Globalisation as a Cause of Forced Migration

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Forced Migration – environmental and socioeconomic dimensions
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Fighting the causes of forced migration…

- High time to have a more systematic look at the structural causes of forced migration
- Different notion of causes of flight
- Action mostly driven by interests of national security
- Misuse of development aid for “externalization”- policy - trying to make a “crisis” invisible again: e.g. Khartoum process, EU-Afghanistan deal, …

… or fighting migrants and refugees?
The so-called “refugee crisis” …

… refers to the crisis of the global circumstances

- Climate change
- War and violence
- Increasing social inequality
- Land loss and unemployment
- Destruction of dignified living conditions

Tackling the problems requires the examination of hegemonic power structure
Forced migration …

Countries of origin show two similar characteristics

• Increasing social inequality
• State fragility

… arises from the global unleashing of capitalism

• Globalisation – so far primarily an economic strategy to secure the realisation of capital
• Internationalisation of production
• Liberalisation of flow of capital and goods
• Instead of a promised “trickle down effect” the increasing risk of social insecurity (WEF-Davos)
Social inequality

“In terms of global society, the mega-topic of the next 30 years will no longer be ecology or sustainable development, but inequality”

Heinz Bude

- Feeling of Meaninglessness
- Lack of prospects
- Joblessness
- Hunger
- Displacement and deprivation of rights
- Destruction of the environment and
- Erosion of public services in the course of SAP

Annually 100 million are driven into poverty because of catastrophic health expenditures “out of pocket” (WHO)
Fragility

- Social exclusion instead of democratic participation
- Economy based on corruption and nepotism instead of inclusiveness
- Arbitrariness instead of legal security

Crisis of legitimacy and political representation fuels repression and violence

- US-Fund for Peace:
  Increase of alarming fragility from 7 states (2005) to 16 (2015)
- OECD:
  50 states show fragility (2015)

The global unleashing of market forces has made the world an extremely precarious place
Figures & trends

- 300 million died in consequence of poverty since the end of the East-West conflict

- 60 million refugees because of war and political persecution (UNHCR)

- 50 million “climate refugees” today, up to 200 million in 2050 (IOM)

- 100 million small African farmers could lose their base of life due to “agricultural modernization” (Institut für Welternährung)

- “World without hunger” possible but only by focusing on poor small farmers (SLE – HU-Berlin)
Structural causes

- **Land-Grabbing**
  Biofuel, financial speculation, ...;
  ineffective “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure”

- **Free-trade agreements**
  reinforce dependencies, hamper economic development;
  impossible to create 18 million annually needed jobs in Africa

- **Fishing agreements**
  ineffective, no control

- **Global financial system**
  offering tax avoidance and fiscal evasion,
  global loss annually 3 trillions, 79 billions in Africa

- **Arms trade**
Globalisation from below

- People forced to migrate are not simply victims
- Migration is a way to counter the dominant economic “top-down globalisation” with a “globalisation from below” - driven by claims to participation
- Securing the survival of families and even whole villages
- Long since the remittances by migrants have exceeded the total of international development aid.
- Globalisation and migration are two sides of the same coin
- Globalisation cannot be obtained without migration
Rights, Regulation, Redistribution

- The need to adopt policies fundamentally different from current practices
- Correction of the present security concept
- New framework based on three R
  - human **rights** seen as legal entitlements and therefore governmental obligations
  - effective supranational **regulation** of economy and power
  - systematic **redistribution** of resources also between countries

“Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and the freedom set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.”
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 28
Sustainable action starts at home

- Creating an International Law for Migration
to be added to the Geneva Convention on Refugees; clarifying the status of “climate refugees”; enabling temporary migration; compensating brain drain

- Adjusting own consumption patterns
  by developing a non-imperial way of life
  by defining new international labour and social standards

- Effective restriction of ecologically harmful production

- Widening the political space for action
  by establishing a just tax system
Global social infrastructure

- Global social protection
  International Fund for Health e.g., working as a fiscal equalisation payment scheme; based on legally binding cross-border redistribution

- Internationally funded public services
  Guaranteeing everybody all over the world access to adequate public livelihood support

Creating the political space for individual projects
Time for complex action

- The solution of particular problems requires to overcome the current crisis of coherence

- Need for well-defined projects that improve the situation at the local and regional level, e.g. technical support for small farmers; the strengthening of local markets; providing education; generating decent jobs

- Need for political measures at the national and international level

“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we create them!”

Albert Einstein