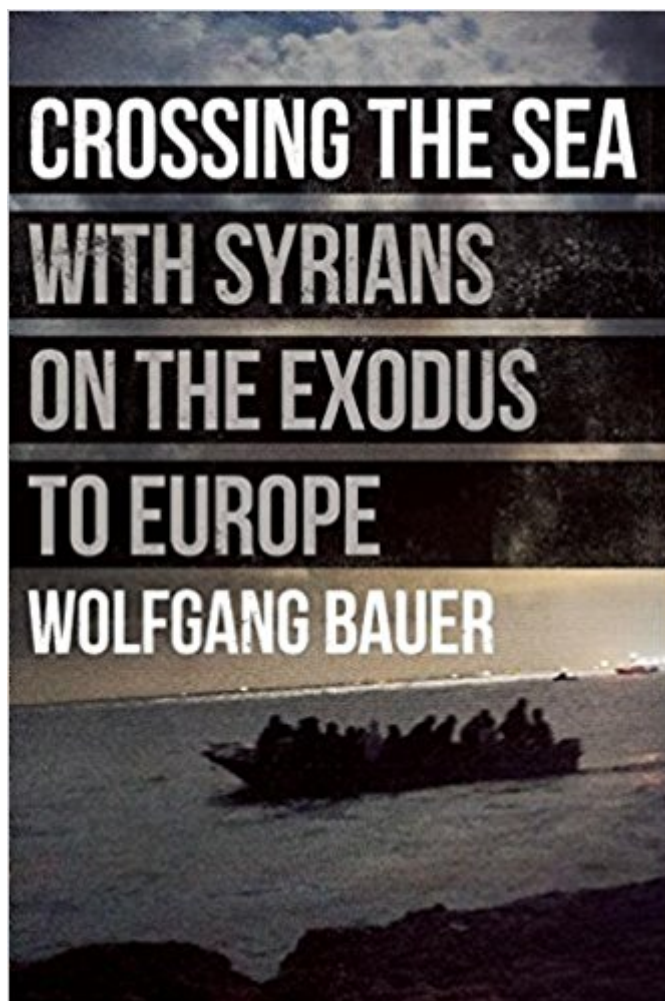


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Crossing The Sea: With Syrians On The Exodus To Europe



Synopsis

Award-winning journalist Wolfgang Bauer and photographer Stanislav Krupar were the first undercover reporters to document the journey of Syrian refugees from Egypt to Europe. Posing as English teachers in 2014, they were direct witnesses to the brutality of smuggler gangs, the processes of detainment and deportation, the dangers of sea-crossing on rickety boats, and the final furtive journey through Europe. Combining their own travels with other eyewitness accounts in the first book of reportage of its kind, *Crossing the Sea* brings to life both the systemic problems and the individual faces behind the crisis, and is a passionate appeal for more humanitarian refugee policies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's not just the detail in this book that counts. It's the anger. • Robert Fisk, *The Independent* "An excellent book." • Melissa Fleming, Spokesperson and Head of Communications, UNHCR "In 2014, journalist Wolfgang Bauer went undercover to document the flight of Syrian refugees firsthand . . . An incisive portrait both of the lives behind the crisis, and the systemic problems that constitute it." • Publisher's Weekly "Crossing The Sea offers an inside perspective on their plight, and tells a story rarely told . . . The refugees' stories and remarkable photos provide a counter-narrative to the popular media rhetoric." • Antonia Charlesworth, *Big Issue North* "Wolfgang Bauer is a sophisticated and conscientious reporter, an expert on the Arab Spring and its aftermath, and a brilliant writer." • Nell Zink, author of *Misla*

and *The Wallcreeper* – The last words of this book are ‘Have mercy.’ There is no more to say. Wolfgang Bauer’s impressive and brutally honest depiction of the fates of refugees speaks for itself.

