

A RAY OF HOPE

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SENIOR DIVISION

INDIVIDUAL DOCUMENTARY

PROCESS PAPER: 500 WORDS

When people first hear the state Iowa, they usually think of farms, windmills, and cornfields galore, but Iowa and Iowans have more to them than overalls and tractors. Iowa is full of lush soil, but the land is embedded with rich history. After learning of this year's National History Day theme, "Taking a Stand in History," I began searching for topics that were in some way connected to my life and to Iowa. As I considered many topics, I was most intrigued by the resettlement of the Tai Dam, "boat people," and other ethnic refugees as a result of the revolutionary humanitarian stand by Iowa's Governor Robert D. Ray and Iowans, sparking a revolution for refugee resettlement.

The foundation of my knowledge was built on what I acquired on the Internet and through interviews due to the lack of books specifically written about the historical event of Iowa's role in the resettlement of the refugees caught in the crossfire of the Vietnam War. Interviews were certainly the most valuable sources in my research. I had the honor of interviewing Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, then an assistant to Governor Robert Ray, Duc Nguyen, a Vietnamese refugee, Siang Bacthi, a Tai Dam refugee, and Vinh Nguyen, a "boat people" refugee, who graciously shared their personal experiences with me, providing me invaluable information I would not have been able to obtain elsewhere. I was later granted special access to the Ray Papers Collection from the State Historical Society of Iowa where I gained insight on the revolutionary stand that took place.

An abundance of visual resources was available and I believed that the emotion captured in the photographs and the intensity of the Vietnam War could only be effectively portrayed by a documentary. While using the program iMovie, I also invested in Adobe software which allowed me to add appropriate effects contributing to the overall aesthetic and presentation of the

documentary. The documentary demonstrates the magnificent humanitarian heart and altruistic stand of Governor Ray and the heartland in order to revolutionize refugee resettlement.

Iowa's revolutionary stand sparked a nationwide reaction prompting other states to assist in taking in refugees from war-stricken areas and ignited Congress with legislation including the Refugee Act of 1980, reforming previous policies concerning refugee resettlement and rights. The determination of not only Governor Ray but also the Iowans standing behind him, kindled a worldwide reaction as well, spurring the United Nations Geneva Conference on refugees.

Iowa is not only a state in the heart of the nation, but it is also a state with a heart. The shape of Iowa symbolized hope to many, providing hope to the hopeless. Iowa's refugee program set the bar on how Iowa embraces diversity and was a pinnacle in U.S. refugee policy. The Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services still remains the only entity run by a state government that is certified as a resettlement agency by the U.S. State Department, and it all started with Iowa's very own Governor Robert D. Ray.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Books

Williams, Phyllis and Graff. "Chapter 12: Sac Community School Building a Better School." *A Life of Gratitude*. By Robert D. Snater. Robert D. Snater, 2010. 162-64. *Google Books*. Web. 26 Feb. 2017.

As the number of Indochinese refugees resettling in Iowa increased, the need for sponsors and volunteers to help with a successful transition escalated. This book includes a personal experience shared by Phyllis and Graff Williams about their involvement with the Tai Dam. The Williams' church took a family of Tai Dam under their wing and throughout the hardships faced, the community created a memorable bond with the family of refugees that extended beyond the church. The cunning story granted me yet again, a deeper understanding of the cultural differences that brought people together and the humanitarian stand that was made by the Iowans a truly inspiring event.

Journal Articles

Jones-Vo, Stephaney A. "What Price Freedom: The Story of a Vietnamese Political Refugee." *A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Faculty in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts (1997)*: 1-132. *Iowa State University Digital Repository*. Iowa State University, 1997. Web. 22 Jan. 2017. <<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1281&context=rtd>>.

I was granted a unique perspective of a refugee resettlement sponsor that worked in cooperation with the Bureau of Refugee Services agency who later married one of the newcomers she supported. Stephaney A. Jones-Vo wrote about her husband's heartening journey and the price he paid for his freedom in order to stand up to the Communists in his homeland. Jones-Vo developed new insight into the perspective that refugees took initiative in starting a new life for themselves as a way to demonstrate standing up to those who dictated their freedom.

Letters

Eisenhower, John. "The President's Advisory Committee on Refugees." Letter to Governor Robert Ray. 27 June 1975.

This letter was sent to all of the governors in the country asking them to assist in resettling Indochinese refugees. "Most (refugees) have arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs. The task of this resettlement must not and need not be an occasion for prolonging the fear, uncertainty, and despair which have clouded the lives of these people for so long." This helped us analyze the need for a revolutionary response to the needs of the Indochinese refugees.

Quinn, Kenneth. Letter to Governor Robert Ray. 21 Aug. 1975. *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa. Des Moines, Iowa.*

Kenneth Quinn wrote to Governor Ray expressing his pride and appreciation for the city of Dubuque, Iowa where thirty-seven Vietnamese refugees were resettled as a result of the efforts of the State of Iowa. It explained how Iowa was "[serving] as an aspiration to other communities around throughout the nation and will be a source of great pride for the state."

Quinn, Kenneth. Letter to The Editor. 5 Feb. 1979. *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa. Des Moines, Iowa.*

Kenneth Quinn, Assistant to Governor Robert Ray at this time, wrote to the editors of newspapers across the country to spread the word about Governor Ray's efforts in resettling the Tai Dam. He hoped to encourage governors of all the other states to do exactly as he and Ray had done; revolutionize refugee resettlement in order to improve the lives of people experiencing the awful effects of communism and persecution.

