

REFUGEES



Who is a refugee?

U.N. definition (1951 Convention):

A refugee is a person who “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”

POLITICAL REFUGEE

Other definitions:

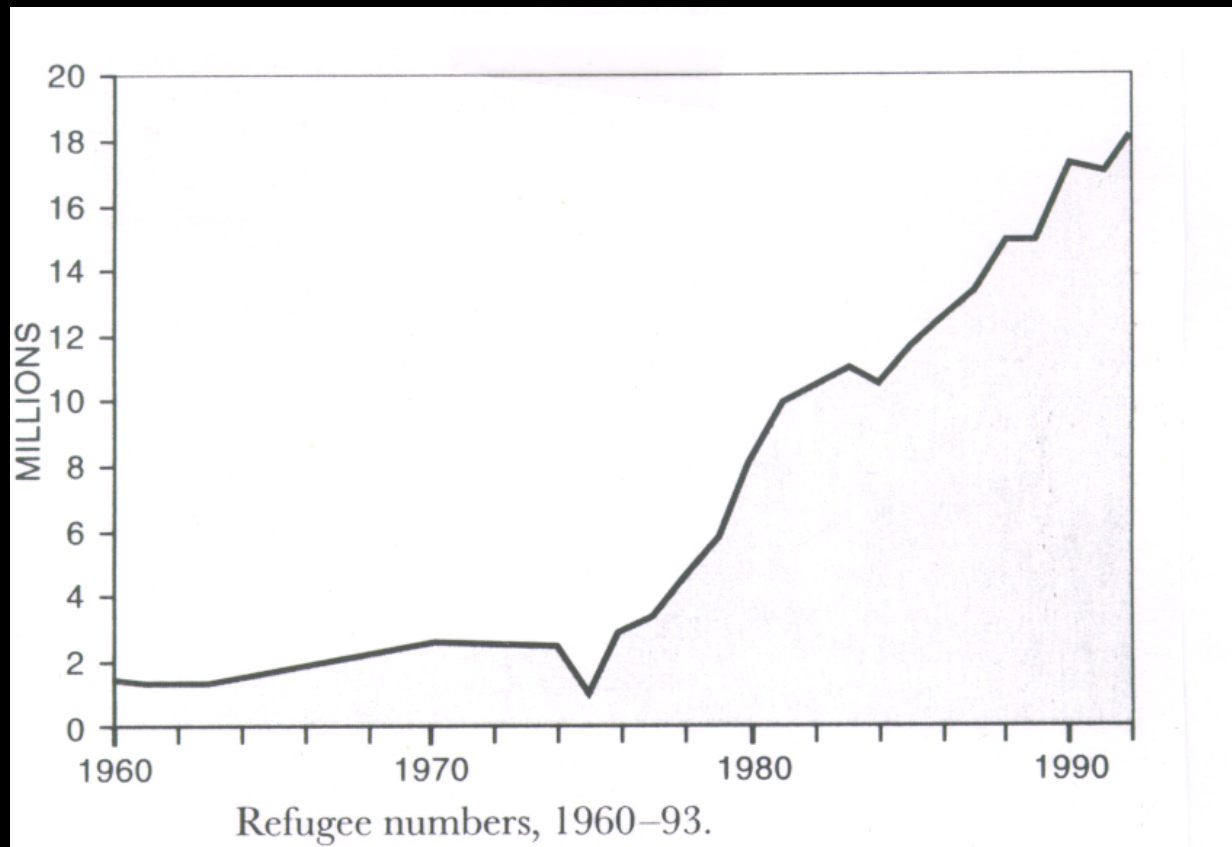
Economic refugee...

