

*The Longest Journey* is in the ‘Briefings’ series published by UNSW Press in association with Australian Policy Online. Despite its somewhat emotive title, it is very much a ‘briefing’, replete with facts and figures and restrained as far as rhetoric or ‘human interest’ is concerned.

Browne allows himself some mild reproof of some aspects of the Australian government’s refugee policies, but balances it by pointing out their achievements and comparative generosity. He provides a history of refugee programs throughout the world and the details of all the major refugee crises in Africa over the past forty years. Among the many people he has interviewed are three refugees: one has arrived in Australia through the resettlement program, one is still in a Kenyan camp trying to come to Australia, and the other has settled in Canada. Much of the book, however, is made up of background information from research and interviews with UN and government officials, and statistics, statistics and more statistics. The individual stories get swamped, and *The Longest Journey*, though a valuable contribution to the serious study of the refugee situation in Africa, makes tolerably dry reading.