**The European Refugee Crisis and Syria Explained – Notes**

* summer 2015 refugee crisis in Europe
	+ Syrian crisis
		- Al-Assad (family of dictators) since 1971
	+ Arab spring
		- many regimes overthrown (but not Syria)
	+ ISIS enters Syria to build totalitarian state
		- war crimes
			* chem. weapons
			* mass executions
			* torture
			* attacks on civilians
		- citizens trapped between…
			* the regime
			* rebel groups
			* religious extremists
	+ Syrians flee (refugees) to neighbouring countries
		- called seeking asylum
		- Arab states taking 0% of them
		- UN not prepared
			* spend $ on weapons not aid
		- European states not prepared
		- divides world views on who should help
	+ Western fear
		- Islamic/muslim extremism and high birth rates and crime but…
			* extremism? - almost all are peaceful and numbers are small compared to existing population
			* population? – birthrates often change when people immigrate to western countries
			* crime? – most immigrants are not criminals and add to the work force
		- has taken few refugees compared to Jordan alone