Ray, Governor Robert. "Letter Supporting Local Schools." Letter to Dr. Robert D. Benton, State Superintendent of Schools. 6 Oct. 1980. *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa. Des Moines, Iowa.*

This letter informed the State Superintendent of Schools that the Governor and the State of Iowa applauded and supported local school districts trying to help Indochinese refugees learn to read and write. The letter also stated the amount of money eligible to each school district which applied for help, again proving Iowa was willing to go above and beyond the expectations of the nation and world.

Ray, Governor Robert. Letter to Charles Thone, Governor of Nebraska. 22 Jan. 1979. *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa. Des Moines, Iowa.*

Governor Ray, after already revolutionizing refugee aid in his relation of the Tai Dam to Iowa, sent a letter to the governors of every state and asked them to assist with the “Boat People” because they too needed rescuing from the harsh environment in Southeast Asia. Furthermore, Ray pleaded with the other states to find it in their heart to open their borders because it would provide a reformed future for the refugees, a future of promise, a future living the American dream.

Ray, Governor Robert. Letter to President Carter. 17 Jan. 1979. *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa. Des Moines, Iowa.*

In this letter, Governor Robert D. Ray told President Jimmy Carter that Iowa would take 1,500 Indochinese refugees in the coming year. Ed Bradley’s CBS documentary “The Boat People” stirred Iowans to also help with the plight of these refugees. Iowa contacted local church communities to help sponsor these people and continue to utilize the revolutionary actions the State implemented in order to accommodate previous groups including the Tai Dam and Laotians.

Ray, Governor Robert D. *Volunteer Tutor Program. 18 Mar. 1980. Iowa Refugee Service Center.*

The language barrier was a difficult obstacle to overcome for many refugees. In order to help the refugees, Governor Robert D. Ray issued a statement asking for volunteers to help Indochinese refugees learn English in refugees’ homes. The letter stated that the Area Educational Agency (AEA) regional coordinators and contacts would help put volunteers and refugees together. The AEA had a curriculum set up to help volunteers. This showed us how Iowa educational agencies took a stand and responded to the needs of the newly resettled Tai Dam.

Sayre, Winston. Letter to Governor Robert D. Ray. 29 Oct. 1979. *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa*. Des Moines, Iowa. Print.

Mr. Winston Sayre's letter to Governor Ray was unique and unlike other letters I had previously read. Mr. Sayre included in his letter that he had written to Governor Ray six months earlier regarding how he disagreed with everything the governor was doing. After being involved in resettling refugees through his church, and sponsoring a Vietnamese refugee, Sayre said that his political opinion on Governor Ray had changed and Ray had his full support. Sayre also wrote about the prejudice he encountered regarding the refugee issue. This letter was extremely helpful in my understanding of how revolutionary Governor Ray's humanitarian effort was not only for the refugees but for the citizens of Iowa.

Shearer, Colleen. "U.S. Refugee Resettlement Policies." Letter to Governor Robert D. Ray. 8 July 1981. *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa*. Des Moines, Iowa.

This memorandum sent to Governor Robert D. Ray of Iowa by the Director of the Iowa Refugee Service Center was crucial to our understanding of the vast impact of Iowa's actions in reforming refugee resettlement. It furthermore shows the hard work that these two members, Governor Ray and Colleen Shearer, performed in order to improve the lives of refugees by giving the refugees a chance at the American dream, a life too many Americans take for granted. The revolutionary actions of Iowa and its people installed a humanitarian attitude in the hearts of other countries around the world. This reaction led to the reform of how refugees were handled and the regulations which applied to them.

Surface, Evelyn C. Letter to Governor Robert D. Ray. 1 Nov. 1979. *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa*. Des Moines, Iowa. Print.

Ms. Evelyn Surface's letter to Governor Ray was one out of many encouraging and positive letters that were sent to Iowa's leader. Just as others have said, Surface expressed her gratitude to Governor Ray for showing concern for the suffering people in Southeast Asia. These letters written to Governor Ray was very crucial in my understanding of the revolutionary event and the positive support given by the Iowa citizens.

Manuals

United Nations High Commissioner. *Workshop on Integration of Refugees from Indochina in Countries of Resettlement*. 1980. United Nations. Geneva, Switzerland. Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa.

This workshop manual specifically developed for the Conference for Integration of Refugees from Indo-China explained the intense amount of suffering and agony the people of this region were suffering as a direct result of the communist regime in Vietnam. This aided our research because the conference was encouraged by the efforts of Iowa's Governor Robert D. Ray who initiated the revolutionary program in Iowa, appreciated worldwide for the efforts made to positively reform the refugees' living conditions and future.

Newsletters

Baccam, Ha. "Let's Improve Ourselves, Adjustments to the New Society." *Our Soul: Monthly Tai Dam* 3 (Dec. 1980): 49. Print.

Ha Baccam wrote numerous articles praising Iowa's resettlement agency. In this specific article, Baccam reminded the Tai Dam of the need to work hard and do their best to become better citizens to contribute to improving society. Baccam's article stated, "Though we left a past of misery, hardship, and fear in our old world, we must now be brave and resourceful and become better Americans." Baccam's encouraging words later went on to say that by being the best that they could be, the Tai Dam would make America a better place. Iowa's refugee resettlement program was the result of Governor Robert D. Ray's humanitarian stand. By utilizing this program provided by the state of Iowa, the Tai Dam was able to make Iowa and indeed America a better place.

