



MIGRATION TO EUROPE, - ITS CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS –

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Introduction

- In 2015, *60 million* people have forcibly been displaced *across the world*.
- In the same year, *1.2 million* refugees reached Europe, most of them came from *Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, and Libya*,
- And most of them went to *Germany, Sweden, Austria, and the Netherlands*.

Welcome!

- *Michel Houellebecq*: “*Soumission*” (2015), but already earlier (1998) in “*Elementary Particles*”: sceptical against Islam
- **Contrast:** “*Willkommen in unserer Mitte*”: concert under the patronage of *Angela Merkel* with *Iván Fischer, Daniel Barenboim and Sir Simon Rattle*

Famous Refugees

- *Ovid, Dante, Rousseau, Victor Hugo, James Joyce, Paul Celan, Bertold Brecht, Thomas Mann, Hans Habe (Békessy János), Miloš Crnjanski, **Vitold Gombrowicz**, Vladimir Nabokov, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.....*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

- *Not a refugee* but has Turkish ancestors
- 13th century battle with Crusaders, *Sadok Selim*, a Turkish captain, was made prisoner by the *Teutonic Order* (Deutschritterorden)
- He was brought to Germany, converted to *Christianism* and married *Rebekka Dobler*
- Collateral line branch of this family still exists in Germany

Biblical refugees

- **Adam and Eve.** Because of sin, our *first parents* became refugees – so we are all descendants of refugees!
- After murdering Abel, **Cain** became a second-generation refugee.
- **Noah** and his family were displaced when they entered the ark and the Flood destroyed the world they knew.

Biblical refugees (2)

- Famine sent **Abraham** packing to Egypt for refuge
- The **Old Testament** continues with the displacement of other familiar Bible characters: *Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Joseph, Moses...*and
- The **New Testament** doesn't miss a beat, starting with *Mary, Joseph, and Jesus* fleeing to Egypt to avoid persecution and death.

Refugees in the history

- In the history, the number of refugees is very high. Here, we will only mention one:
- After the *Hungarian revolution in 1956*, Western countries gave asylum to about *250,000 Hungarian refugees*.

Reasons to emigrate

- *The industrialisation creating proletariats;*
- *The increase of the population in a country, and the misery in the agriculture*

are the **main reasons** for migration in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Reasons to emigrate (2)

- Nowadays, **the main reasons** of emigration are the
 - *wars and civil wars* in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Libya, and some African countries, e.g., in Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Eritrea
- Many western countries, especially the USA, have been involved, in the wars and civil wars in these countries, directly or indirectly
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Reason to emigrate (3)

- ***Al Qaeda*** and
- ***Islamic State*** (ISIS)
- are considered *made-in-the-USA*, as an instrument of terror designed to divide and conquer the oil-rich Middle East and to counter Iran's growing influence in the region

Traffickers

- 90% of the *people leaving their countries* – are transferred to
 - Turkey and from there to
 - Greece and further on the Balkan Route to
 - Western Europe, by traffickers or gangs of people.
- They might ask up to EUR 5,000 per person for transferring refugees to a “secured” place and earn by this activity about EUR 10 to 15 billion per year.
- .

From where are they coming?

- In 2015, there were about *60 million refugees* in the world. *Most refugees* come from the following countries:
- Syria: 4.9 million,
- Afghanistan: 2.7 million,
- Somalia: 1.11 million,
- South Sudan: 800,000, Sudan: 666,000, Iraq: 369,000,
- Eritrea: 363,100...

Where did they found refuge?

- Jordan: 2.7 million
- Turkey: 2.5 million
- Pakistan: 1.6 million
- Lebanon: 1.5 million
- Iran: 979,000

Refugees: male majority

- Among these refugees, the *majority is male* and the more difficult the route to be passed is, the lower the proportion of women is.
- This is also the reason why the percentage of young men coming from countries like Eritrea, Somalia, Syria, and Afghanistan is high (75%).

From secured countries

- But here are also refugees *coming from more secured countries* than those mentioned above: from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Serbia.
- Last year, their number has reached 14% of all refugees, i.e., 172,000 in the EU

Refugees applying for asylum

- In 2015, the refugees *applied for asylum* in the following European countries:
 - *Germany:* 476.510,
 - *Sweden:* 162.455
 - *Italy:* 84.085
 - *France:* 75.755,
 - *Netherlands:* 44.975,
- and in the *EU in total:* 1,321.570.