Someone who is seeking a higher material standard of living

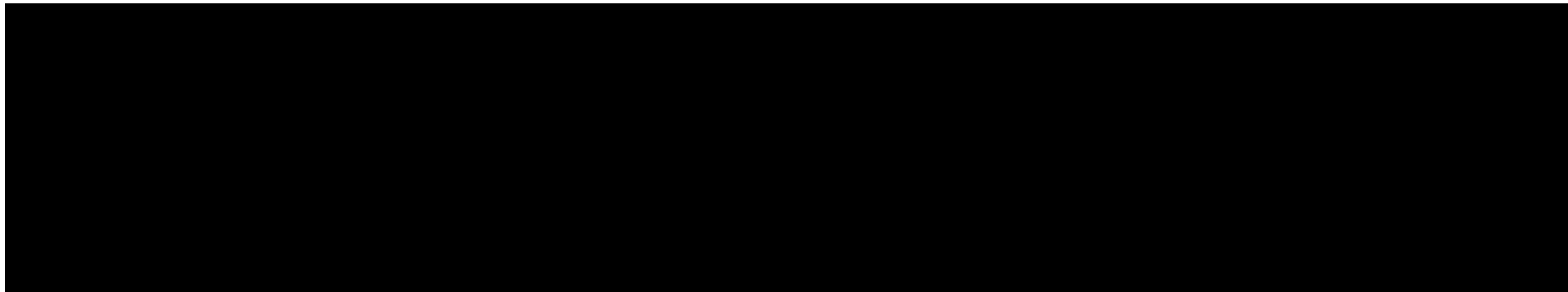
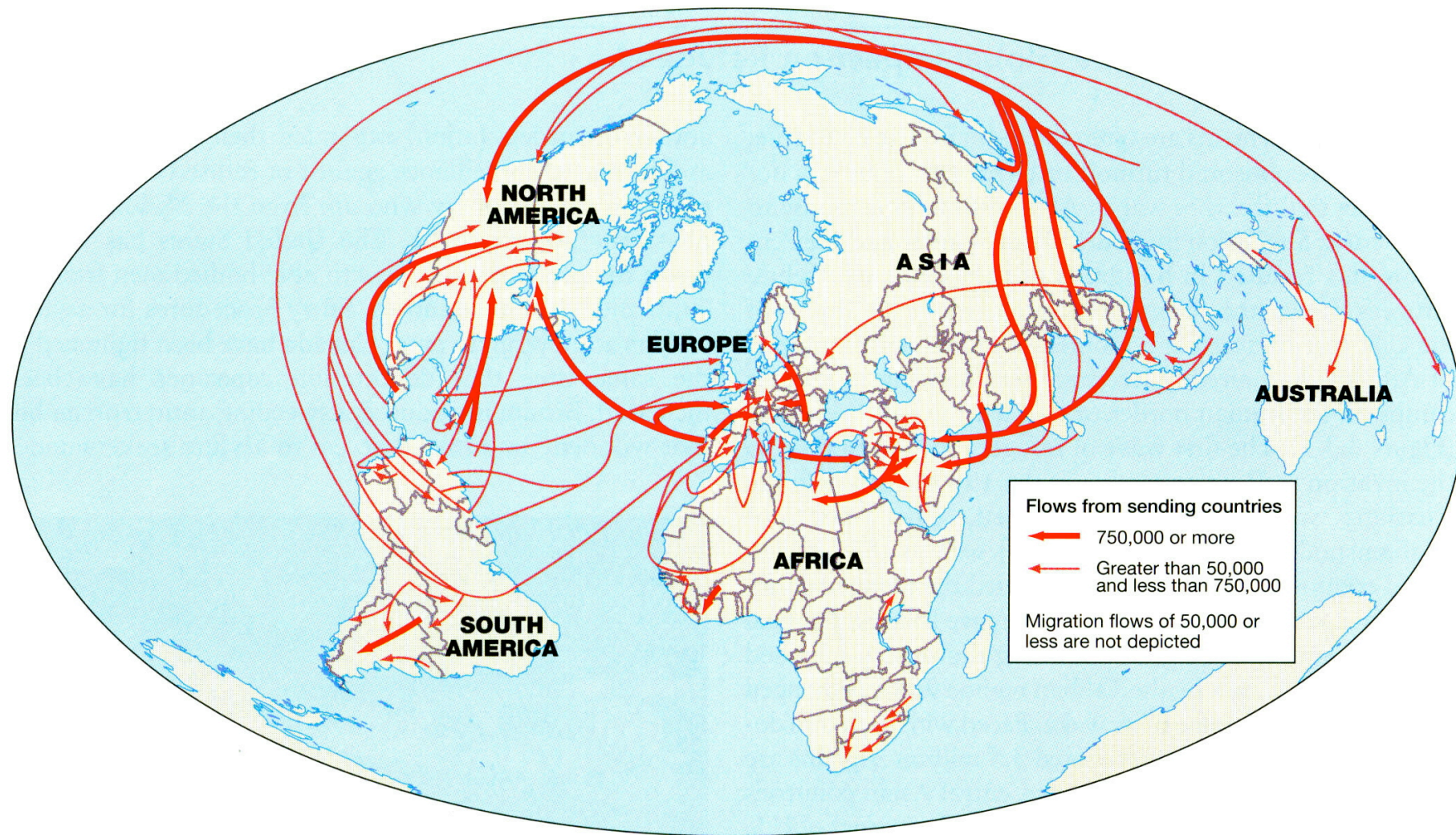
Environmental refugee...

