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In *Digital Identity, Virtual Borders and Social Media: A Panacea for Migration Governance?*, political scientist Emre Eren Korkmaz assembles an impressive group of contributors who explore these modern, digital tools as being highly beneficial for migrants, using numerous methods, and in various parts of the world. These technologies are pivotal in empowering migrants to tend to their basic needs, learn their rights, gain knowledge about personal safety.

The model of digital identity secured to blockchain technology is innovative as it could allow for access to governmental services, humanitarian aid, and access to personal safety without the need for a centralized entity, such as a particular government, which has traditionally assigned paper identification. Forced migration can already be traumatic and harrowing by its very nature, so the need for a self-sovereign identity, or SSI can potentially solve many of the issues migrants face when attempting to secure identification. One example is The Rohingya Project (TRP), which seeks to provide all members of the Rohingya ethnicity in Bangladesh with digital identities.

Two different forms of digital identification for refugees, are explored as examples, punctuated by nearly a century. Brought to fruition in 1921, the Nansen Passport attempted to offer refugees of the Russian Civil War a way in which they could cross borders. The Blockchain Pilot Project was introduced in May 2018 to assist individuals in Kenya severely affected by

droughts. Both sought to provide identification beyond the “nation-state system,” in the same manner as other forms of digital identity.

Social media can be very helpful for migrants for several reasons. Migrants may use social media to plan their journeys and determine their futures as they resettle, as well as use it to provide information about the safety of their journeys to their family members who await reassurance of their passage. Social media also provides network capital and social support to many migrants. Since many migrants rely on smugglers to secure access to unknown territories, social media can provide information for both migrants and smugglers alike.

However, despite the optimistic approach to digital identities there are countless potential considerations that could be problematic for migrants. The very tools utilized to assist those who are disenfranchised can often become a means through which such methods as surveillance and questions surrounding data privacy and security are encouraged. Furthermore, there continues to be a divide amongst users who have access to mobile technology, with female migrants being far less likely to have access to mobile or Internet-enabled devices.

Additionally, there are potential downfalls to digitally tracking migrants. For example, the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning as a means of surveillance between the American-Canadian border creates a myriad of problems for some of the world’s most vulnerable populations, including racial, cultural, and religious profiling. Issues surrounding the technology itself, such as data breaches, privacy, and questions surrounding ownership of data are also problematic.

The final chapter, which closely examines the behavior of voters in Finland, Hungary, and Bulgaria with respect to their approach to migration and selection of members of the European Parliament, presents the findings of the Digital Refuge project, but the chapter appears

to be less aligned with the preceding compilation of texts, which mainly focus on the effect of digital identity and technology on migrants themselves, as opposed to the experiences or perceptions towards migrants. Although the collection of texts centers on migrants seeking refuge as a result of conflict or asylum, there is a room for more discussion surrounding migrants of those fleeing due to the effects of climate change.

Overall, *Digital identity, virtual borders and social media* captures a significant collection of perspectives that are in tune with many of the challenges surrounding migrants and modern technology today. The contributors offer hope and optimism for a segment of the world's disenfranchised populations. By decentralizing identification, it can provide a greater sense of empowerment, movement, and global freedom that is not otherwise tied to any corporate group, government, or entity. Nonetheless, the text offers a cautious optimism, one that is reaped in surveillance, skepticism, and concern over personal privacy due to data breaches and misuse of information. *Digital identity, virtual borders and social media: A Panacea for Migration Governance?* is an indispensable, contemporary collection of texts for scholars, students, and researchers interested in the rights of migrants and their means to obtain safety and security through modern technology.

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