Refugees applying for asylum

- Of these refugees
- 61.7% have **high school diploma**,
- 43.7% have *university degree*, but
- 27.8% do not have professional qualification, and
- 8% do not have even any graduation.

Reasons for leaving their countries of origin

- Most of the refugees indicated the *civil war* in their countries,
- others *political or religious reasons*,
- *hunger*,
- *persecution* due to belonging to a certain tribe or ethnic group, and
- And some of them indicated *economic reasons* for emigration.

Western Balkan Route

Obviously, it is not easy to accept and integrate the amount of refugees mentioned above.

Therefore, leaders representing Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia agreed, on October 25, 2015, on an

Action Plan on Western Balkans Migration Route

Further actions

- On February 14, 2016 at the **Vienna Conference**, the West Balkan states went even further: they decided *to mutually help each other to control the borders of the West Balkan states by sending policemen to the border points which are especially charged by refugees.*
- On November 30, 2015, the EU took *measures for elimination of emigration causes in Africa*, and on March 18, 2016 the EU and Turkey concluded **a migration deal** on *repatriation of refugees to Turkey.*

Other measures taken

- the *UN subsidy* of USD 6 billion to Syria and its borderlands,
- the *EU-Turkey Action Plan* of November 4, 2015 providing EUR 3 billion to Turkey from the EU for border protection, sea rescue, and elimination of human traffickers, and
- *China-Africa Cooperation Agreement* of December 4, 2015 promising EUR 56 billion as development aid by China to African countries.

The legal situation of refugees

The main sources of refugee law are the treaty laws, notably, the **1951 Refugee Convention** and its **1967 Protocol**, and the **customary international law**. The customary international law applies to all states irrespective of whether they are a party to relevant treaties or not.

Reception of refugees

- Czeslaw Milosz in “*In Research of a Homeland*” (1992), the paradigm of banishment:
- *Fear of unfamiliarity in the new environment,*
- *Feeling of being lost,*
- *Impossibility of returning home,*
- *Loss of internal freedom, and*
- *Solitude*
-

Reception of refugees (2)

- *Marc Chagall*
- *Samuel Beckett*
- *James Joyce*
- *Isaac Bashevis*
- *Igor Stravinsky*
- Emigration has proved to have some *creative advantages*
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Problems in immigration

- Cultural,
- Ecological,
- Societal,
- Political, and
- Technological problems

Need of immigrants

- 2010: 740 million people are living in Europe, incl. Russia,
- 2040: 711 million
- *Young people*: 2010 210 million but in 2040 only 155 million
- *Working people*: 2015 266 million but in 2025 only 200 million and in 2050 160 million
- *If no migrant replacement!*

Whom to accept?

- *Erasmus of Rotterdam*
- 500 years ago
- *“I would prefer a sincere Turk to a false Christian!”*



1. G E R M A N Y

Refugees in Germany

- Welcome!
- Reception of refugees
- Employment of refugees
- Resistance against refugees

Welcome!

- *66th Berlinale (2016): Golden Bear for “**Fuocoammare**” (Fire on the sea) by *Gianfranco Rosi**
- *Ai Weiwei: draped a concert hall in Berlin with 14.000 refugee life jackets*

Refugees in Germany

- *Hitler-Stalin Pact: 93,000 “Heim ins Reich”*
- *After WWII: 17 million of German origin*
- *Not always friendly reception until late 1950s*
- *From the 1960s songs like*
- *: “Marina, Marina,,,” “Zwei kleine Italianer...”*
- *Manfred Rommel: “The multicultural society exists already in Germany”*

Refugees in Germany (2)

- *Wolfgang Schäuble: “The Islam is part of Germany and part of Europe.”*
- *Max Frisch: “We wanted workers, but human beings came!”*
- Today 2/3 of Germans are positive and open toward migration and integration.

