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“JOURNEYS OF HOPE”

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS TO
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND TOLERANCE

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF IMMIGRATION IN EUROPE

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First Description of the Migration Movement

The first cities appeared around 2000 B.C. in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean (on Cyprus; in Greece and on Crete). On the coast of the Greek mainland the Mycenaean settled, although at first the Minoan culture was the most powerful. Mycenae was destroyed in 1200 B.C. and people left for Crete, Italy, Cyprus and Sicily.

About 1000 B.C. the Ionians settled in the Eastern part of the Aegean and on the Anatolian coast.

Around 800- 600 B.C. they went from there to Italy, Sicily and to the territory up to the Black Sea coast. There were many colonies founded. The first wave of people came from the 8th to the halfway 7th century B.C. and the second one from 6th until 5th century B.C. and the colonisation reached as far as Corsica (Alalia) and Gaul. This colony had his own colonies in Antibes, Nice, Adge and also the Iberian Peninsula and the Eastern part of Europe were part of this colony.

At the heart of the Greek cities there lay both economic reasons the same as solving demographical problems and also supplying new markets.

When the Greek polis- system appeared, there were two waves of colonisation. Some cities played an important role and in this way, cities were founded in the west of the Mediterranean Sea. All these Cities were called Large Greece (Magna Graecia).

The Hellenic culture had a noticeable influence at many places, for example in the Scythian culture and in Southern Russia. The Hellenic civilisation mixed with Buddhism and was there at least until the 5th century A.C.

The Greek Polis was a source of migration both for economic and political reasons. Most emigrants left the Greek area and only slaves entered.

Greek Colonisation

The Greek area was quicker to develop than the rest of Europe, because it was in Greece that fixed settlements, called Polis, arose long before they would do so elsewhere. These cities dominated large parts of Southeastern Europe and were also the center of commerce such as trading with many remote regions between the poleis.

A lot of migration took place to and from Greek cities, due in part to economic reasons such as new markets requiring intermediate stations on trade routes to be founded and populated by Greek citizens. Also, people from conquered areas were brought to the Greek Polis to work as slaves.

The migration period

The Migration Period was a time of widespread migrations within or into Europe in the middle of the first millennium AD. In German it has also been termed the 'Völkerwanderung', and from Roman and south European perspective it is called 'Barbarian Invasions'. Many of these migrations were movements of Germanic, Slavic, and other people into the territory of the then Roman Empire, with or without accompanying invasions or war.

In the 19th century immigration was defined a "running" from about the 5th to 8th centuries AD.

The first migrations were made by Germanic tribes such as the Goths, the Vandals, the Scirii, and Franks. Later invasions are outside the scope of the Migration period.

The Barbarian Invasions may be divided into two phases.

The **first phase**, between a.d. 300 and 500, is partly documented by Greek and Latin historians but difficult to verify archaeologically. Therefore Germanic people got control of most areas of what turned into the Western Roman Empire later.

The **second phase** is mostly about 'Germanic Iron Age' and 'Early Slavs'. It took place between 500 and 700 and saw Slavic settling in Central -/ Eastern Europe. Additionally, Turkic tribes, the Avars and the Lombards (which settled in Italy and were followed by Bavarians and Franks) and the Bulgars became involved in this phase.

Migration from 1500 to 1800

For several centuries, Europe contributed a lot to intercontinental migration. More than 65 million Europeans left their continent, whereas migration from other continents to Europe was extremely limited.

Many Europeans had enough money to emigrate to settlements overseas. Over there they were able to improve their income and life expectancy. Some of them never returned.

But most non-Europeans were not able to afford this, so most came to Europe as slaves. In Southern Europe, the importing of slaves dates back to the Arab conquest of the Iberian Peninsula, whereas in North-western Europe, the arrival of non-European slaves was limited to those who accompanied their masters when visiting Europe.

On the one hand, the Italian city states employed slaves from Eastern Europe both at home and in their overseas colonies along the Dalmatian coast and on the islands in the Mediterranean Sea. The demand for slaves increased in those areas where sugar cane was grown. Slowly but surely African slaves began to replace slaves from the East when the expansion of Turkey blocked the customary slave trade routes.

