

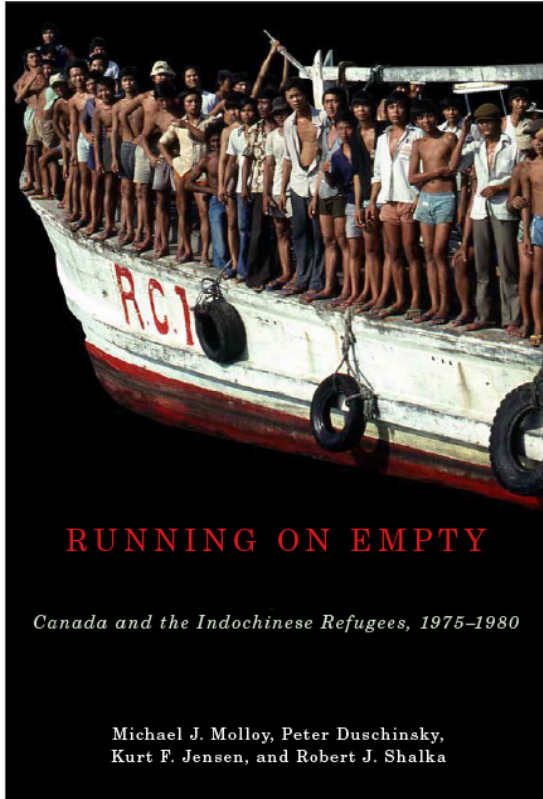


McGill-Queen's University Press

RUNNING ON EMPTY

Canada and the Indochinese Refugees, 1975–1980

Michael J. Molloy, Peter Duschinsky, Kurt F. Jensen, and Robert J. Shalka
Foreword by Ronald Atkey



A powerful history of how Canada rescued 70,000 Indochinese refugees between 1975 and 1980.

The fall of Saigon in April 1975, resulted in the largest and most ambitious refugee resettlement effort in Canada's history. *Running on Empty* presents the challenges and successes of this bold refugee resettlement program. It traces the actions of a few dozen men and women who travelled to seventy remote refugee camps, worked long days in humid conditions, subsisted on dried noodles and green tea, and sometimes slept on their worktables while rats scurried around them – all in order to resettle thousands displaced by war and oppression.

Canada passed the 1976 Immigration Act to establish new refugee procedures and introduce private refugee sponsorship. In July of 1979, the federal government announced that Canada would accept an unprecedented 50,000 refugees – later increased to 60,000 – more than half of whom would be sponsored by ordinary Canadians. *Running on Empty* presents gripping first-hand accounts of the government officials tasked with selecting refugees from eight different countries, receiving and matching them with sponsors and helping churches, civic organizations, and groups of neighbours to integrate the newcomers in communities across Canada.

Timely and inspiring, this volume offers lessons for governments, organizations, and individuals trying to come to grips with refugee crises in the twenty-first century.

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–Vinh Nguyen, Renison University College at University of Waterloo

"This insider's account of an historic movement of refugees makes for an engaging read. The real gems are the accounts from officials on the ground." –Stephanie Bangarth, King's University College at Western University

Michael J. Molloy is Canada's former Ambassador to Jordan, involved in refugee affairs throughout his long career as a Canadian diplomat. He is president of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society, Honorary Senior Fellow at the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, and a frequent commentator on refugee affairs in the media.

Peter Duschinsky was a Hungarian refugee to Canada in 1957 and is a retired Canadian foreign service officer. He managed the Ethiopian refugee movement from Sudan to Canada in the early 1980s and resettled many refugees in Canada from ex-Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. He is a member of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society.

Kurt F. Jensen is an adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science, Carleton University. He spent 33 years in the Canadian diplomatic service, sometimes engaged in foreign intelligence matters, a subject he now teaches at Carleton. He is a member of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society.

Robert J. Shalka is a retired Canadian foreign service officer who selected refugees in Thailand at the height of the Southeast Asian refugee crisis in 1979–80. He is a member of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society.

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