KIRON

- In Berlin, owing to the initiative of two students – KIRON – an internationally accredited on-line refugees’ university has been set up under the slogan:
- **“For everyone. Any time. Everywhere. For free, offering World-Class education for Refugees”**

Employment of refugees

- Germany: *need of qualified workers because 850.000 are leaving the country per year*
- German companies: *68% have positive experiences by employing refugees*
- But according to some estimation, it will take 20 year until the employment level of refugees will reach the German level, for women even longer

Resistance against refugees

- By populism
- *AfG (Alternative für Deutschland)*
- *Pegida (Patriotische Europäer gegen Islamisierung des Abendlandes)*
- *Daily riots against refugees (Clauswitz, Bautzen...)*
- Because of *criminal acts* (e.g., Cologne and others)

Criminal acts committed by refugees

- *Increased in 2015 to 208,344 from 116,000 in 2014*
- 33% were thefts,
- 32% other non-violent crimes, and
- 1% violent crimes
- ***But also the number of refugees increased from 200,000 in 2014 to 890,000 in 2015***



2. H U N G A R Y

Against the refugees

- Inflammatory campaigns
- Barbed wires along the southern border, thereafter also at the Croatian border
- Referendum
- Change of the Basic Law?

Inflammatory campaign

- “In 2014, **Orbán**: “*hard*” policy against refugees because their massive arrival could lead to the “*abrogation of a homogeneous society.*”
- “*The EU immigration policy is hypocrite, without moral basis and doesn’t have any finality.*”

Inflammatory campaign (2)

- Closing the border for “*illegal immigrants*”
- *Mistreatment* of refugees at the border
- Some foreign politicians (*Jean Asselborn*) ask: *firing order next?*
- *German courts* (but also French, Swedish and Belgian as well) *refused to send back refugees to Hungary because they fear that they might be mistreated there*

Inflammatory campaign (3)

- March 15, 2016, **Orbán**: *“We know how does it work. First, we let them [i.e., Brussels] saying whom have we to accept, then they will force us to serve foreigners in our own country, and, finally, the refugees will expulse us from our own country.”*
- *“People coming from Islam will not vote for a party having Christian basis”, they will vote for the left!*

Quota system

- EU, taking in consideration the number of the population of each EU Member State as well as their economic situation, decided a *quota of refugees* for each recipient country
- *1.294 for Hungary*
- *Hungary voted against, but the majority of the EU Member States accepted such decision and, therefore, based on art. 78, par. 2 of the Lisbon Treaty, it became **valid**.*
- Some constitutional lawyers are against.

Referendum

- On October 2, 2016, referendum was held in Hungary
- **Question:** “Do you want that the European Union should have the power to impose the compulsory settlement of non-Hungarian citizens in Hungary without the consent of the National Assembly of Hungary?”

Result of the referendum

- Only 43% of the citizens entitled to vote went to vote: no quorum reached (50%), therefore the *referendum is invalid*
- Of the voters 98.3% voted NO and 1.7% YES, while 6% of votes was invalid.
- Nevertheless, the government considered this *result* as “*positive*” and announced that therefore it **shall be included to the Basic Law!**

Constitutional change

- Proposed constitutional change:
- *“We herewith claim that the protection of our constitutional identity, which is rooted in our historical constitution, is fundamental obligation of the State.”*

Hungarian Investment Program

- *Pál Schmidt: “There is no need for the half of billion Europeans to be afraid from 75 million of Muslims.”*
- *Hungarian Investment Program* provides opportunity to acquire permanent resident status for non-EU citizens by buying *Special Government Bonds*.
- Until now: 18,000 foreigners bought such *Special Government Bonds*.

Solutions?

- ❑ Obviously, the international treaties mentioned before are not in the position to resolve the refugees' problem.
- ❑ Until now neither the EU, nor the Frontex, nor the NATO have been capable of resolving such an enormous problem as the refugees' problem constitutes
- ❑ Solution on the UN level.

Solutions on the UN level

- *First, the **armed conflicts** in the states where wars and civil wars are waging, **should be stopped by common accord of the conflicting parties by decisions on UN level**; here especially an accord between the US, Russia, and the Middle East countries is required,*
- *Second, **arm exports** to countries in conflict **should be stopped**, or at least limited,*

Solutions (2)

- *Third*, the **developed countries** around the world undertake – in proportion of their economic strength – the **reconstruction of these countries** by according them *financial aids, helping them to educate their citizens and refugees, enabling thus the latter to return to their countries of origin*, and
- *Fourth*, until the above mentioned measures have been achieved, the developed countries around the world should be **obliged to receive refugees in proportion of their economic strength**.

Prospects

In case such decisions could not be taken, the **continuation of war and civil war** in these countries and the continuous **afflux of refugees** could cause not only a heavy damage to the EU, but may also lead to **new armed conflicts, even in Europe.**