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CONFERENCE

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Q1: Is Turkey morally obligated to take in refugees? If so Why?

- ▶ No, Turkey is in fact not obligated but since Turkey is on major migration routes, it has displayed sensitivity on human rights and humanitarianism and has taken in refugees. Situation we have right now is unpleasant that many refugees in Turkey live in dire conditions but Turkey can't be judged or blamed for its humanitarian policies. If it hadn't taken in refugees many of them would've been drowned trying to reach Europe or massacred in bloody conflict in Syria and Turkey will be held as responsible. Thus it has a humanitarian perspective. Secondly after Turkey became a part of turmoil in Syria, it has assumed that it could send refugees back once a safe, non-violent platform was established. ..

- ▶ Thirdly, Turkey wanted to empower Syrian Free Army in its fight against the Assad regime by recruiting, training young Syrian refugee boys and sending them back to oust oppressive government. But it has failed miserably as Turkey lacked sufficient monetary. Western countries' biggest fear was that enormous influx of refugees would harm Europe thus they offered 3 billion to Turkey would seal its borders with Europe for refugees. Only 250 million is left to be paid but little has been accomplished because 3 billions means little for refugees residing in Turkey. Since the beginning of the Syrian Civil War, 250 thousand Syrian children were born in Turkey and numbers of refugees residing in Turkey is expected to surpass 3.5 million. Thus this problem must be solved immediately. I understand your worries but humanitarian cause still has bigger worth for me because many of these refugees would've been dead likewise. We're talking about 5 million people. Bigger tragedy than what has happened during 2. World War. And then there's the internally displaced. Approximately, 7 million refugees are internally displaced which mean they didn't leave their countries but still left their homes or cities fleeing violence.



Q2: Since a government is a preterhuman constitution, and not taking in any refugees is more beneficial why would governments care about humanitarian values?

- ▶ You're suggesting that interests are more important than human values when it comes to international relations and that is indeed correct. But if I was a key person making decisions for a western country, I would see it as a provocation if Turkey would let refugees in massive numbers uncontrolled into Europe. Relations between Turkey and the West would've strained. And in current situation countries must come together and act together. Although at beginning refugees were distributed fairly for each country to sustain, later on Turkey was deceived and has taken in and left with more refugees than its European counterparts.

Q3: Would the other countries help Turkey if there were a civil war ?

- ▶ Do you mean as refugees
- ▶ Q:mean we are acting very kindly to Syria, would other countries act to us in the same way?
- ▶ I hope that it never comes to that situation, but some people would flee to greece and to the western countries, afterall it is a life or death situation. I mean i understand your question, you mean like we are acting stupidly in this matter but we have a 811 km long border with syria, the first stop is turkey for the refugees, and the west isn't accepting them. What are we doing is teaching a humanitarian lesson to the world or paying a huge sum of money for educating them.



Q4: Is it still for humanitarian causes when Syria's neighbors are forced to take in refugees without a choice for their geopolitical locations when European countries can decide whether to accept or reject refugees?

- ▶ But they still could've taken in less refugees. Governments of those neighboring Syria could've deported refugees anytime but that is something that high-ranked officials wouldn't dare to do. As it is something that can be taken International Justice Court and no government would gamble on that.



Q5: How can we overcome the West's Islamophobic and Turkophobic worldview?,

- ▶ Answer; you can not do it easily. It seems that there aren't any viable short or mid-term solutions to this problem. It can be accomplished by increasing the GDP's of the Islamic countries and making student Exchange programs more common in colleges. What i mean is that if we reduce the aforementioned differences between the European countries and the Islamic countries we can surely overcome this problem. But the situation doesn't seem very bright now. What we can do now is just expressing our problems correctly



Q6: What is going to happen to the refugees in Europe after the war?

- ▶ They will send them back. As your friend stated before they will only keep the most qualified refugees in their countries. 3 years ago, I am not sure if it is still such, the CEO of the one of the worlds biggest finance firm was an Indian. For example the U.S would not send him if he were a refugee. They act very pragmatically in this matter.
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Q7: What would happen if the refugees decide to integrate to their host countries?

