

What explains the variation in the resettlement policies of refugees and stateless people?

Looking at the cases in East Asia: China, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam

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The Dependent Variable:

State policies toward acceptance, recognition, repatriation, resettlement of refugees.

Country	1951 UN Refugee Convention	UNHCR Presence in country	Refugees/ Stateless peoples	Resettled Refugees
Cambodia	15 Oct 1992	Since 2008	Stateless peoples	none
China	24 Sep 1982	Since 1979	Laos, Myanmar Vietnam, DPRK	Vietnamese resettled
Indonesia	Not a signatory	Since 1979	Myanmar	none
Japan	03 Oct 1981	Since 1996	Laos, Myanmar Vietnam, Korea	Myanmar, expected ¹⁰
Korea, Republic of	03 Dec 1992	Since 2001	N/A	none
Malaysia	Not a signatory	Since 1975	Myanmar	Recognized, not resettled
Myanmar	Not a signatory	Since 1994	Stateless peoples (Muslim)	none
Philippines	22 Jul 1981	Since 1975	Cambodia, Laos Myanmar, Vietnam	none
Thailand	Not a signatory	Since 1975	Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar	Burmese resettled
Timor-Leste	07 May 2003	Since 2002	N/A	none
Vietnam	Not a signatory	Since 1975	Cambodia	Cambodians resettled

The Independent Variable:

- International pressure
- Concerns for state image
- Relations between the host state and the state of origin
- Domestic politics of host state
- IGO – NGO relations

The Puzzle:

In East Asia, countries that are signatories to the 1951 United Nation's Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol have been *less likely* to accept and resettle refugees and stateless persons than states that are not parties to the Convention and Protocol. Why are states that are not signatories *more willing* to resettle refugees and deeply cooperate with UN bodies on refugee/stateless people than states that are signatories?

Hypotheses:

1. Antagonistic relations between the Host state (or destination state) and the Source state (or state of origin of the refugees) leads to more resettlement of refugees by the Host state.
2. Enforcement mechanism by UN leads to fewer resettled refugees.
3. Presence of NGOs independent of the UN, or increase in local government capacity/autonomy leads to more refugees being recognized and/or resettled.

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