

When the war was over: European refugees after 1945

At the end of Second World War more than 11 million people on the European continent found themselves stranded far from home - former Nazi slave labourers, liberated prisoners-of-war and concentration camp survivors, as well as East Europeans fleeing westwards to escape the Soviet Red Army.

This exhibition tells the story of these refugees, whom the Allied governments labeled as Displaced Persons (DPs).

It is based on a research project on East European population displacement and resettlement after the Second World War, conducted by historians at the University of Nottingham and University of Manchester.

It presents analysis, testimony and original source materials collected in the UK, USA, Russia, Ukraine and elsewhere in the course of our research project.

The project team believes that historical studies of forced migration such as ours provide valuable insights into important yet still controversial questions regarding, for example, the causes of population displacement, the classification of migrants as refugees or asylum-seekers, the incarceration of refugees in camps or detention centres, their voluntary or forced repatriation and their settlement in host countries, as well as into the experiences of migrants themselves.

We hope that the exhibition offers a new perspective on the origins of present-day political, social and cultural debates on issues related to migration, refugees and asylum.

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Highfield House
University of Nottingham

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