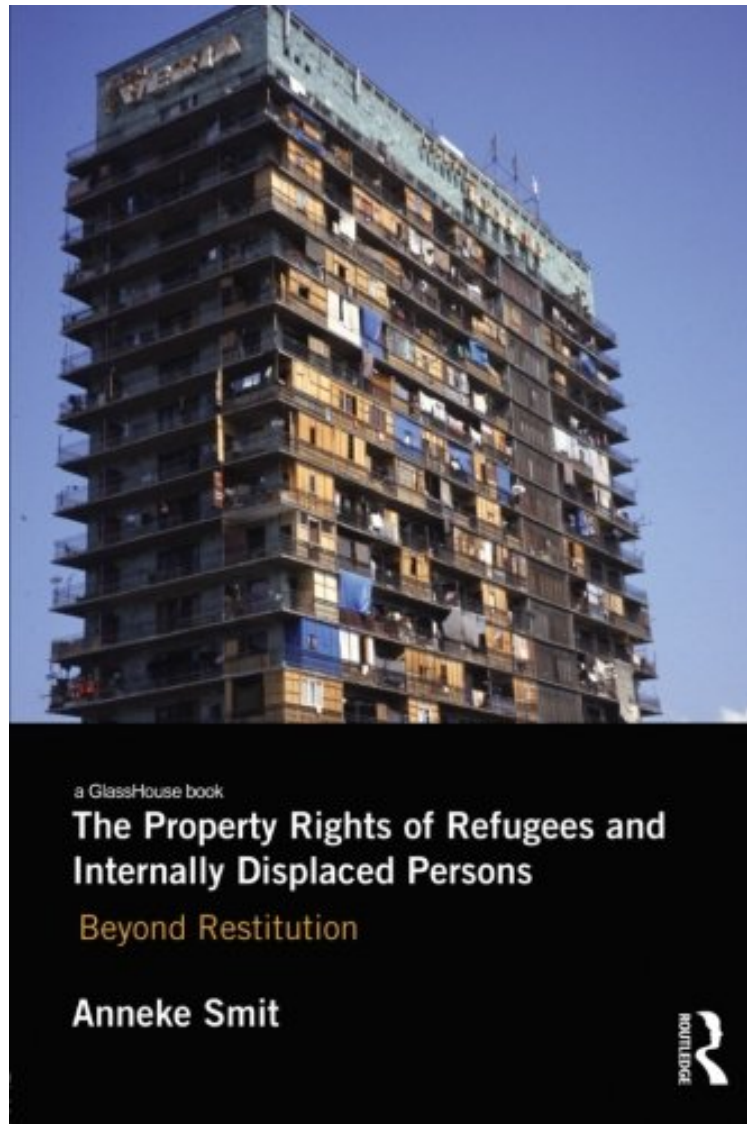


(Read free) The Property Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: Beyond Restitution

The Property Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: Beyond Restitution

Anneke Smit

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#4748807 in Books 2013-11-09 2013-11-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.21 x .62 x 6.141, .0 #File Name: 0415731909272 pages | File size: 56.Mb

Anneke Smit : The Property Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: Beyond Restitution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Property Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: Beyond Restitution:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Restitution of property....By Phillip Taylor

MBE[[VIDEOID:mo2YLZCZ0QZW7NI]]DO REFUGEES HAVE THAT RIGHT?An appreciation by Phillip Taylor

MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers To say that this book is a formidable work of research is a colossal understatement. For starters, the book contains a bibliography of no less than 38 pages. It attests to the mind-boggling amount of papers, books and learned journals the author, Anneke Smit, has had to examine over the course of a decade in order to produce her scholarly, thorough and carefully argued thesis on the thorny, distressing and virtually intractable problems faced by refugees the world over, particularly with regard to property rights. An assistant professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Windsor, Canada, Smit has also apparently spent some time in the areas under discussion in the book, including, notably, Georgia/South Ossetia and Kosovo. Fundamentally, the right to 'return home' to your own property after you and your family have been forcibly evicted as the result of war, or political conflict - has been upheld (at least in theory) by the world community, as exemplified in the 2005 United Nations Principle on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons. But, as Smit points out, initiatives like these have been largely ineffectual. Indeed, she asserts that 'this focus on return and restitution of property has come at the expense of supporting effectively local integration and resettlement as possible durable solutions.' She therefore explores the alternatives which, in a number of instances, might be preferable, including settlement and integration into a new community, or country. It's perhaps unsurprising that this extensive research originated in Canada. And it's doubtful that there is any individual living anywhere in that country who does not know an individual, or family who originally settled there after fleeing in terror from somewhere else. For example, after World War II, there were at least 3 million displaced persons, or refugees in Europe, many of whom were able to emigrate to North America, but as far as it is known, received no 'restitution' for their seized property. What the author accomplishes admirably in this book is to re-open the discussion and debate on this almost insoluble problem, focusing on the more recent experiences with post-conflict restitution and return. The situation in a wide range of countries is examined, including Israel/Palestine, Cyprus, Cambodia, Mozambique, Tajikistan, Rwanda, Guatemala, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Timor-Leste, Georgia/South Ossetia and Iraq. Since the publication of this book, other refugee problems have, unfortunately, emerged, including the thousands of refugees who have poured into Turkey to escape massacre or incarceration under Syria's murderous regime. Having been examined through the lens of practical experience, as well as academic research, the refugee problem overall has been analysed in this book with sympathy and rigour. Legal practitioners and advisers, as well as those with academic interests in the rights of refugees -- or those who may be responsible for decision-making regarding those rights -- will certainly find this excellent book a helpful, if not an indispensable acquisition.

The Property Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: Beyond Restitution explores how the protection of housing and property rights can contribute to durable solutions to displacement. The focus of most of the international community's recent protection efforts has been on returning displaced persons to their homes following armed conflict. This prioritization has been entrenched further by the 2005 United Nations Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons (the "Pinheiro Principles"). Yet as Anneke Smit chronicles in this book, the international community's attempts to promote widespread return through establishing housing and property restitution mechanisms have largely failed. Further, this focus on return and restitution of property has come at the expense of supporting effectively local integration and resettlement as possible durable solutions. This book argues that, particularly in cases of protracted displacement, a range of accepted approaches to the protection of housing and property rights would be preferable. In addition to more than a dozen case studies, the discussion draws throughout on international human rights and refugee law, property law and theory, and sociological and anthropological literature on displacement and the meaning of home. The Property Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons is based on more than a decade of the author's extensive academic research and practical experience on displacement issues. It will be of considerable interest to those with academic and policy interests in the rights of refugees and displaced persons, and theories of property.

About the Author Anneke Smit is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law, University of Windsor, Canada