 2004). Vietnamese and Afghan refugee experiences have shared similarities but also significant differences. Vietnamese refugees arrived in waves in the 1970s and 1980s, predominantly women and children, while Afghan refugees have faced suspicion and hostility (Tawardros, 1981; Tripathi, 2023). The US government responded to the Vietnam refugee crisis with a massive resettlement program, allowing over 1 million Vietnamese refugees to be admitted over the years, providing assistance in education, healthcare, and cultural adaptation (Troeng, & Lê, 2016). The US faced a refugee crisis after withdrawing from Afghanistan in August 2021, evacuating thousands of Afghans and committing to resettling up to 125,000 refugees over five years. The US has not done enough and face potential security risks (Mumford, 2023).

US military interventions caused destabilization, violence, displacement, economic hardship, and social unrest, exacerbated by economic hardships and disillusionment with foreign powers, leading to a difficult cycle of violence. US military interventions negatively influenced refugees, causing decreased aid, increased xenophobia, psychological effects, and cultural loss, diverting resources away from necessary aid and causing difficulties in integration. US military interventions have had long-term effects on refugees and host countries, causing crises like the Vietnam War, Iraq War, and Afghanistan War. These interventions have displaced millions, impacted Afghanistan's economy, and negatively impacted its infrastructure (Amiri, & Habibyar, 2023). The US, a founding member of the UNHCR, has provided humanitarian aid, resettlement programs, and international cooperation in addressing refugee crises. However, it has faced criticism for military interventions in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and supporting repressive regimes contributing to human rights abuses. Ethical dilemmas arise in the US, including non-refoulement, burden-sharing, and humanitarian intervention. Debates arise over justification, requiring careful consideration of international law obligations and responsibilities to refugees. The US did not reconsider military interventions, support peaceful conflict resolution, and increased its commitment to refugee resettlement programs. If it invested in refugee, integration programs and promote international cooperation on refugee issues, supporting organizations like UNHCR. This approach positively influences millions of lives (Delawar, 2022).

Table 1: Comparing of Vietnam and Afghanistan Wars

| Aspect | Vietnam War (1955-1975) | US Intervention in Afghanistan (2001-2021) |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| US Involvement | Supporting South Vietnam against North Vietnam | Fighting the Taliban and Al-Qaeda |
| US Withdrawal | 1975 | 2021 |
| Outcome | North Vietnamese victory, fall of South Vietnam | Taliban regaining control of Afghanistan |
| Estimated Casualties | Over 3 million Vietnamese civilians and soldiers, 58,000 US soldiers | Over 170,000 Afghan civilians and soldiers, 2,400 US soldiers |
| Reasons of nation Fleeing | Communism, Human rights abuses, fear of reprisals | Taliban rule, suppression of women's rights, fear of violence |
| Refugee Crisis | Over 1.2 million Vietnamese fled by boat ("boat people") and to neighboring countries | Over 2.2 million Afghans internally displaced, and hundreds of thousands fled to neighboring countries and beyond |
| Challenges Faced by Refugees | Perilous journeys by sea, overcrowded refugee camps, cultural and language barriers in resettlement countries | Difficult living conditions in refugee camps, insecurity in neighboring countries, challenges integrating into new societies |

Table 1 clearly and concisely summarizes a comparative study of refugee crises in Vietnam and Afghanistan, providing comprehensive insights as briefly described above

RESULT

The US withdrawal from Vietnam and Afghanistan in the 1970s and 2020s led to significant consequences for both countries and the broader refugee crisis. Vietnam's fall to communist North Vietnamese forces resulted in a mass exodus of Vietnamese refugees, with over 3 million fleeing to neighboring countries. The UNHCR played a crucial role in coordinating assistance and resettlement efforts, with many refugees eventually resettled in Western countries. Afghanistan's swift takeover by the Taliban in 2021 led to a humanitarian crisis and large-scale refugee outflow. The UNHCR estimated that over 400,000 Afghans fled the country, seeking refuge in neighboring countries like Pakistan and Iran. The US government's handling of the refugee crises differed, with Vietnam initially resisting resettlement efforts but eventually playing a significant role in assisting Vietnamese refugees. US withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan teach lessons for managing refugee crises, emphasizing preemptive diplomacy, early warning systems, effective communication, and international cooperation for

humanitarian assistance. The US withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan in the late 20th century led to significant refugee crises, highlighting the complex consequences of military interventions. The Vietnam War resulted in widespread civilian casualties and destruction. Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy led to the fall of Saigon in 1975, causing over a million Vietnamese refugees. The Afghan War, led by the US in 2001, aimed to dismantle the al-Qaeda terrorist organization and overthrow the Taliban regime. The US intervention initially met with success, but the Taliban regrouped and regained control of much of the country. The withdrawal of US forces in 2014 created power vacuums exploited by the Taliban, leading to their takeover of Kabul in August 2021. The fall of Kabul sparked another major refugee crisis, with over 78,000 Afghans evacuated by the US and other countries. The US withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan have led to significant refugee crises, triggered by political instability and power vacuums. The US's resettlement policies significantly impact refugee experiences, with differing responses. Refugee decisions are driven by personal perceptions of safety and opportunity. These crises have long-term consequences, impacting receiving countries' economies and societies. Forced migration theory helps identify root causes and develop effective strategies.