Mui, Falvang. "Young Tai Dam Join Iowa National Guard." *Our Soul: Monthly Tai Dam Newsletter* 3 (Sept. 1980): 46. Print.

Mr. Lo Van One of Hull, Iowa and Luong Van Ich of George, Iowa, were the first two Tai Dam to join the Iowa National Guard. In joining the Iowa National Guard, Tai Dam refugees demonstrated to Iowa and its natural born citizens that they were willing to fight for and protect the state which had worked so hard to revolutionize refugee resettlement in order to save the Tai Dam people. This demonstrates the Tai Dam were patriotic to America and wanted to defend their newly found freedom in Iowa

Newspaper Articles

Brown, Warren. "Blacks Angered by Iowa Refugee Aid." *The Washington Post*. WP Company, 13 Feb. 1979. Web. 26 Feb. 2017.

<<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1979/02/13/blacks-angered-by-iowa-refugee-aid/29a70090-acb4-4fa3-9fec-7c1e0a15bd27/>>.

Despite the improvements seen with discrimination due to the efforts of civil rights activists, African Americans inevitably continued to undergo racial segregation. The African American population in Iowa were dismayed by the open arms for refugees and were upset when jobs that were denied to African Americans were being employed by refugees. The news article allowed me to grasp a profound comprehension of the controversy that came with the resettlement of refugees.

Eberline, William. "43 Refugees Begin Their New Live in Iowa." *Des Moines Register* 27 Oct. 1975, *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa* ed. Print.

This newspaper article speaks of new refugees arriving in Iowa in order to start their new life free of persecution. The article also talked about how 300 Vietnamese would be relocated in Arkansas as well, proving that Iowa's effort was seen and adopted nationwide.

Simon, Julian. "Economic Objection Fall Apart When Used Against Immigrants." *LA Times* 1 July 1980, *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa* ed. Print.

Although immigrants were blamed for economic struggles, the numbers here actually supported how the immigrants and refugees boosted the economy with additional people in the working class. It is important to consider that initially, immigrants may have a negative effect due to their needs for resettlement, but as soon as they are established, it is evident they, in fact, support the economy. This shows how the risky decision to help refugees and immigrants pays off in the end. This article showed the people of America how the humanitarian actions of Iowa led to positive reform across the country and the positive aspects of refugee resettlement.

Weisman, Joel. "Refugees Thrive in Iowa." *The Washington Post* 25 Dec. 1975, *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa* ed. Print.

This Christmas Day article featured Iowa's Tai Dam refugees and tells of their success and ability to prosper in Iowa as a result of their resettlement through Iowans and Governor Ray's humanitarian actions. Moreover, this discusses how the Tai Dam supported the economy by taking jobs most other Americans did not want or appreciate, alleviating allegations of the refugees taking jobs away from Americans.

Pamphlets

United Nations Commissioner of Refugees Services. *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa*. Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations, Sept.-Oct. 1980. Print.

This pamphlet, handed out at the conference regarding refugees, is full of pictures that display the horrible effects of being displaced from one's home and having to live in a refugee camp. It further showed the reformed lives of those lucky enough to be resettled. Those in attendance at the conference responded to the issue after viewing the pamphlet. Their response led to reform in the lives of the victims from their homes.

Personal Interviews

Bacchi, Siang. Telephone interview. 20 Jan. 2017.

The Tai Village's aspiration is to feature indigenous history and educating the public about refugees. As the Secretary of the Tai Village, Siang Bacchi's deep and everlasting appreciation for Governor Ray and the state of Iowa due to their revolutionary stand runs deep. After speaking with Siang Bacchi, I was able to appreciate firsthand the positive effects of Iowa's humanitarian stand. Along with the interview, she was able to send me documents of her speeches for the Governor Ray Reunion where she stressed about the warm hearted welcomes from Iowans. This interview experience was one vital to the knowledge of my project as it allowed me to talk to someone who personally experienced the results of Iowa's stand to revolutionize refugee resettlement.

Guttau, Mick. Personal interview. Mar. 2017.

I wanted to gain the unique perspective of a Vietnam War Veteran about Iowa's Indochinese refugee resettlement. For this information, I turned to Mr. Mick Guttau who explained to me how he loved the Vietnamese people and that they have become productive members of society and are committed to making America a better place to live and not change it to meet their needs. I've heard and read about some Vietnam veterans who were against the resettlement of the Indochinese people because they had been trained to fight against people of Vietnamese descent and they thought it was disrespectful to the families of soldiers who had lost their lives to ask the families to help with the resettlement of Vietnamese people. Mr. Guttau disagreed with this view, pointing out that soldiers went to Vietnam to try to make a better life for them. The refugee resettlement program enabled them to make a better life for themselves.

Nguyen, Mr. Duc, and Mrs. Nguyen. Personal interview. 22 Dec. 2016.

Being one of the first few refugees to come to Des Moines, Duc Nguyen and his wife had a hard time finding programs to help with the language barrier. During the first year they worked during the day and then would go to Drake University to study English at night. Mr. Nguyen commented on how much the Iowa Refugee Resettlement Agency and their sponsors helped their resettlement and felt greatly accepted. The state of Iowa focused on taking a stand and establishing a community for the Asian-Americans and embracing cultural differences. After hearing Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen's experiences as a refugee in Iowa, I was able to gain a deeper understanding of the hardships faced, as well as times of pride.

Nguyen, Vinh. Personal interview. 28 Jan. 2017.

