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IMMIGRATION: A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROBLEM IN EUROPE

Abstract:

It's a long time for Europe to treat immigration. In recent years, especially after the Libyan and Syrian crisis, the rate of legal and illegal immigrants to Europe has increased dramatically. Since then, the issue of immigration has become one of interest of public opinion. At the outset, the economic aspect, and then the security aspect of immigration had discussed and challenged many European governments that even showed up in national elections. The human rights and cultural challenges also make the crisis more complicated.

The main question of this article is what aspects have the issue of immigration in Europe? The main hypothesis is that migration is an interdisciplinary phenomenon that should be considered in terms of economic, security, cultural, political and social aspects. In order to examine this hypothesis, following the study of phenomenon of immigration, different dimensions of immigration to Europe between 2013 and 2017, Contains: economic, security, cultural, political and social aspects are studied. And then the result of the discussion is written. The research method was descriptive-analytic.

Keywords:

Immigration, Europe, Security, Economics, Multi-Disciplinary

Introduction

It's a long time for Europe to treat immigration. In recent years, especially after the Libyan and Syrian crisis, the rate of legal and illegal immigrants to Europe has increased dramatically and at mid-2015 everybody spoke of the immigration crisis in Europe. Since then, the issue of immigration has become one of interest of public opinion. At the outset, the economic aspect, and then the security aspect of immigration had discussed and challenged many European governments. Some even believe that the Brexit has been affected by the immigration crisis.

When talking about immigration, it should be noted that this phenomenon is a historical phenomenon in human life and at this time, some Western countries are eager to attract immigrants. Contrary to popular belief, Immigration has a great economic benefit for the destination country. For example, some evaluations show that Immigration has improved the US economy (IGM Forum, 2016). Although, Freedom of movement across the borders of European countries has also improved the European average, it has made low-skilled Europeans worse off (Bodvarsson, Van den Berg, 2013: 157).

So immigration is not a simple phenomenon but a multifaceted. This is exactly the subject of this article. The main question of this article is what aspects have the issue of immigration in Europe? The main hypothesis is that immigration is an interdisciplinary phenomenon that should be considered in terms of economic, security and political aspects. In order to examine this hypothesis, following the study of phenomenon of immigration and the history of immigration to Europe, the immigration crisis and various motives of immigration are examined. And then the result of the discussion will be written. The research method is descriptive-analytic.

1- Immigration

"Immigration is the international movement of people into a destination country of which they are not natives or where they do not possess citizenship in order to settle or reside there, especially as permanent residents or naturalized citizens, or to take-up employment as a migrant worker or temporarily as a foreign worker" (Oxford online Dictionaries, 2017).

Historical migration of human populations begins with the movement of Homo erectus out of Africa across Eurasia about 1.75 million years ago. Homo sapiens appear to have occupied all of Africa about 150,000 years ago, moved out of Africa 70,000 years ago, and had spread across Australia, Asia and Europe by 40,000 years BCE. Migration to the Americas took place 20,000 to 15,000 years ago (Zerjal and her fellows, 2002: 467-469).

While the pace of migration had accelerated since the 18th century already, it would increase further in the 19th century. Manning distinguishes three major types of migration: labor migration, refugee migrations, and urbanization. Millions of agricultural workers left the countryside and moved to the cities causing unprecedented levels of urbanization. This phenomenon began in Great Britain in the late 18th century and spread around the world and continues to this day in many countries.

After the Second World War in 1945, one of the largest European migrations began, and the largest in the 20th century. It involved the migration and resettlement of close to or over 20 million people. The largest affected group was 16.5 million Germans expelled from Eastern Europe westwards. The second largest group was Poles, millions of whom were expelled westwards from eastern Kresy region and resettled in the so-called Recovered Territories. Hundreds of thousands of Poles, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians and some Belarusians were expelled eastwards from Europe to the Soviet Union.

In 1947, upon the Partition of India, large populations moved from India to Pakistan and vice versa, depending on their religious beliefs. The partition was created by the Indian Independence Act 1947 as a result of the dissolution of the British Indian Empire. The partition displaced up to 17 million people in the former British Indian Empire with estimates of loss of life varying from several hundred thousand to a million. Muslim residents of the former British India migrated to Pakistan (including East Pakistan, now Bangladesh), whilst Hindu and Sikh residents of Pakistan and Hindu residents of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) moved in the opposite direction (Metcalf, B., Metcalf, Th., 2006: 300-372).

2- The Historical Background of Immigration

The first class of targeted immigration into Europe began in the 1950s (after the massive aftermath of World War II), to be integrated within Western European markets which were ransacking for cheap and labor at the time. Shortage of subdued Western European labor together with the immigration policies of the 1950-60s (regarding the recovery and reconstruction of Europe) resulted in constant growth of Muslim immigrant population. Those first generation of immigrants lacked a defined position in the political considerations of the European governments and no significant measure was taken to integrate them within the society (Hermes, 2010: 22). In the late 1970s, the rise in the total number of immigrants became a matter of public concern in as much as some political literates even linked immigration to destabilization and public disorder (Jef, 2000: 754).

