CRISIS AND HOPE

Syrian Refugee Policy in Germany and Jordan and Implication for China

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In spite of the emergency of Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar, the big neighboring country China has not accepted or planned to accept any Rohingya refugee yet. Having the belief that China could and should contribute more to solving the crisis, I wanted to learn from how other countries approach Syrian refugee crisis and make suggestions on Chinese refugee policy.

The ongoing civil war in Syria has forced millions of people to flee to other countries. The refugee crisis challenges the world community to find workable solutions to a humanitarian crisis through international cooperation. However, countries adopt very different policies of accepting Syrian refugees.

I wanted to understand what factors contribute to the different refugee policies in different countries. I am conducting case studies on Jordan and Germany, two countries that have accepted very significant numbers of refugees. Jordan, like several other countries are neighbors to Syria, has low economic growth and high unemployment, and faces an seemingly unending influx of Syrian refugees. Germany has a very different location and economic situation, but it as well has faced a flood of refugees, while its refugee policies has changed dramatically since 2015 from relatively "open-door" to a much more "closed" position.

Besides researching the driving factors and motivations behind the refugee policies of Jordan and Germany, I also compared the practical obstacles in refugee management in both countries. I evaluated the effectiveness of the policies and identified potential problems.

Refugee policies of both Germany and Jordan are very representative. In the case of dealing with Rohingya refugee crisis, China could gain insights from both Germany-Syria and Jordan-Syria models.

My interest in studying domestic refugee policy started during my semester in Berlin, where I volunteered a local refugee camp. This experience brought me to the first line of the settlement of refugees. I had a chance to learn what the refugees had encountered back home and how they could settle down in Berlin. Because of my experience with the refugees, I believe that any research on domestic or global refugee policy making must ultimately be about the people themselves, about the refugees.