Mr. Vinh Nguyen of Des Moines, Iowa came to Iowa in 1981 as a result of Governor Robert D. Ray's humanitarian stand to save the boat people who escaped Vietnam. Vinh Nguyen was a boat person himself and was forced to flee his homeland due to the oppressive Communist regime which had virtually stripped them of their rights. Mr. Nguyen's strong belief that everyone's voice should not be dictated was enough to leave his six siblings behind. He explained how Governor Ray overlooked the political opinion at the time and didn't let it influence his decision to take a stand for the human person. Mr. Nguyen described the intensity of the governor's passion and how his work is truly a legacy to not just refugees but all Iowans.

Quinn, Ambassador Kenneth. Personal interview. 22 Dec. 2016.

Ambassador Quinn, Assistant to Governor Ray at the time, was one of the prime leaders behind Iowa's movement to revolutionize refugee resettlement working collectively with Governor Ray. He provided invaluable insight on how things operated allowing me to genuinely appreciate the work Iowa has done to stand up and revolutionize refugee resettlement. This interview granted me knowledge and personal experiences that I would not have been able to find anywhere else.

Public Interviews

"A Big Leap for Iowans." *A Promise Called Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 4 Apr. 2007. IPTV. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/big-leap-iowans>>.

At the time, Iowa's population was 95% white and so many Iowans had never even met someone Jewish or Muslim, and certainly Asian. In response, the influx of Southeast Asian refugees was a huge challenge for Iowans culturally, but the refugee effort became something that everybody could be proud of. The resettlement of these refugees was a big leap for Iowans, but it was a leap worth making. This interview with Ambassador Quinn provided great insight on the extreme change in diversity and the phenomenal outcome of the refugee resettlement.

"Iowa as a Global Leader." *A Promise Called Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 4 Apr. 2007. IPTV. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/iowa-global-leader>>.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, Governor Ray's former assistant, talks about Governor Ray speaking at the National Governors' Association meeting in 1979. At the meeting, Governor Ray asked governors from all states to follow Iowa's lead in welcoming refugees from Southeast Iowa to their states. Ray wasn't stepping up and making a point about Iowa but was standing up and making a point about the world. Ray provided the world global leadership on this humanitarian issue. This interview demonstrated Governor Ray's revolutionary stand to assist these refugees and spreading national and global awareness about the issue.

"Iowa Benefits From Refugees." *A Promise Called Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 4 Apr. 2007. IPTV. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/iowa-benefits-refugees>>.

Governor Ray strongly believes that Iowa and Iowans benefited from the resettlement of refugees in their state. In the mission to save lives, Iowa was saved too, both consciously and subconsciously. Iowa has become more global and diverse and Iowans are better for it. From this interview, I was able to understand how the lives of Iowans and refugees were significantly changed for the better.

"Iowa Responds." *A Promise Called Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 4 Apr. 2007. IPTV. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/iowa-responds>>.

In an interview with Iowa Public Television, Governor Ray recalls President Gerald Ford's decision to help the Vietnamese refugees. Ford asked each state to accept a certain number of refugees and Iowa responded. As the state of Iowa prepared to welcome these refugees, Governor Ray made the decision to not put an agency in human services. Governor Ray believed that the refugees could become good citizens and was determined to support them to become so. I was able to gain an understanding of the inner workings and lengthy process it took to relocate the Southeast Asian refugees from this interview.

"Iowa Responds to Tai Dam." *A Promise Called Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 4 Apr. 2007. IPTV. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/iowa-responds-tai-dam>>.

Arthur Crisfield wrote to many governors in hopes of finding a new home for the displaced ethnic group, the Tai Dam. Iowa's governor, Robert D. Ray, was the only one who responded to their plea. In a documentary "A Promise Called Iowa," Governor Ray discusses his decision to bring Tai Dam refugees to Iowa in 1975. The State Department had a policy that refugees could not be relocated in a group in any one community. Governor Ray worked with the State Department and the White House. In the final analysis, they agreed and made an exception. Iowa was finally able to invite the Tai Dam to come to Iowa. The documentary excerpt gave me valuable insight on the moral determination Governor Ray possessed.

"Iowans Open Their Hearts." *A Promise Called Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 4 Apr. 2007. IPTV. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/iowans-open-their-hearts>>.

In an interview with Iowa Public Television, Governor Ray expresses how proud he was of his state. According to Governor Ray, Iowans welcomed the refugees who lost their lives to the war. In the tragic situation, the Iowans stepped forward and opened their homes, their arms, and their hearts. Over the years, Governor Ray recalls many people who have told him that having the opportunity to help others was the greatest experience of their lives. Governor Ray claimed that "If you help others for the right reason you'll be richly rewarded and we've (Iowa) been richly rewarded." This interview allowed me to have a deep intuitive understanding of the diversity the refugees offered and exactly how revolutionary the resettlement of Indochinese refugees in Iowa was for both the refugees and the Iowans.

"It Wasn't Just Politics." *A Promise Called Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 4 Apr. 2007. IPTV. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/it-wasn't-just-politics>>.

Due to America's heavy involvement in the war, the United States felt obliged to the Vietnam people, but Vice President Walter Mondale believes that there was also a humanitarian dimension to the decision of resettling the Vietnamese refugees. Modern television was able to show the nation the tragedy of the war, urging people to do something about the international crisis. This interview allowed me to have a glimpse of the nation's moral compass.

"Life as a Refugee." *A Promise Called Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 4 Apr. 2007. IPTV. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/life-refugee>>.