By mid-1980s, a transition occurred in the perspective toward immigration phenomenon. It could be correlated with asylum and thus immigration was readily related to political issues. In this regard, a direct liaison could be shaped between illegal immigration and asylum applications (Jef, 2000: 755). A need for a common immigration law and the integration of European immigration policy could be alarmingly felt when the European Union Treaty (Maastricht Treaty, 1992).

Since the late 1990s, especially after 9/11 attack, the issue of immigration has gradually entered the security domain. At that time, European countries deemed immigration (and asylum) as an important internal security issues and correlated it with terrorism, violence, and extremism. The Diaspora of war refugees to European countries was not replied correspondingly by their governing rulers. They showed a very poor performance in establishing a constructive relationship with the new Muslim refugees (Christina, 2006).

The issue of immigration to developed countries, especially after World War II, has always been a matter for politicians and scholars. The issue that nowadays has become more serious in recent years as a source of international attention, especially for European countries, which began virtually since 2013, following the Syrian crisis and the civil war in Iraq. The commitment of European countries to international conventions on migration, refugees and human rights, on the one hand, closing its borders and imposing some violent behavior in dealing with refugees on the other hand, places these countries in a contradiction. Today, European countries are faced with a number of challenges regarding the growing number of immigrants. However, there is no effective policy in Europe in dealing with them. Today, issues such as the dire situation of displaced people, the plight of migrants and displaced people to Europe, the drowning of a large number of them in the Mediterranean, the repeated violations of human rights principles by European governments in dealing with refugees on the one hand The terrorist attacks of Islamic fundamentalists, such as ISIS, into some European countries and, consequently, the increase in violence against Muslims on the other hand, has once again made the issue of immigration to Europe the focus of global attention. The importance of the issue of immigration is not limited to electoral literature and hot topics but has become one of the most controversial issues in contemporary European security politics (Tomkiw, 2015).

According to Eurostat, EU member states received over 1.2 million first-time asylum applications in 2015; more than double that of the previous year. Four states (Germany, Hungary, Sweden and Austria) received around two-thirds of the EU's asylum applications in 2015, with Hungary, Sweden and Austria being the top recipients of asylum applications per capita (Eurostat, 2016).

3- Immigration Motivation

Ascertaining motivation is complex, but, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, most of the people arriving in Europe in 2015 were refugees, fleeing war and persecution (Operational portal: Refugee Situations, 2017) in countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Eritrea: according to UNHCR data, 84% of Mediterranean Sea arrivals in 2015 came from the world's top ten refugee-producing countries (Clayton, Holland, 2015) According to UNHCR, the top ten nationalities of Mediterranean Sea arrivals in 2015 were Syria (49%), Afghanistan (21%), Iraq (8%), Eritrea (4%), Pakistan (2%), Nigeria (2%), Somalia (2%), Sudan (1%), the Gambia (1%) and Mali (1%). Asylum seekers of seven nationalities had an asylum recognition rate of over 50% in EU States in the first quarter of 2015, meaning that they obtained protection over half the time they applied: Syrians (94% recognition rate), Eritreans (90%), Iraqis (88%), Afghans (66%), Iranians (65%), Somalis (60%) and Sudanese (53%). Migrants of these nationalities accounted for 90% of the arrivals in Greece and 47% of the arrivals in Italy between January and August 2015, according to UNHCR data (The Economist, 2015). Wars fueling the crisis are the Syrian Civil War and the Iraq War, the War in Afghanistan, the War in Somalia and the War in Darfur. Refugees from Eritrea, one of the most repressive states in the world, flee from indefinite military conscription and forced labor (The Guardian, 2015). Some ethnicities or religions from an originating country are more represented among the migrants than others, for instance Kurds make up 80 to 90 percent of all Turkish refugees in Germany (Jansen, 2016).

Migrants from the Western Balkans (Kosovo, Albania, Serbia) and parts of West Africa (The Gambia, Nigeria) are more likely to be economic migrants, fleeing poverty and lack of jobs, many of them hoping for a better lifestyle and job offers, without valid claims to refugee status (Nossiter, 2015). The majority of asylum applicants from Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro are Roma people who feel discriminated against in their countries of origin (BBC News, 2015). The influx from states like Nigeria and Pakistan is a mix of economic migrants and refugees fleeing from violence and war such as Boko Haram insurgency in north-east Nigeria and the War in North-West Pakistan (King, 2015).