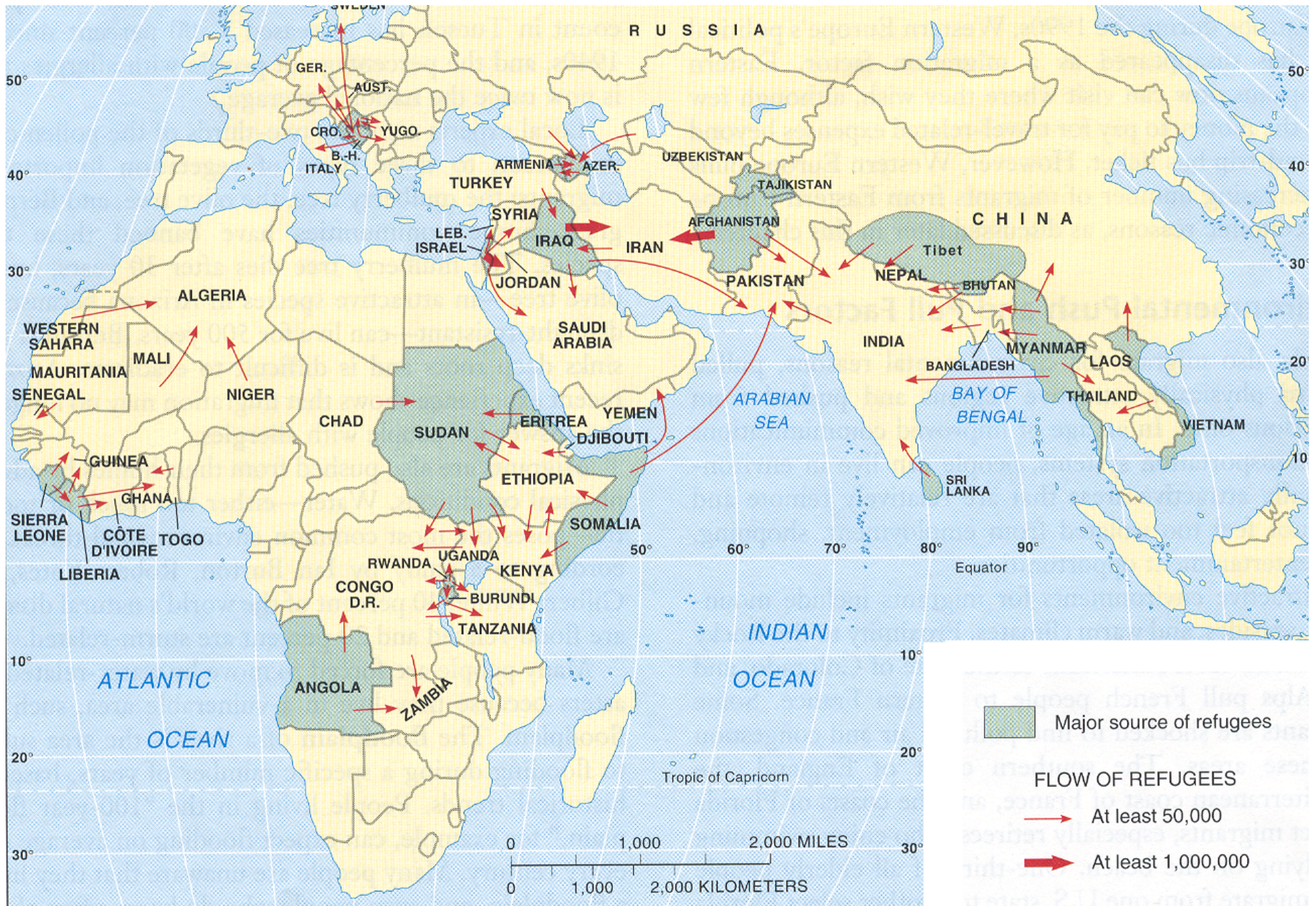
Someone fleeing the destruction of a natural disaster

