

LETTER TO THE GUARDIAN

by email

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Dear Editor

MIGRATION

Every day migration is in the news: refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants, overcrowded camps, disease, the list goes on. We wring our hands and consider restricting numbers, controlling our borders, deportation. Yet seldom do we address the core issue: what to do with people we do allow to migrate.

Holocaust Memorial Day should remind us not only of the genocide but also of what followed: migration to the new State of Israel. Does the imaginative provision of a new state carved out from someone else's land provide a clue to what we might consider now? Australia and the United States were formed of migrants, people rejected by places from which they came or disregarded as unworthy of respect. Such people turned out to be imaginative, hopeful, determined, able to establish great nations. Suppose we thought in similar vein of today's migrants?

When facing the huge numbers fleeing from today's horrors, we need imagination. We should consider allocating areas carved out from other states, in which migrants might establish their own communities, perhaps new nations. Where might we find such *lebensraum*? The Middle East, as with Israel; or Africa, as we did once considered for a Jewish Homeland; or desert areas in North America?

Yours

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