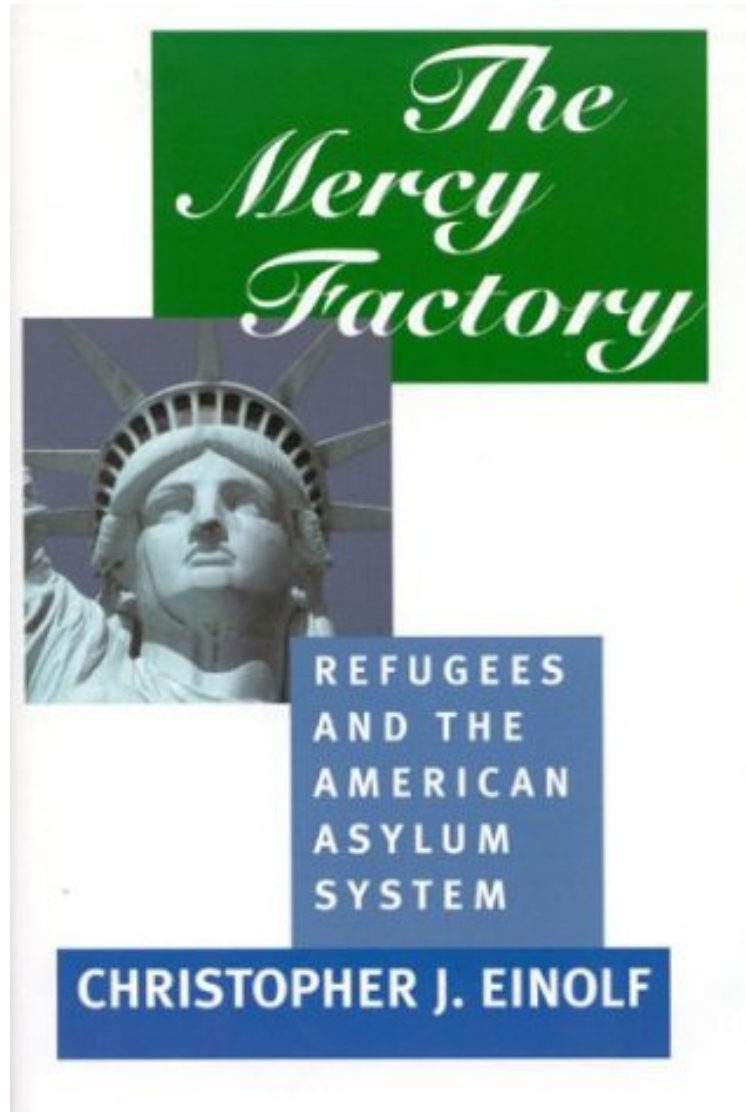


[Ebook free] The Mercy Factory: Refugees and the American Asylum System

The Mercy Factory: Refugees and the American Asylum System

Christopher J. Einolf

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Christopher J. Einolf : The Mercy Factory: Refugees and the American Asylum System before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mercy Factory: Refugees and the American Asylum System:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An excellent examination of social issues and justice By Midwest Book Review Christopher Einolf's Mercy Factory examines American objections to high levels of immigration and the presence of poor immigrants, contrasting these feelings to the country's tradition of welcoming refugees from persecution. The asylum system is considered here from the stories of five refugees, telling of how they progressed

through the American immigration legal system. An excellent examination of social issues and justice.

Each year thousands of people come to the United States seeking protection more than 62,000 applied for asylum in 1998 alone. America is a country of immigrants with a proud tradition of welcoming refugees from persecution. Yet most Americans object to high levels of illegal immigration, and many feel that poor immigrants are a burden to the society. These conflicting views are played out in a complex system of asylum adjudication that has developed over the last twenty years. *The Mercy Factory* is the first book to examine that system. It does so by telling the stories of five refugees, following them from their experience of persecution in their home countries to their arrival in the United States and their progress through the barriers of the American immigration legal system. The stories are both tragic and inspiring, but they also illuminate the workings of the asylum system and the dilemmas often faced by immigration officials and judges who must make life or death decisions in limited time, with limited information at hand. Throughout his absorbing narrative, Mr. Einolf explains the basic law of asylum in layman's terms, examines the history of the asylum adjudication system, and suggests proposals for reform.

From Booklist Offering refugees asylum became a formal part of U.S. law more than 20 years ago, with enactment of the Refugee Act of 1980. That statute set up the administrative structure of asylum officers, immigration judges, the Bureau of Immigration Appeals--"the mercy factory"--that determines which applicants are granted asylum. Einolf, who directs the asylum advocacy program of Lutheran Social Services in Washington, D.C., has represented hundreds of asylum applicants. The U.S., he declares in his preface, "has created one of the world's most effective asylum adjudication systems," but this system is "at risk" thanks to recent changes urged by the anti-immigration lobby. Einolf displays the strengths and weaknesses of the current system by describing the experiences of five of his clients: a Cameroonian couple and women from the Congo and Ethiopia. He spotlights legislative and regulatory changes since 1996 that increase the obstacles asylum seekers face, and he spells out needed changes. Appendixes list organizations that help asylum seekers and rank asylum-approval rates by country of origin. Mary Carroll Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved An important book...sheds a much needed light on the plight of asylum seekers. (Layli Miller, Executive Director, Tahirih Justice Center Catholic Legal Immigration Network) A persecuting journey...packed with real life stories. (James Haggerty Catholic Legal Immigration Network) The Mercy Factory powerfully documents how refugees are treated and mistreated when they seek refuge in the United States. (Gene Guerrero Lawyers Committee for Human Rights) Einolf offers a gripping firsthand account of the challenges, terror, and exhilaration of representing political asylum-seekers. The book vividly captures the work's life and death intensity. (Donald Kerwin Book Digest) About the Author Christopher Einolf directs the asylum advocacy program of Lutheran Social Services in Washington, D.C. He has represented more than two hundred asylum applicants from more than twenty-five different countries. He studied at Davidson College and Columbia University, and later worked with refugees in the Middle East and in Central America.