INCREASING NUMBERS



- Wars
- Creation of new countries
- Changes in governments

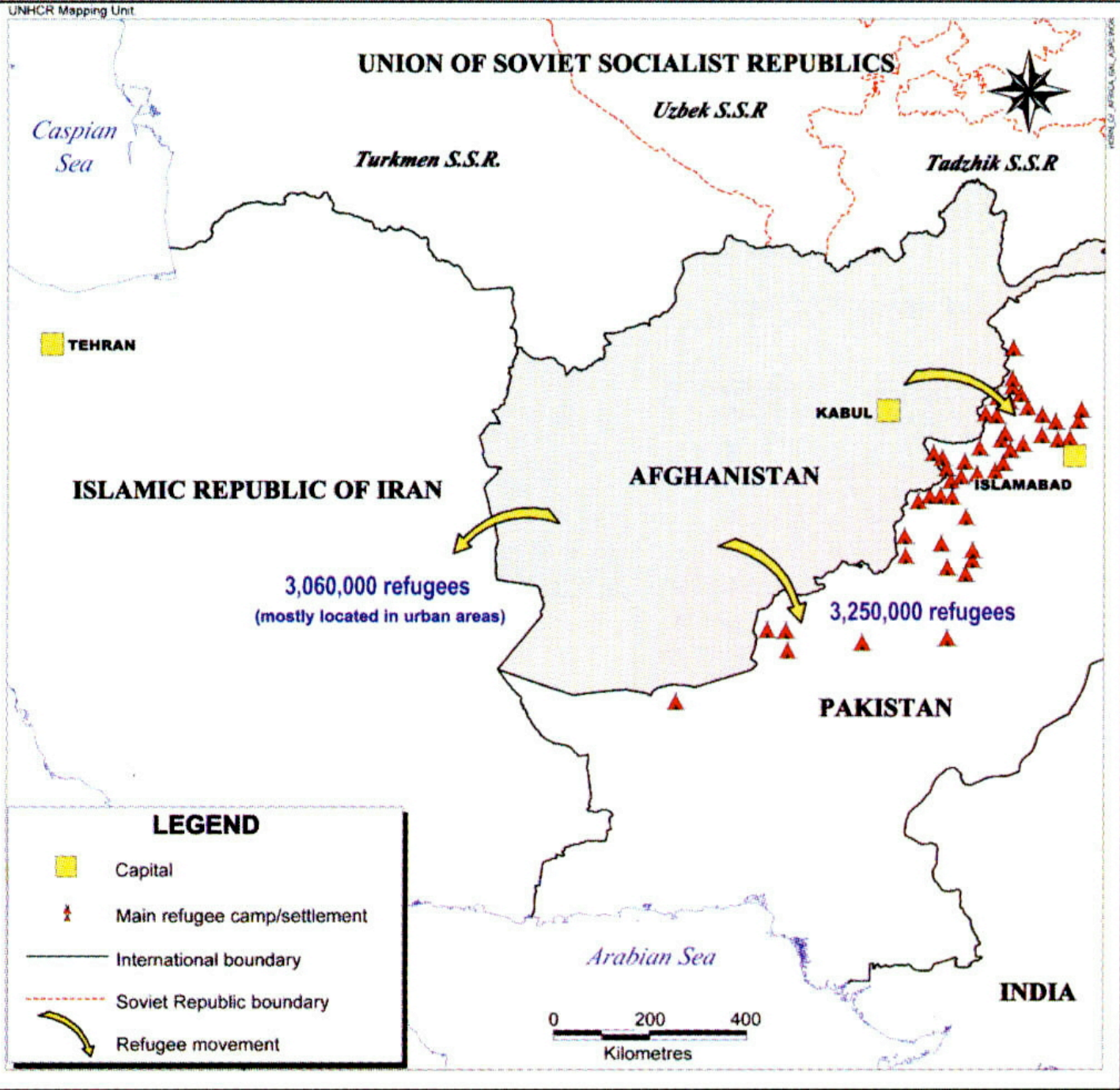




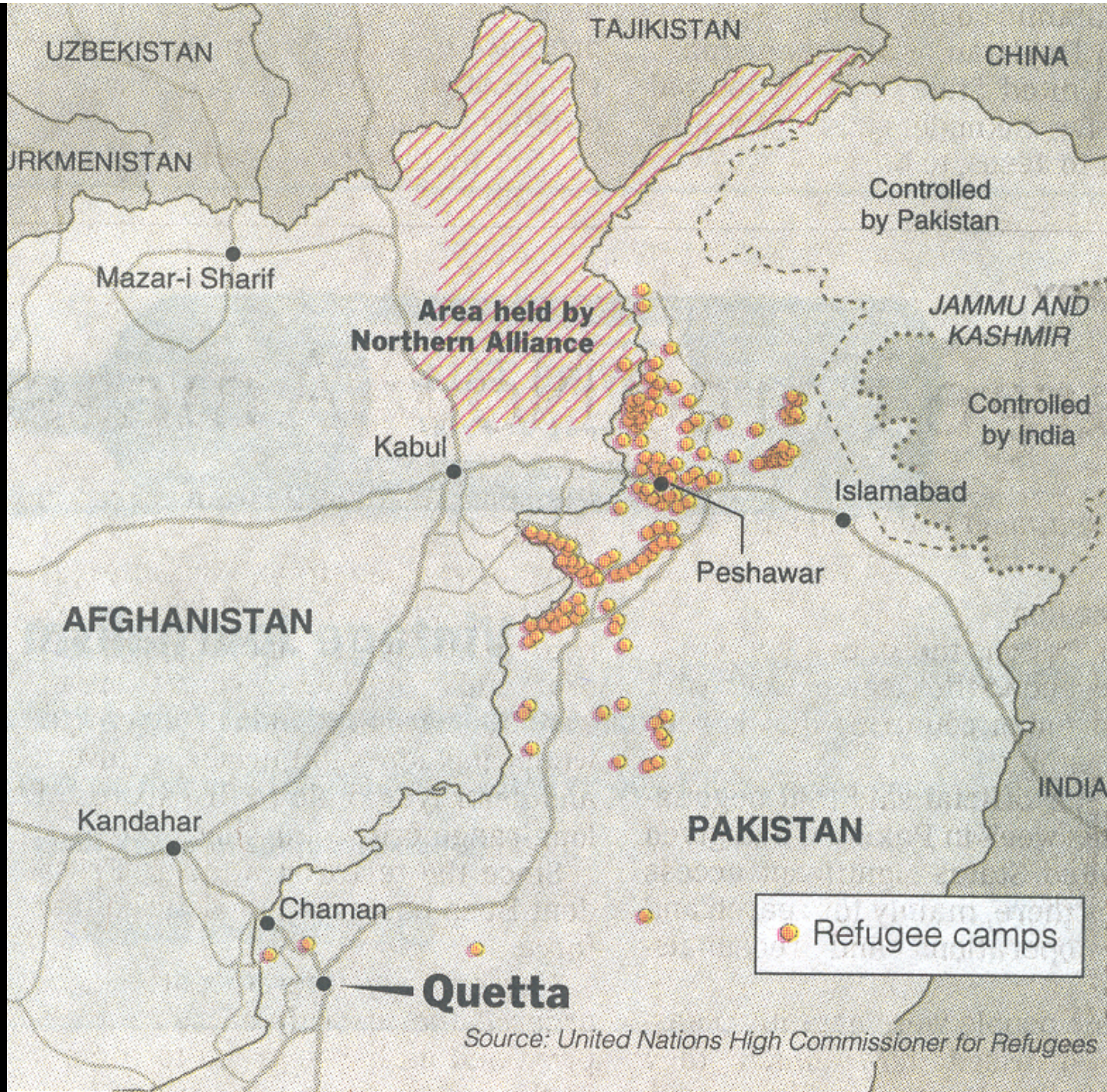
Characteristics of a refugee



- Takes only what he can carry
- Initial journey is on foot or by other primitive form of transportation
- Lacks documentation
- Has no clear destination
- Hopes to return home someday
- Is a part of an unstratified group



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
Sources: UNHCR, Global Insight digital mapping - © 1998 Europa Technologies Ltd



