

Abstract

This bachelor thesis called “The Phenomenon of Vietnamese Boat People” introduces three reasons why the phenomenon was developed. It defines what the term “boat people” means. Boat people can be described as refugees fleeing on a boat from Vietnam right after the change of government in April 1975. The thesis describes three main waves of Vietnamese refugees from the historic view. It also includes a summary of social and political classes of Vietnamese people, who could be among the boat people. Then it speaks about the directions boat people fleeing from Vietnam could possibly go. There was an international response to the refugee problem so there is also a chapter about two international conferences on Indochinese refugees held in Geneva. Some refugees were repatriated. Those who were lucky enough made it to the resettlement countries, mostly to the USA, and started a new life. After some time even Vietnamese government changed its strategy and invited overseas Vietnamese to come back to Vietnam. What is new in this thesis is the fact that there were some groups of people among the boat people, which would not be expected to be among the refugees.