In an attempt to describe what life as a refugee would be, Governor Ray mentions that our imagination isn't good enough to truly understand what it would be like to have to leave your family, leave all your possessions, go someplace where you can't speak the language or understand the culture, and the fear that would come with the journey. "We can't even begin to understand that." This caused me to ponder how horrid the conditions must have been and how brave the refugees must be to leave everything behind in hopes of having a fresh beginning.

"Refugee Camp in Southeast Asia." *A Promise Called Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 4 Apr. 2007. IPTV. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/refugee-camp-southeast-asia>>.

During Governor Ray's trip to China with Ambassador Quinn and several other governors, they visited many refugee camps. At one of the camps, Ambassador Quinn recalls the horrid conditions of the camps and how he witnessed the bodies being carried in and the deceased bodies being carried out. The governors were immensely impacted by what they had seen and were affected for days and days. During that visit, all of the governors, including Governor Ray, felt the need to do something. When Governor Ray returned to the U.S., he stepped up and took the role of global leader and began his humanitarian journey to save these suffering people.

"The Right Thing to Do." *A Promise Called Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 4 Apr. 2007. IPTV. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/right-thing-do>>.

Governor Ray was determined to assist the Vietnamese refugees whether it was the acceptable thing to do or not. However, he did not want to change the refugees' lifestyles by putting them on welfare. From this decision, the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services was born. It was the first and is still the only entity run by a state government that is certified as a resettlement agency by the U.S. State Department. Groups of people from other states and countries would come to Iowa to examine how the state was handling the refugee situation. This interview was one vital to the knowledge of my project as it allowed me to understand the significance of Governor Ray's decision to welcome refugees and Iowa's newly formed government agency.

"State of Iowa Is One of a Kind." *A Promise Called Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 4 Apr. 2007. IPTV. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/state-iowa-one-kind>>.

Michael Gartner, former president of the Des Moines Register, discussed the unique status of Iowa's refugee agency. There is only one government entity that is a resettlement agency and that is the state of Iowa. There is no other state or city like that. Iowa is the only state with an official resettlement agency. After listening to this interview with Michael Gartner, I was able to be immensely proud of Iowa and appreciate firsthand, positive effects of Iowa's revolutionary and humanitarian actions.

Reports

Bethlenfalvy, Peter. Jan. 1980. A Report by a German Expert Delegation on Integration Programs of the Indo-Chinese Refugees in Iowa and Michigan.

Iowa's actions and revolutionary stand to resettle refugees had not only a nationwide reaction but a worldwide impact as well. German diplomats implemented similar resettlement programs in their country after visiting and seeing the resettlement efforts in the state of Iowa. This report further demonstrates the world's reaction to Iowa's humanitarian stand and the international reform thereafter in regards to immigration and refugee resettlement in other countries.

Evans, Daniel. *Vietnamese Refugee Resettlement Program*. 20 May 1975. *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa*. Des Moines, Iowa.

Governor Ray worked closely with Washington State's Governor Daniel Evans. Washington was the first state to accept refugees and ray worked to build Iowa's refugee program based on the successes and failures of different resettlement agencies in Washington state. Ray and Evans sent many letters to each other throughout the planning of the Iowa Refugee Resettlement Agency's founding. Although Washington state did not have resettlement agencies sponsored by their state government, Evans saw to the process of the refugees' transition and because of their close relationship, Ray was able to reform Iowa's Refugee Resettlement Agency.

Ray, Robert D., Brenden Byrne, and William Milliken. *Report and Policy Position Recommendations of the Task Force on Indochina Refugees National Governor's Association Committee on International Trade and Foreign Relations*. Rep. July 9, 1979. Print.

Governor Ray joined forces with fellow governors Governor Milliken of Michigan and Governor Byrne of New Jersey to take a stand for those being oppressed by foreign governments after hearing that Thai and Malaysian governments were forcibly repatriating refugees back out to sea and dissuaded new refugees from landing by shooting at them. Their Subcommittee testimony to the Immigration, Refugee, and International Law of the House Judiciary Committee on the refugee Bill being considered by Congress was to encourage the spread of Iowa's resettlement program across the nation. The Refugee Bill included a call for a combined international effort to continue to allow refugees to land and not force them back to sea as well as increasing the number of refugees to be admitted to the U.S. President Carter announced on June 28, 1979, that the U.S. would double its monthly quota from 7,000 to 14,000 refugees over the following 12 to 14 months. The combined effort in resettling refugees spread the humanitarianism from the heartland of the nation to the heart of the U.S. government.

Stein, Barry D. *"The Refugee Experience: An Overview of Refugee Research*. Feb. 1980. *Ray Collection: State Historical Society of Iowa*. Des Moines, Iowa.

Dr. Stein's research regarding refugees was presented at the Geneva Conference for Refugees as an overview of exactly what a refugee experienced day in and day out in Southeast Asia. The accounts displayed in this essay are both moving and quite disturbing. This pushed the United Nations to develop policies for the resettlement of the Indochinese refugees.

Speeches

Ray, Governor Robert D. "Speech to the Iowa Boat People." Des Moines, Iowa. 25 Apr. 1979. Speech.

“Where would we be today if America had closed its doors to our forefathers? The Statue of Liberty is inscribed with these words ‘Give me your tired, your poor, and your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.’ To the refugees, I wish you great good luck in the new adventure you are beginning today.” Governor Ray wished to welcome these people to Iowa so the revolution he and the state created could be completely fulfilled.

Videos

CBS Reports with Ed Bradley: "The Boat People". Dir. Ed Bradley. 1979. CBS News, 24 June 1979. Web. 29 Dec. 2017. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lw3Vm3fe4Jg>>.