IMPACTS OF REFUGEES

ENVIRONMENTAL

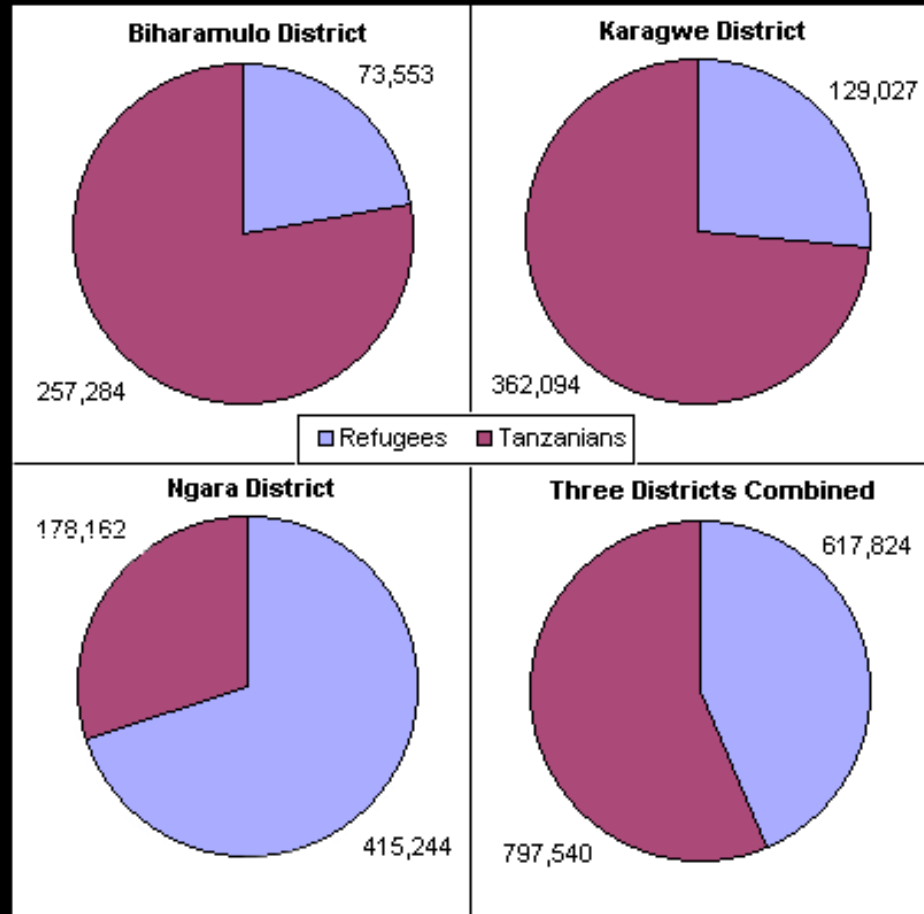
- Deforestation
- Land degradation
- Water pollution



SOCIAL

- Disease
- Crime/social strife
- Famine





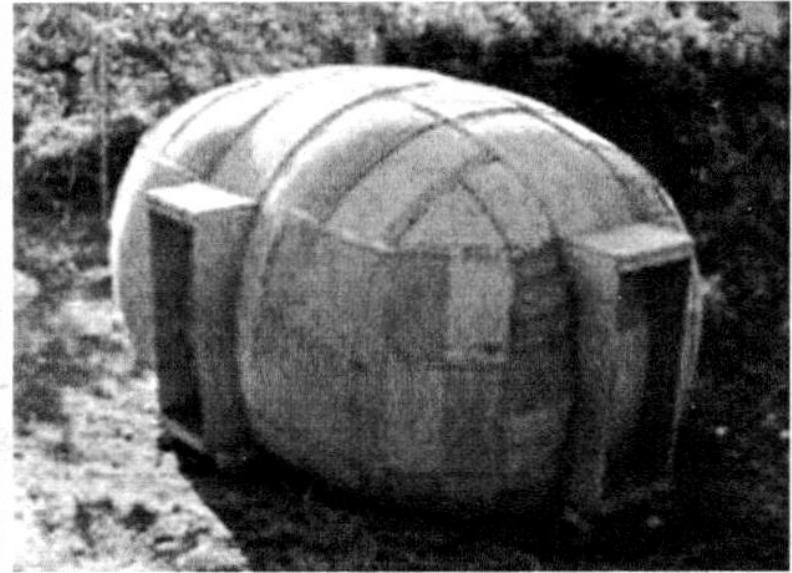
SOLUTIONS?

United Nations High Commission on Refugees

- Voluntary repatriation
- Local resettlement
- Resettlement

Immediate concern...housing





Instant dome: From Japan, a hemp tarp that expands. Below: A poncho that offers added protection from the elements.



The Afghan "EcoDome" (top) and U.N. housing units use sandbags often filled with whatever is on the ground.