Table 2: Refugees Crises: US Withdrawals – Vietnam vs. Afghanistan

| Feature | Vietnam War (1975) | Afghanistan War (2021) |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| US Involment Duration | Over 20 years | Nearly 20 years |
| Nature of US Withdrawal | Hasty and chaotic | Planned withdrawal with rapid escalation at the end |
| Number of Refugees | Over 1 million | Over 100,000 (estimated) |
| Destination of Refugees | Southeast Asian nations, US, Europe | Primarily neighboring countries, US, and Europe |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Challenges Faced by Refugees | Language barriers, cultural differences, economic hardship, trauma | Similar challenges, with additional security concerns under Taliban rule |
| Paraallels | Fear of persecution by new regime, reliance on US support, difficult escape journeys | Yes, including chaotic airport scenes and reliance on US evacuation efforts. |
| Differences | More organized US resettlement efforts for Vietnamese refugees | Less time for planning for Afghan refugee resettlement due to rapid Taliban takeover. |

Table 2 compares US Withdrawals during the Refugees Crisis in Vietnam and Afghanistan. It's a valuable resource for understanding these historical events.

DISCUSSION

Refugee resettlement experiences vary based on the country and available resources. Countries with established programs and support services have smoother processes, while those with fewer resources may face greater challenges. Financial resources, family connections, and individual circumstances also influence refugees' experiences. Afghan refugees' experiences are influenced by their age, gender, education, and skills. The international community has a responsibility to support Afghan refugees and help them build a better future. Afghan refugees face limited humanitarian aid, corruption, and mismanagement, hindering their access to essential services like education. Language barriers, childcare shortages, and discrimination hinder integration into host societies, with some countries exclusion or segregation. Afghan refugees face challenges in securing employment, including lack of skills, language barriers, discrimination, and limited work options, often at lower wages than native-born workers do. The international community and host governments must address Afghan refugees' challenges by providing humanitarian aid, education, employment programs, and advocating for their rights. They can improve access to aid, education, and employment by investing in language training, childcare, and anti-discrimination policies. The UNHCR and humanitarian organizations have provided crucial aid to Afghan refugees, including food, shelter, healthcare, and protection. The US has resettled thousands since the Taliban's takeover. However, more is needed to address the Afghan refugee crisis, with the UNHCR calling for \$5.4 billion in 2023 and the US pledging to resettle 40,000 refugees. The US has contributed to global refugee crises through military interventions, causing deaths, displacement, and infrastructure destruction. The US has not boosted humanitarian aid, resolved conflicts, and promoted policies to prevent future crises. The international community is crucial in addressing these crises, providing aid, resolving conflicts, and supporting rebuilding countries. The US government should review military policies, increase transparency, and collaborate with international organizations to promote peace and stability in conflict-ridden regions. A comprehensive approach addressing conflict, poverty, and inequality is needed, including conflict prevention, human rights

enhancement, international cooperation, and sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

The US military involvement in Afghanistan and Vietnam influenced foreign policy and society, leading to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rise of the Taliban. The Vietnam Syndrome emerged, raising concerns about American power's credibility and regional stability. The US withdrawal from Vietnam significantly impacted refugee crises, including legal emigration in Vietnam and challenges in Afghanistan due to the Taliban's power seizure. The Vietnam War, involving North and South Vietnam, escalated with the Tet Offensive and Vietnamization policy. The US government has facilitated Vietnamese refugee resettlement through the Indochina Migration and Refugee Act of 1975 and the Refugee Act of 1980. The Vietnam War and US-led invasion of Afghanistan have led to humanitarian challenges, but resilience of Vietnamese refugees has been demonstrated. The realist perspective and forced migration theory explain US withdrawals from Vietnam and Afghanistan, focusing on state interests and security dilemmas. The realist perspective highlights conflict prevention, human rights, and sustainable development, while the forced migration theory emphasizes government preparedness and long-term integration. The US should have reconsidered military interventions, prioritize peaceful conflict resolution, and increase refugee resettlement programs. Ethical dilemmas arose in refugee crises, and the US should have considered international law obligations. Increased humanitarian aid, resolved conflicts, and implement policies to prevent future crises. The US should have provided additional funding, promote good governance, support economic development, and address climate change while balancing national security interests with refugee protection. Collaboration with international communities, addressing ethical concerns, and promoting sustainable development were also crucial for these nations.

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