Ed Bradley's documentary showed the horrific conditions for those fleeing the communist regime country for freedom. After witnessing the terror that refugees faced, Governor Ray was inspired and determined to help. Since there was no presidential request for states to provide assistance as President Ford had done, the Governor of Iowa took a stand and wrote to the nation's leader asking for assistance. The film tugged at Governor Ray's humanitarian heart, urging him to step up and lend a hand. This video helped me understand what refugees were willing to suffer through in order to gain freedom.

Secondary Sources

Blogs

Lancy, Lauren K. "A Tai Dam Village." Blog post. *THE KINDCRAFT*. 24 Mar. 2016. Web. 16 Mar. 2017. <<http://thekindcraft.com/a-tai-dam-village/>>.

A few groups of Tai Dam still live dispersed in Laos, China, and Thailand. Lauren K. Lancy, a fashion blogger living in Asia met with a group of Tai Dam on the Laos and China border. She described the wardrobe of the Tai women and how bright colors were a part of their distinct culture. I was able to learn the meaning behind their name "Tai Dam." It means black Tai. They are known as the Tai Dam because the women wear black headdresses.

Books

Garner, Joe. *We Interrupt This Broadcast: Saigon Falls*. Naperville: Source, 2000. Print.

The Vietnam War was an event that grabbed Americans and left them wanting to know each detail as it became available regarding the war efforts, this book includes the fall of Saigon and the initiating event of refugee displacement. This was a helpful source regarding the start of my research, but this does not go over the leadership of Iowa's Governor Robert D. Ray and the revolutionary refugee resettlement in Iowa.

Grey, Mark A., Ph.D, Anne C. Woodrick, Ph.D, Michele Yehieli, D.P.H., and James Hoelscher. *The New Iowan, A Companion Book to the PBS Miniseries "The New Americans"*. University of Northern Iowa: Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration, 2003. IPTV. WP Company, 13 Mar. 2016. Web. 16 Mar. 2017. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/mypath/who-are-new-iowans>>.

Welcoming immigrants and refugees is an Iowa tradition. Without these newcomers, Iowa wouldn't be the state that it has become. This source provided statistics on the increase of Iowa's population due to immigrants and refugees, allowing me to place a number with the story. The article went on to explain where the immigrants and refugees came from and the foreign-born population, making Iowa the wonderfully diverse state that it is today.

Moran, Marty, Robert Weisser, and Joy Hakim. *All the People: 1945-2001: Teaching Guide for the Third Edition*. New York, NY: Oxford UP, 2003. Print.

This book provided substantial information explaining the conflict in Indochina which led to the rise of communism, the fall of Saigon, and the urgent, desperate need of assistance to find new homes for the displaced refugees. Hakim developed new insight into the perspective that Americans took initiative in resettling the refugees in perhaps as a way to demonstrate that they were in Vietnam to defeat communism, but also to preserve the culture of the displaced refugees.

Schwieder, Dorothy. *Iowa: The Middle Land*. Iowa City: U of Iowa, 1996. Print.

The history of Iowa and her roots is an accurate depiction of Iowa's lasting legacy in the United States' past. Schwieder discusses the in-depth impact of Iowa on the nation and world. Specifically, the novel digs deep into Governor Robert Ray's Administration and the lasting revolutionary and humanitarian legacy his office left on the state. It helped me understand that even though the country was in turmoil over the war, Iowa's people were willing to open their arms and responded in a positive manner to refugees in Southeast Asia. Iowa revolutionized refugee resettlement by becoming the first and only state entity certified in refugee resettlement.

Videos

***Cambodian Genocide - Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge*. 6 Aug. 2007. Web. 16 Feb. 2017.
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-SI8RF6wDE>>.**

After communist regime took over Cambodia, innocent lives were taken every day mercilessly. This video was essential to my understanding of the severity of communist regime and the atrocious endless torture refugees faced and tried so hard to escape. I was able to utilize the powerful visuals from this video, unveiling the gruesome and inhumane practices of the Khmer Rouge.

Maria, Anna. "'Boat People' Share Survival Stories Coming to Canada 40 Years Ago." *The Current*. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Canada, 29 Apr. 2015. *CBCnews*. Web. 16 Mar. 2017.

<<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-april-29-2015-1.3053360/boat-people-share-survival-stories-coming-to-canada-40-years-ago-1.3053397>>.

Australia, France, and Canada also helped with the humanitarian stand to resettle refugees after the fall of Saigon. The refugees gambled their life for freedom and in this article, Vietnamese refugees shared their remarkable journey to Canada, allowing me to understand the international joint cooperation to help the displaced refugees and the impact it had across the world.

"Remarkable Refugee." *Living in Iowa*. Johnston, Iowa, 2005. *IPTV*. Web. 14 Dec. 2016. <<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/artifact/remarkable-refugee>>.

Clementine Msengi, a Bosnian refugee, shared her life story in an Iowa Public Television documentary "Living in Iowa." Msengi escaped the nightmare of Rwanda and now lives in Iowa where she is able to find many opportunities and continues to spread refugee awareness throughout Iowa for future refugees. This documentary excerpt allowed me to see the lasting effects of Governor Ray's humanitarian actions and Iowa's revolutionary effort in welcoming displaced refugees.

Websites

Boshart, Rod. "An Honorable Man." *The Gazette*. Web. 16 Mar. 2017. <<http://files.gazlab.com/content-host/govray/index2.html#>>.