Once the Reconquista was over, hundreds of thousands were brought to Portugal, Spain, Sicily and Northern Italy, where they worked as domestic slaves or craftsmen and in agriculture. For example in Lisbon around 10 per cent of the population in 1550 were black slaves (estimated 10,000 people). A considerable number of Africans became active Christians or founded African brotherhoods. African slaves were treated with less cruelty than captive than Muslims because their owners expected them to convert more easily to Catholicism.

Other African slaves were forced to cultivate sugar cane in southern Spain and Portugal. Plantations with black slaves and white management became a model that was exported to the newly conquered islands in the Atlantic Ocean such as the Canaries, the Azores, Madeira and Sao Tome. Africa became the provider of most of the world's intercontinental migrants.

A few Africans arrived in Europe via the New World. These migrants were usually accompanying their master and kept their slave status while in Europe. London housed around 15,000 Africans in the middle of the 18th century.

Jonathan Strong, a West Indian slave, ill-treated and abandoned by his master during their temporary stay in London, fought a successful legal battle against having to return to his master and thus to the West Indies, while James Somersett equally successfully refused to go to Virginia with his new master, who had acquired him at a slave auction in London. These legal cases stipulated that forced migration had no basis in British law. Similarly, Dutch and French laws did not recognize slavery, which made it risky for slave masters to travel to these countries with their slaves.

World War I - The origins of the refugee crisis

The First World War uprooted millions of European civilians, most of whom were innocent bystanders. The resulting crisis had profound consequences, not only for the individuals directly affected but also for officials and relief workers who attempted to relieve their suffering and for communities that hosted refugees. These upheavals did not end in 1918.



In August 1914 the Russian occupation of East Prussia caused around one million Germans to flee their homes. Before long, Germany's occupation of Belgium and northern France, Poland and Lithuania provoked a mass movement of refugees. Austria's invasion of Serbia resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe as soldiers and civilians sought to escape the occupation regime. In the Russian Empire, non-Russian minorities such as Poles, Latvians, Lithuanians, Ukrainians and Jews were disproportionately concentrated in the western borderlands and thus particularly vulnerable when Germany and Austria invaded. In addition, Tsarist military commanders accused these minorities – falsely – of aiding and abetting the enemy, and deported them to the Russian interior.

In the Ottoman Empire, meanwhile, Turkish troops uprooted Armenians who had lived side by side with their Turkish and Kurdish neighbours for generations, but who were now regarded as the enemy within.

As Talat Pasha, a leading official, put it in a coded telegram in April 1915: 'The objective that the government expects to achieve by expelling the Armenians from the areas in which they live and their transportation to other appointed areas is to ensure that this community will no longer be able to undertake initiatives and actions against the government, and that they will be brought to a state in which they will be unable to pursue their national aspirations related to advocating a government of Armenia.' Thus the refugee crisis had two main causes.

The first was enemy occupation that persuaded civilians to flee along with retreating troops. (Of course, not all civilians did so.) The second cause was the state's use of force against its own people – in other words, organised deportation.

Belgian refugees

In 1914-15 Belgian refugees arrived in France and the Netherlands in large numbers. Around 160,000 refugees found shelter in the UK, where the government kept a close watch on them. In Britain more than 2,500 committees provided charitable relief to Belgian refugees. However, when the refugees gave no sign of going home, complaints began to surface that they made intolerable demands on host communities and were insufficiently grateful.

Serbian refugees

Serbia's defeat at the hands of Austrian forces led to the flight of soldiers and civilians, amounting to one third of the total pre-war population.

Half a million refugees made their way across the mountains into Albania. Many ended up in Corfu, Corsica, and Tunisia; perhaps 200,000 died en route. Others were incarcerated in Austrian camps and forced to work for the enemy.

The Society of Friends (Quakers) and the American Red Cross provided some assistance, and the Serbian Relief Fund brought some refugee children to the UK.

Armenian refugees

Armenians who escaped or survived the massacres perpetrated by Turkish troops were scattered across the Middle East and Russia. Fellow Armenians in the Russian Empire and further afield supplied them with food and medicine, looked after orphans, and provided basic schooling. These efforts were supported by non-Armenian sympathisers who regarded Armenian refugees as innocent Christian victims. The most important organisation was Near East Relief, which funded American missionaries and nurses in Syria, Palestine and Turkey itself. Many of the surviving refugees eventually migrated to Western Europe or North America.

