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Best of the Web

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Welcome Ukrainians

Whether or not Kamala Harris finds it amusing, she should seize the opportunity to find new Americans.



By [James Freeman](#)

Local governments can't buy beds fast enough. Poles who offer to host refugees get more than 100 emails from newcomers looking for a place to sleep, often full of details of their ordeal. The flood of people has raised Poland's population for the first time since 1987...

Two Ukrainians enter Poland every three seconds. The 1.4 million people who have arrived in Poland would create the country's second-largest city. By next week, they will likely surpass Warsaw, the country's biggest city, Polish officials expect.

The vice president should immediately seek the president's approval to welcome refugees from the war zone, especially those who already have family ties to the U.S. And let's not assume their moves should be temporary. Stuart Anderson [reminds us today](#) of another refugee from another invasion by Russian troops who came to settle with family in America. After the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956, Andrew Grove, then known as Andras Grof, set off on his journey:

With the help of a family friend, Grove made his escape. He took a long train ride and trekked over land through a dozen villages, evading Russian patrols before reaching Austria.

In Vienna, thousands of Hungarians stood in line at the U.S. consulate and at refugee organizations. At the consulate, he gave the names of an aunt and uncle, Lenke and Lajos, who lived in New York City. He interviewed with a representative of the International Rescue Committee but found out days later his name was not on the list for acceptance to the U.S.

After being rejected, Grove did something remarkable: He didn't take "no" for an answer. What followed raises the question of whether refugees who gain admission to other countries are, to an extent, "self-selected" for characteristics such as fortitude and risk-taking. In other words, are refugees who are resettled in the United States and western countries the most resilient even among a group of resilient displaced people?

Grove ran to a school where he heard a different group of International Rescue Committee staff were conducting interviews. "I swiped the sweat off my face with my hands and, still panting, started talking in English as fast as I could," writes Grove. "I explained that I had been interviewed yesterday, that I was not selected, but that I really, really wanted to go to the United States. One of the interviewers asked me why. I told him I had relatives in New York City who would take me in, that I was a chemistry student, and I thought I would become a good chemist, and that I belonged in the United States.

"The words poured out, not eloquently or coherently, but I talked and talked as if I could overwhelm their objections by the sheer volume of my words. I almost didn't dare to stop talking, but finally I ran out of things to say. I stood there, panting slightly still sweating profusely. The students looked at each other and smiled, then one said, 'Okay, you can go to the United States.' I was speechless. I couldn't believe my good fortune. I wanted to hug every one of the young men sitting on the other side of the long table."

The good fortune was America's. Grove died in 2016 but not before an immensely productive career culminating with a long tenure as CEO of Intel.

The next Andrew Grove might be crossing the border into Poland right now. But even if we don't land another Grove, with more than 11 million open positions in the U.S. right now we're bound to find some helpful hands. Given the hell they've just endured, can you imagine a more grateful group of employees?

James Freeman is the co-author of "The Cost: Trump, China and American Revival."

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