This site is entirely dedicated to Governor Ray and the legacy he left behind not just at the capitol or Iowa, but his impact on the world. Interviews with Billie Ray, Governor Ray's wife, current Governor Terry Branstad, Ambassador Quinn, a former aid of Governor Ray, and numerous of others who worked collectively with the Governor allowed me to gain valuable insight on Governor Ray's political stand and humanitarian heart. Governor Ray left a lasting mark on Iowa history and during his time in office elevated Iowa's stature on the world's stage and shepherding an era of openness and civility in Iowa.

"Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon." Smithsonian Institute. Web. 04 May 2017.

<http://www.sites.si.edu/exhibitions/exhibits/exit_saigon/main.htm>.

After learning of the revolutionary work in Iowa, the Smithsonian began researching for and developing an exhibit dedicated to the resettlement of Indochinese refugees. This exhibit traveled around the country before being placed in the collections at the Smithsonian Institute. The goal of the exhibit was to make the public more aware of the leadership of Iowa in resettling Indochinese people and to promote the positive impact of refugee resettlement.

Finney, Daniel P. "Finney: Branstad's Syrian Refugee Ban Betrays Iowa." *Des Moines Register*. 17 Nov. 2015. Web. 16 Mar. 2017.

<<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/local/daniel-finney/2015/11/16/finney-branstads-syrian-refugee-ban-betrays-iowa/75899710/>>.

The United Nations define refugee status as people who've been forced from their native land and have no hope of returning home. Governor Ray's precedent of providing hope and showing compassion for all people has been betrayed after current Governor Branstad decided to block resettlement of Syrian refugees. Even in the 1970s, not all Iowans supported Governor Ray because they believed they would take away jobs from Iowans and change their way of life. They did for the better. The current political issue regarding the resettlement of Syrian refugees has reminded fellow Iowans of their humanitarian deed not too long ago. This article provided a great amount of knowledge concerning the Syrian refugees and the turmoil within Iowans in regards to where their moral compass points.

Florman, Jean. "Strong Ties." *IPTV*. Iowa Public Television, 15 Mar. 2017. Web. 16 Mar. 2017.

<<http://site.iptv.org/iowapathways/mypath/iowa-invites-southeast-asian-refugees>>.

After the Communist success in Laos, the distinct ethnic group the Tai Dam were forced to leave their friends, family, and customs in order to survive. A few refugees described the hardships they faced and the need to survive. Even though the Tai Dam are extremely grateful for this second chance at life, thanks to Governor Ray's humanitarian stand to resettle refugees, and are living happily in Iowa, they are worried about future generations not knowing the Tai Dam language, culture, and the struggle their parents went through to arrive at their new peaceful home.

Henderson, O. Kay. "Robert D. Ray Iowa SHARES Award Announced, Former Governor "overwhelmed" by Honor (AUDIO)." *Radio Iowa*. 27 Sept. 2013. Web. 16 Mar. 2017. <<http://www.radioiowa.com/2013/09/26/robert-d-ray-iowa-shares-award-announced-former-governor-overwhelmed-by-honor-audio/>>.

To honor Governor Robert D. Ray and his significant leadership in confronting hunger, the World Food Prize Organization named a new award after the humanitarian. The governor's inability to sit still and watch innocent bystanders of the Vietnam War be collateral damage propelled him to stand up for those whose voices were set on mute by Communist dictators.

"History of the Bureau." Iowa Department of Human Services. Web. 26 Feb. 2017. <<http://dhs.iowa.gov/refugee-services/history>>.

The fall of Saigon was a critical turning point in the Vietnam War, forcing the Tai Dam to flee persecution. Governor Ray heard the ethnic group's cry for help and began the tedious journey of resettling the Tai Dam. This site provided a substantial amount of information on the history of the Bureau of Refugees and the numerous programs generated by Iowa's governor to provide support for refugees.

"Iowa Roots: Tai Dam Traditional Music and Dance." *Iowa Arts Council*. CultureALL, 5 June 2012. Web. 23 Feb. 2017. <<https://www.iowaartscouncil.org/programs/folk-and-traditional-arts/iowa-roots/season-one/houng-baccam.shtml>>.

The Iowa Arts Council created a program called "Iowa Roots" in which cultural citizens can share their stories to better inform the people in Iowa of its rich heritage and diverse culture within the state.

IowaWatch, Clare McCarthy/Special to. "Open Arms In Iowa: How A News Report Brought Back Memories Of Iowa's Vietnamese Refugee Relief." *Iowa Center for Public Affairs Journalism*. 08 June 2016. Web. 23 Nov. 2016.
<<http://iowawatch.org/2016/05/26/open-arms-in-iowa-how-a-news-report-brought-back-memories-of-iowas-vietnamese-refugee-relief/>>.

“Open Arms in Iowa” is a long-form story told in narrative form about a refugee family who fled Vietnam to come to Iowa after the Vietnam War. The author, Clare McCarthy, continued to add to her article after current Governor Branstad declared that Iowa would not take in any Syrian refugees. This interesting article demonstrated the life of a resettled refugee in Iowa and the political struggle Iowa faces today.

McCarthy, Clare. "Resources for Refugees Change over Decades." *Des Moines Register*. 10 Aug. 2015. Web. 16 Mar. 2017.
<<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2015/08/09/burmese-refugee-history-iowa/31388507/>>.