Aftermath

Most Belgian refugees returned home by the end of the war. Serbian refugees returned to an entirely new country, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, otherwise known as Yugoslavia. Like Serbia, Poland and Russia's western borderlands had been devastated by the war. Civil war in Russia brought about fresh movements of population, including the exodus of Russians who were opposed to the Bolshevik regime. War between Soviet Russia and Poland – which came to an end only in 1921 – added to civilian suffering and displacement.

From 1933 to 1948

The next phase during which massive forced relocations of the population took place were the years of and around World War II. This period began with the Jewish population's emigration from Germany after the National Socialists' takeover of power and the beginning of discrimination and persecution in 1933.

After the Munich Agreement of 1938, several hundreds of thousands of people left their hereditary place of residence in what was, until then, Czechoslovakia, due to actual or feared violence.

The time of World War II was marked by the deportation and mass murder of Jews in particular, but also of other groups such as the Sinti and Roma, living under German rule. Especially from the east of Europe, millions of forced laborers were transported to Germany. Finally, there were huge migratory movements in Europe after the end of the war.

Millions of former prisoners of war, forced laborers and concentration camp inmates (displaced persons) were sent back to their countries of origin.

Many surviving Jews left Europe altogether and resettled in the newly founded state of Israel or in the United States. The largest group were the more than two million Poles who were taken from the former eastern part of Poland, which now was annexed to the Soviet Union, to the western part of the country, which formerly had been part of Germany. Most of the forced migrations executed or tolerated by the state were explicitly justified by stating that territorial claims on settlement areas made by ethnic minorities were to be ruled out in the future.

Migrations during and after the Cold War

During the Cold War, the trend to ethnic homogenization continued, but this mostly was the result of individual decisions to emigrate and only in exceptional cases it was an official state policy goal, like in Bulgaria. German “late emigrants”, Jews, Turks, other Muslims, Hungarians, Armenians, Greeks, and other ethnicities emigrated from many countries of East and South East Europe.

After the collapse of the “Iron Curtain”, which was accompanied by improved possibilities to travel, this trend continued and even increased. The former Soviet Union also saw the beginning of new migratory movements, mostly driven by members of the Russian diaspora relocating to Russia from the newly independent states.

Yugoslavia and the Caucasus

The conflicts in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Chechnya resulted in the flight of hundreds of thousands of people. During the civil wars which raged in the former Yugoslavia (Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo) between 1992 and 1999, mass flight, expulsions, and massacres took place right on the European Union’s “doorstep”. Once more, the historic context was the formation of new national-states, motivated by an ethnically defined nationalism. Depending on the military situation, Croats, Serbs, Albanians, Roma, and Muslims were affected – with the latter, their religion was used as a means to determine their “ethnic identity”, the only characteristic which distinguished them from the Catholic Croats and the Orthodox Serbs. According to estimates, more than two million people were affected.

Austria and the Hungarian Refugees of 1956-1957

A breaking wave of refugees

At the outbreak of the revolution and during the early days of fighting, there was little to worry about because the number of refugees was relatively small. At this point only 3,000 to 4,000 people crossed into Austria. Although the authorities had been preparing for an arrival of refugees, this mass immigration exceeded all their calculations. For weeks, the border was entirely open and on a daily basis 3,000 to 5,000 refugees entered Austrian soil.

The “Iron Curtain”—or to use the official Hungarian term, the “technical border barrier”—had sealed off the border since 1949, but it had been dismantled in the spring of 1956 as a consequence of the improved relations between Austria and Hungary during what is referred to as the “thaw period” in the international context of the Cold War. Now with both the barbed wire and the mines entirely gone, the refugees could easily stroll over what the Austrians called the “green border”.

Later, when the Soviet troops started to survey the border more closely, the best known way to reach Austria was without doubt over the so called “Einser Kanal” (Channel Number One) at the famous bridge at Andau, later immortalized in James Michener’s famous novel.