- Berthold Merkle, *Der Tagesspiegel* – The book shows what the media and politicians have ignored.
- ORF (Österreichischer Rundfunk, Austrian national broadcaster) – The book affects you on two levels. There is the gripping reportage that brings us very close to the people, and there is also the epilogue’s entreating words. Bauer’s accusation is powerful.
- Süddeutsche Presse, Ulm – It’s not just the detail in this book that counts. It’s the anger.
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Wolfgang Bauer is a reporter for *Die Zeit*. His reportage has won him many prizes including the Prix Bayeux-Calvados for War Correspondents. He has worked in the Arab world for many years, including in war zones in Syria and Libya. His second Prix Bayeux-Calvados for War Correspondents was awarded for the Syrian refugee reportage in *Die Zeit* that formed the basis of this book. Stanislav Krupar is a Prague-based documentary photographer. His work appears regularly in the *New York Times*, *Time*, *Die Zeit*, and other international media. Besides covering news and current affairs, Krupar is working on several long-term documentary projects in Russia and Siberia. Before becoming a full-time professional photographer, he also spent time as an illegal migrant worker at farms in England. Sarah Pybus worked as an in-house translator in Germany and

the UK before beginning her freelance career. In 2015 she was awarded first place in the Non-Fiction Translation Competition run by Geisteswissenschaften International/German Book Office New York.

An excellent book, Wolfgang Bauer does a great job of depicting the plight and struggles of refugees. - Ty Davis

Totally gripping, sobering but educational, offers key perspective on the movement of refugees in general. And the final chapter is the best explanation I've seen of how the entire Syrian mess and chaos came to be.

Very easy book to read. Author is a writer for a German magazine. Concise and very to the point. Also riveting. We in the Western World forget how good we have it most of the time. The trials and tribulations of those refugees from the civil war in Syria are almost beyond belief to us. He focuses on a few Syrian men, and to a lesser extent their families, showing how their journey starts and the many roadblocks that exist. Bauer does blame the West and our government for missteps that could have made the mass exodus from Syria a non issue. Most of the book, however, is not in that vein. Most of it is a clear, concise informative account of the horrendous conditions these immigrants go through for their families' futures.

Very disappointing and highly incredible propaganda account of an intended Mediterranean crossing that failed to complete. Most of it is based on unverified hearsay of a handful of youngsters the author apparently befriended before his eventual incarceration and deportation first to Turkey then home to Germany. Tale includes not one but two incarcerations - one in Alexandria, another in Italy or Austria - with equally mysterious releases. Alexandria prison is strangely quite lax, more like an overcrowded hostel. During the course of surprisingly brief detention, friends and relatives were apparently summoned to provide food, clothes, etc. Huh? Stranger still, author's second arrest this time for smuggling undocumented migrants seemed mysteriously to result in no actual charges. Human trafficking now gets a free pass in Europe? If there is anything to take from this suspicious, probably more than half bogus story it may be this: Few, if any, migrants are refugees in the desperate sense we understand the term. These maritime gamblers are the privileged set with cash and education sufficient to work out which European countries will give them the biggest bang for their migrant buck without asking too many questions. That would be Sweden and Germany. Again,

despite the media's affection for portraits of small, exhausted-looking children, it is overwhelmingly healthy mostly young men who take the risk. Of course it is. They are coming not from terrifying refugee camps but from urban apartments in comparatively peaceful and prosperous neighboring countries. The book fails to address in any meaningful way the destabilization of Europe created by a mass influx of incompatible cultures, who are increasingly demonstrating their unwillingness/inability to assimilate. Nor does it touch on the effect such migration must be having on the migrants' home states when these men leave the weakest members of society to fend for themselves. Who will do the hot, weary work of reform if not the young men? The author absurdly places responsibility for civil war in Syria on the more than generous West, convinced - no matter how many times the world tries and fails - that you can, in fact, export good government. No, you can't. It is up to the citizens of each sovereign state to determine the form of govt the people want. It is up to Africans, Syrians, Egyptians and all the others in the heat of civil conflict to do this hard work. This is as it must be. The West must restrict our efforts to protecting the way of life we've been able to establish inevitably with the same hot, weary and often bloody work the migrants/refugees today should be doing. It would be sheer madness to send Western troops to any nation when its own citizens overwhelmingly decline to protect it or fight to reform it. We must be equally careful and determined to avoid the liberal temptation of trying to blend clearly incompatible customs. Remember, the migrants/refugees are not heading to Africa, India, any of the stans or to Russia. No, their clear preference overwhelmingly is to enjoy the fruits of western liberal democracy. As such, the West must make every effort to protect what we've built, protect our long and hard-won investment, which may mean limiting what is offered to migrants/refugees who jump the queue to a temporary, limited rather than permanent full benefits, which locals alone have paid for. Homeless Westerners would not roll up in Saudi Arabia expecting the bounty of the sheik's treasure.

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