With never ending global issues, refugees flee their home in hopes of starting over. For decades, Iowa is known to be their savior and is willing to lend a hand, but Iowa has run into obstacles that they have yet to find solutions for. Even though the resettlement of the Tai Dam and other ethnic groups during the mid-1970s and 1980s was successful under the leadership of Governor Ray, current Governor Branstad believes situations today are much different. Much like the Indochinese refugees, however, the Burmese face a language barrier. Organizations and programs such as the English as a second language are very limited and the need not only for more programs but the need for financial funding is becoming a bigger problem and factor for Iowa and refugee resettlement. This site allowed me to grasp a deeper understanding of current refugee issues and the turmoil between following our moral compass and financial instability.

Molseed, John. "Meat Packing Jobs Bring Burmese Refugees to Waterloo." *Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier*. 25 Nov. 2011. Web. 27 Jan. 2017.
<http://wfcourier.com/news/local/meat-packing-jobs-bring-burmese-refugees-to-waterloo/article_052f8dff-c45e-59e9-a9fc-72ff4b87f6e7.html>.

Iowa's revolutionary refugee resettlement program continues to be in use today and can be seen through the resettlement of the Burmese people, refugees of the Middle East, and other oppressed Arab countries. This article discusses the story of a refugee who spent five years in a refugee camp and then came to Iowa and gained work to bring the rest of his family over from refugee camps in Thailand. This source allowed me to gain perspective on the current refugee issues and the continuation of resettling displaced refugees to Iowa.

"New Iowans Program." *University of Northern Iowa*, 2000. Web. 4 May 2017.

As a result of Iowa's revolutionary refugee resettlement, the University of Northern Iowa wanted to further advance the impact of Iowa in terms of success by innovating a way to allow refugees to obtain a college education. The New Iowans Program (NIP) provided consultation for community leadership, develop training programs, and to educate Iowans concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities. This advanced the impact of both Iowa's native citizens and the newly resettled refugees and immigrants in a way palatable to the state. The humanitarian effort in Iowa was a large cooperative effort to successfully resettle refugees. This helped me understand the revolutionary work in Iowa and the humanitarian stand the citizens of Iowa provided in order to make life in America better for the refugees.

"Robert D. Ray: An Iowa Governor, a Humanitarian Leader." *IPTV*. IPTV, 12 Jan. 2017. Web. 25 Feb. 2017.
<http://www.iptv.org/iowapathways/mypath.cfm?ounid=ob_000348>.

Governor Ray's ambition and efforts to help refugees sparked a movement throughout the nation, setting the groundwork for fellow governors to follow. This site provided a foundation of knowledge on the humanitarian stand Governor Robert D. Ray took, leading the state of Iowa to stand up for refugee resettlement.

Tai Village. Web. 21 Jan. 2017. <<http://acbsia.tripod.com/baccamfamilytree/>>.

The Tai Village website was helpful in demonstrating the lasting effects of Governor Ray and Iowa's humanitarian efforts to resettle the ethnic group, the Tai Dam. Back in 1975, the Tai Dam's fear was being separated and having their culture disappear. However, because of Governor Ray's humanitarian stand, the Tai Dam was able to resettle as a group and after browsing their website, I was able to see that their culture is preserved and still thriving.

Tolan, Casey. "The Untold Story Of How Iowa Became A Haven For Refugees." *Fusion*. 4 Jan. 2016. Web. 16 Mar. 2017. <<http://fusion.net/story/249585/iowa-refugees-history-syrians/>>.

Refugees from when former Governor Ray was in office recall Iowans opening their homes and hearts and Iowa is known to have its doors open to refugees, but Iowa's current governor, Governor Branstad, recently decided to close those doors specifically to those seeking refuge from Syria. Accepting Syrian refugees has been no stranger to the political arena, and continues to be a notable debate. This article provided a new outlook on the difference of morality between the former and current governors of Iowa and the controversy with refugees today.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees." UNHCR, 5 Oct. 2011. Web. 04 May 2017. <<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/excom/unhcrannual/4ea134809/report-united-nations-high-commissioner-refugees-covering-period-1-january.html?query=United%2BNations%2Bhigh%2Bcommissioner%2Bfor%2Brefugees%2B2011>>.

As a national leader in refugee services, the United States along with the High Commissioner for Refugees from the United Nations created a report of current outreach goals and places that need assistance. This report has included in it a compilation of reports from all past Commissioners including the conference, which Governor Ray and Vice President Walter Mondale attended, which wished to utilize Iowa's system of resettlement on a global level. This demonstrated the world impact of the revolutionary government as the only state government with a certified entity to resettle refugees and how the entire world reacted by wanting to reform their own policies to better accommodate the refugees of the world.

"Vietnamese Heritage Project." *Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program*. Web. 04 May 2017. <<http://smithsonianapa.org/>>.

The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program began in 2004 as a means of recording the journeys of over 30,000 Vietnamese immigrants who came to America. The program allows their journeys and experiences to be shared and embraced throughout the nation. This project promotes Vietnamese culture and traditions, which have influenced and changed the culture in the United States. It also demonstrates and sheds light on the sacrifices many refugees were forced to endure in order to make a better life for themselves in America.

***White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders*. United States Department of Education, Oct. 2010. Web. 04 May 2017. <<https://sites.ed.gov/aapi/>>.**

On October 14, 2009, President Barack Obama signed an Executive Order reestablishing his commitment to Southeast Asians and people of the Pacific Islands. This was based on a summary of the program in Iowa as created by Governor Ray. It outlined all of the major groups Iowa had resettled up through 2008, of which the most recent group was the Bhutanese. This allowed me to appreciate the reaction created across the nation as a result of Iowa's humanitarian stand and the impact that continues today.