While the fighting was still going on in Hungary, many women and children were sent over the border for their protection. Later, when the fighting ceased many young men crossed the border. The refugees included entire families, people of all ages, students, and even orphans. The reasons for their flight ranged from the fear of political repression as a consequence of the revolution to the long-cherished wish to escape the communist regime. More than half of the refugees came from the capital city of Budapest, while the rest hailed almost exclusively from the western regions of Hungary. About 4 percent of the national population fled; the percentage from the city of Sopron was as high as 12 percent. Two-thirds of the refugees were male, with more than half under the age of 25.

Czech Prague Spring Refugees

With regard to the former, the expression of anti-Communist views was made through force, and when confronted by Soviet opposition, the reaction was one of violence. The Hungarian Revolution was aptly named because it was an organic uprising of the people, and true to the form of most revolutions, occurred with a high degree of conflict. Unfortunately, for the Hungarian dissidents, the Soviet counter-reaction to their insolence was equally violent, prompting their forced migration. As for what preceded the Czech refugee movement, Dubcek was adamant that Czechoslovakians keep their protests to occupation non-violent. While some pockets of unruly Czech resistance emerged here and there, for the most part, his words were heeded.

Especially with Dubcek's deposition a year later and a new First Secretary rising to power and undoing his reforms, Czechoslovakians reacted in another way to the imposition of Soviet control: forced migration. Czech refugee statistics place the total number of nationals who fled following the Warsaw Pact invasion at 300,000.

Migration in the 21st Century

There are different reasons why people leave their countries, but the main reasons are because of war (those have the best chances to get asylum) and because of the economic situation. In the following text we will describe the current situation in the five participating countries, Italy, Turkey, Greece, Spain and Austria.

Italy

Since the early 2000s, the small island of Lampedusa has become a prime transit point for immigrants and asylum seekers from Africa, the Middle East and Asia wanting to enter Europe. By 2006, many immigrants were paying people's smugglers in Libya to help them to get to Lampedusa by boat.



On arrival, most were then transferred by the Italian government to reception centers in the mainland of Italy. Many were released because their deportation orders

were not enforced. They joined a dangerous boat journey and most of them die in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. This led to numerous migrant shipwrecks, 400.000 people died. This means that the Mediterranean Sea is the biggest mass migrant graveyard.

In 2004, the Libyan and Italian governments made a secret agreement that obliged Libya to accept those deported from Italian territories. This resulted in a mass return of many people from Lampedusa to Libya between 2004 and 2005 without the consent of the European Parliament.

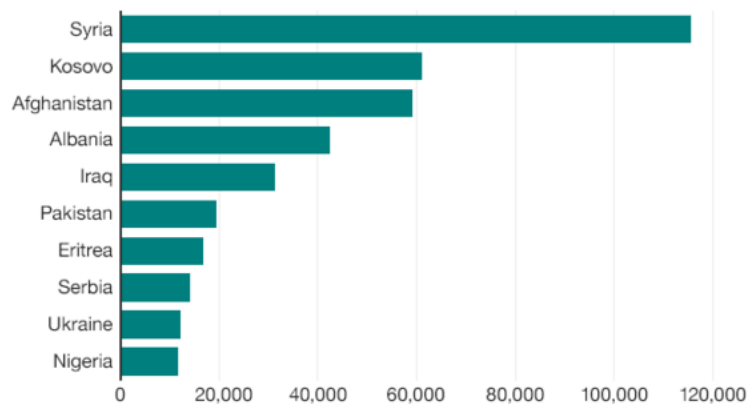
In 2015, the foreign born population origin was subdivided as follows: Europe (50.8%), Africa (22.1%), Asia (18.8%), America (8.3%), and Oceania (0.1%).

In 2015, there were 5,014,437 foreign national residents in Italy, 120,000 refugees living in reception centres. 57% of them are men, 27% are women and 16% are children.

They exclude illegal immigrants whose numbers are difficult to determine. In May 2008, The Boston Globe quoted an estimate of 670,000 for this group. The distribution of foreign born population is largely uneven in Italy: 59.5% of immigrants live in the northern part of the country (the most economically developed area), 25.4% in the central one, while only 15.1% live in the southern regions.