According to UNHCR data, 58% of the refugees and migrants arriving in Europe by sea in 2015 were men, 17% were women and 25% were children (Wright, 2015). Of the asylum applications received in Sweden in 2015, 70% were by men (including minors) (Swedish Migration Agency, 2016). Men search for a safe place to live and work before attempting to reunite later with their families (Akkash, 2015). In war-torn countries, men are also at greater risk of being forced to fight or of being killed (Hudson, 2016). Among people arriving in Europe there were, however, also large numbers of women and children, including unaccompanied children (Akkash, 2015). Europe has received a record number of asylum applications from unaccompanied child refugees in 2015, as they became separated from their families in war, or their family could not afford to send

more than one member abroad. Younger refugees also have better chances of receiving asylum (Hui, 2015).

Some argue that migrants have been seeking to settle preferentially in those national destinations offering more generous social welfare benefits and hosting more established Middle Eastern and African immigrant communities. Others argue that migrants are attracted to more tolerant societies with stronger economies, and that the chief motivation for leaving Turkey is that they are not permitted to leave camps or work (Lyman, 2015). A large number of refugees in Turkey have been faced with rather difficult living circumstances.[119] Thus, many refugees arriving in southern Europe continue their journey in attempts to reach northern European countries such as Germany, which are observed as having more prominent outcomes of security (Akkash, 2015). In contrast to Germany, historically a popular final destination for the EU migrants, France saw its popularity erode in 2015 among migrants seeking asylum (Aisch,Almukhtar,Keller, Andrews, 2015).

Refugees coming specifically from the Middle East have been attempting to seek asylum in Europe rather than in countries surrounding their own neighboring regions (Hawkins, 2015). In 2015, over 80% of the refugees whom arrived in Europe by sea came from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan (BBC News. 2016-03-03).Routes, in which these refugees face while attempting to arrive in Europe, are most often extremely dangerous (Leigh, 2016). The jeopardy to endure such routes also supports the arguments behind certain refugees' preferential motivations of seeking asylum within European nations (Akkash, 2015).

4- Countries in crisis

Between 2007 and 2011, large numbers of migrants from the Middle East and Africa crossed between Turkey and Greece, leading Greece and the European Border Protection agency Frontex to upgrade border controls (BBC, 2014). In 2012, immigrant influx into Greece by land decreased by 95% after the construction of a fence on that part of the Greek–Turkish frontier which does not follow the course of the Maritsa River (Ekathimerini, 2012). In 2015, Bulgaria followed by upgrading a border fence to prevent migrant flows through Turkey (Angel, 2015).

In 2008, Berlusconi's government in Italy and Gaddafi's government in Libya signed a treaty including cooperation between the two countries in stopping irregular migration from Libya to Italy; this led to a policy of forcibly returning to Libya boat migrants intercepted by the Italian coast guard at sea (Human Rights Watch, 2009). The cooperation collapsed following the outbreak of the Libyan civil war in 2011, and in 2012 the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Italy had violated the European

Convention on Human Rights by returning migrants to Libya, as it exposed the migrants to the risk of being subjected to ill-treatment in Libya and violated the prohibition of collective expulsions (Amnesty International, 2012). Since 2011, and particularly since 2014, instability and the Second Civil War in Libya have made departures from the north-African country to Italy easier, with no central authority controlling Libya's ports and dealing with European countries, and migrant smuggling networks flourishing. The war could also have forced to leave many African immigrants residing in Libya, which used to be itself a destination country for migrants looking for better jobs (BBC, 2015). The 2013 Lampedusa migrant shipwreck involved "more than 360" deaths, leading the Italian government to establish Operation Mare Nostrum, a large-scale naval operation that involved search and rescue, with some migrants brought aboard a naval amphibious assault ship (Ministero Delladifesa, 2014). In 2014, the Italian government ended the operation, calling the costs too large for one EU state alone to manage; Frontex assumed the main responsibility for search and rescue operations. The Frontex operation is called Operation Triton (European Union, European Commission, 2015). The Italian government had requested additional funds from the EU to continue the operation but member states did not offer the requested support (Vice News, 19 April 2015.). The UK government cited fears that the operation was acting as «an unintended 'pull factor', encouraging more migrants to attempt the dangerous sea crossing and thereby leading to more tragic and unnecessary deaths» (theguardian, 27 October 2014). The operation consisted of two surveillance aircraft and three ships, with seven teams of staff who gathered intelligence and conducted screening/identification processing. Its monthly budget was estimated at €2.9 million (European Union, European Commission, 2015).

5- Conclusion

In this paper, we tried to examine the various dimensions of the phenomenon of immigration. For this purpose, the concept of immigration and its history were first examined. Then, the historical status of immigration to Europe was checked to show that the issue of immigration is not a new phenomenon. The examination of immigration crisis and immigration incentives was the next topic. The countries that have the most conflict with immigration issues as well as political parties faced with this phenomenon were also examined. From these discussions it can be concluded that immigration is not a new issue in contemporary history, and even its motivations have not changed. What made immigration a crisis in the current state is that Auruma as an immigration destination is in a crisis and may not be able to create jobs for all immigrants. On the other hand, most immigrants are concerned about the cultural difference between European governments.

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