- ▶ It would not have an impact on our country, for example the rate of unemployment in our country is 12%, it is far worse in Spain 18%, 16% in Portugal, 24% in Greece i mean they are in a very bad situation, the World economy is getting worse by each passing day, there is a problem of employment. The improvements in the robotics are making it even worse. Some people even think that robots will do all the working in the future .An uneducated businessman from the black sea region comes to istanbul in order to do business. He will use his money to educate his children better. The same kind of care taking would make his grandchildren integrated to city life. This phenomenon happens in three generations. Another problem is the unemployment problem. Every country in the world is experiencing it. It means that we must send the Syrians after the war.

Q8: Did the host countries do a good job at integrating the refugees.

- ▶ It took a very long time to integrate the refugees in Germany. They don't integrate very easily. A different culture means a different world. Of course this is a topic for another presentation, is a long topic. For example a secular man goes to Germany as a worker. His neighbors are Christians and Jews etc. They go to church, opposing them he starts to feel a resistance. This is something psycho-social. He starts visiting the mosque. Being alienated in the society makes him even a conservative. What was the question? This isn't the answer for your question but they slaughtered animals in their baths in Eid. The German law didn't allow it. Germany made it legal after Ukraine did it. Such things happened but they have a different story. In the period of immigration to the Germany the rural population were circa 48% and the urban population were 52%, the ones that immigrated to Germany were from the country side. It means they immigrated, before understanding the values and the norms of the city life. And in such a condition they went to the big cities in Germany like Heidelberg, München, Düsseldorf before seeing for example Istanbul. This situation led to a huge culture shock. You can't expect him to be integrated immediately. He continued his way of living, this made the Germans angry. Integrating somebody isn't as easy as it seems. The integration happens in the 2nd or 3rd Generation.



- ▶ If there are many different types of men, these aforementioned men must be put into work. On the other hand, the war in Syria must be ended as soon as possible so that the student refugees can be sent back. There is no other way, because Turkey is experiencing a huge unemployment problem. And the huge part of these unemployed people are unqualified. It will take a huge toll on our countries economy. I do agree with your worries about that topic. Everybody should act quickly to put an end to the war in Syria. They will send people back to their homes after the war. But I am not sure whether they would decide to return or stay. They bring people to the refugee camps as if those are an exhibition, that is nothing but a show. For example Angelina Jolie comes to the camps and acts as if she cares about them, this just a show. But Turkey deals with the problems of the refugees. Or they will be shared equally in Europe. Or a country will send (the refugees) them to an North African country, however i doubt that it would be an European country. How the process would work, i do not know that. I am afraid that Israel will use this problem for their daily benefits. The refugees are creating an Economic as well as a Political problem which causes another problem. Some people refuse them to be a citizen, thinking that this would harm them by voting against the natives interests.

- ▶ **One of our teachers** : I am one of those generations. Those inspections you mentioned were done by Is-Kur (Turkish institution of Work) in Tophane district, after the inspections they went to Germany. The animal slaughter is true. Arabs used to do it more often the Jews had their kosher slaughterhouses but it was illegal for Muslims to open halal slaughterhouses thus people used to slaughter animals in the fields, in order to do that the Muslims and German farmers would co-operate illegally. Germans would normally electro-shock the animal before slaughtering it. This process isn't allowed in Islam, so that Muslims would co-operate with German farmers. Germans had legalised this after Belgium and the Netherlands did. The main problem of integration was the rights which the Turks received too late. The 97% of the workers were uneducated people. They were village-folk they went to Germany in order to work for 3-4 years but many of them did never return. I am a child of a worker whom never did return. You can never be fully integrated to Germany. But there is also something like this: I started to celebrate Christmas after I returned to Istanbul. ..

- ▶ . My Armenian neighbors invite me to Christmas, something my German friends never did. –So there were discrimination?– To some degree, yes; you can never be integrated to their lives. I used to invite my German friends to our house, they used to come. The Turks were very generous in this matter. The only thing we use to say negative was “take of your shoes before entering”. We used to treat them like we treated our Turkish guests, they used to like it very much. But they did not use to treat us the same, because they used to have a turkophobia. They had thought that our intentions were different, i could understand it