Top 10 origins of people applying for asylum in the EU

Jan–Aug 2015



Source: Eurostat

BBC

Turkey

Over 3.1 million refugees from Syria, Iraq and also people from other nations have been registered in Turkey so far. Regarding to the constant escalation of violence in the neighbouring countries it is uncertain what the number of refugees from Syria and Iraq to Turkey will be in 2017. The Government of Turkey currently hosts more than 250 000 refugees who are housed in 26 camps, with ongoing costs associated with health, education, food security and social and other services offered, but about 2 million refugees in Turkey live outside the camps and often struggle to find housing while they live in poverty. Despite enormous efforts of the government, local authorities and generosity of host communities, many of the 90% of Syrian refugees that live outside of camps in urban areas are often unaccounted for, and are surviving under very challenging circumstances, because the access to education and healthcare is not available for a large amount of people that live in poor conditions outside the camps. The total humanitarian funding provided by the EU to Turkey in response to the Syria Crisis since the beginning of the crisis, amounts to €583 million by September 2016.

According to “The Economist”, the flow of refugees travelling to Europe has slowed down in recent months, because of a deal between the EU and Turkey. The plan is that refugees who come to Europe from Turkey are going to be sent back. In exchange, Turkey receives €6 billion in assistance for refugees, have renewed EU membership talks and visa-free travel in the Schengen area for Turkish citizens.



Greece

Countries have very different views on dealing with the refugee crisis. Greece receives many immigrants from Africa and the near east, from countries like Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Just in July 2015 Greece became the temporary home of more than 50.000 refugees where islands like Lesbos, Chios, Kos and Samos count to the main destinations of immigrants and refugees.



Against some prejudices and rumours more than half of them are women and kids whose flight is caused by civil war, starvation, economic problems or other political or religious reasons. The main point is that most of the refugees only use Greece as a, probably simpler, way to reach other European countries like Turkey. But a treaty called “The Dublin Agreement” allows affected countries like Turkey to send the refugees back to the country where they first entered EU-land. In many cases this is Greece. Greece also tries to distance itself from the refugee policy of the German federal chancellor Angela Merkel which has opened the borders for all refugees and migrants. A recent cold weather brought freezing temperatures to the country. Some of the migrants have successfully been moved to container-hotels and heated apartments but the majority of them still live and suffer in camps that are not really prepared for the very low temperatures in the upcoming winter. Many organisations supplied the residents with blankets, plastic sheets and tents. Altogether about 200.000 winter items were donated, including sleeping bags, hats and gloves.

Spain

Spain has a high percentage of foreign-born people. Most people come from Latin America, Romania and Morocco. They are favour a life in Spain, because of the better living standard. But Spain does not take in many refugees. The government just agreed to take in 15.000 refugees from Greece and Italy. But until now they have not kept their promise. Spain has fulfilled just 0.1 percent, which is not their fault. They have prepared themselves but the refugees failed to appear. Recording the location of Spain they are farther away than for example from Greece or Turkey.

Austria

Austria is one of the favourite countries for refugees to stay. They receive meals, a bed and health care. The state stands for social and personal security. Many people are against refugees although they do not know them or the fact that the country needs immigration.

Without immigration the population would decrease and the retirement system would not work anymore. 88.340 people wanted asylum in Austria in 2015. This is the third highest percentage in Europe. We have interviewed one of the refugees, Hasanain Khan, who lives near our school. He told us about his way to Austria:

„My life started in Afghanistan on the 7th of February 1986. But just eleven months later my parents had to flee with me to Pakistan. Everything was fine and there was no civil war until 2013. I grew up in the Hazara community when one day the Afghan started genocide. So I had to flee again and go on a journey that was 5000 km or more. It was comfortable to take a train, a taxi or a bus, but I also had to go on foot or on a plastic boat. It was hard. We all had nearly nothing to eat, so we were happy if we got something within 24 hours. I slept sometimes on a mountain or in an old left house with the other refugees. From Greece to Serbia I went in a metal container on a train. Then I slept in a forest for 12 days and I had nothing to eat.

We always travelled at night because if we would have travelled during the day we were afraid of being caught and sent back. I wanted to Sweden but the police caught me in Austria and they put me into an asylum camp. But Austria was much better than I thought first. I got to know Austrian people and they are very nice. My parents were not rich so I had to finance myself. I sold my car, my flat and my own store to leave Pakistan. For a life in peace, that should be everywhere“.

