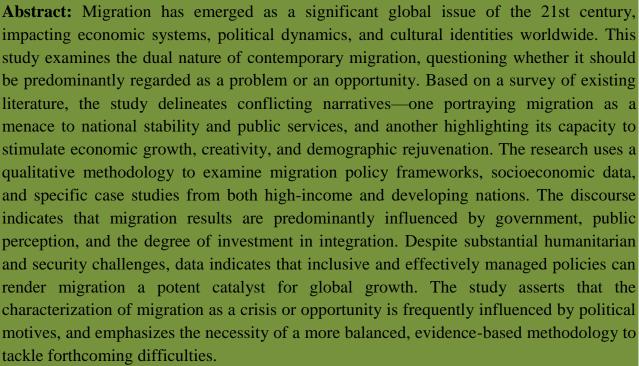# MIGRATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CRISIS OR OPPORTUNITY?

Gulnoza Xusanova Akram qizi

Student of the International Business in Tourism and Hospitality Faculty

Management Development Institute of Singapore in Tashkent

Abstract: Migration has emerged as a significant global issue of the 21st century, impacting economic systems, political dynamics, and cultural identities worldwide. This study examines the dual nature of contemporary migration, questioning whether it should be predominantly regarded as a problem or an opportunity. Based on a survey of existing literature, the study delineates conflicting narratives—one portraying migration as a menace to national stability and public services, and another highlighting its capacity to stimulate economic growth, creativity, and demographic rejuvenation. The research uses a qualitative methodology to examine migration policy frameworks, socioeconomic data, and specific case studies from both high-income and developing nations. The discourse indicates that migration results are predominantly influenced by government, public perception, and the degree of investment in integration. Despite substantial humanitarian and security challenges, data indicates that inclusive and effectively managed policies can render migration a potent catalyst for global growth. The study asserts that the characterization of migration as a crisis or opportunity is frequently influenced by political motives, and emphasizes the necessity of a more balanced, evidence-based methodology to tackle forthcoming difficulties.

Key words: International migration, forced migration, voluntary migration, the refugee crisis, asylum seekers, economic migration, displacement brought on by climate change, demographic shifts, migration policy, integration strategies, border security, national sovereignty, global governance, human rights, social cohesion, xenophobia, diaspora, labor mobility, brain drain, remittances, Human mobility, migration management, migration crises, resettlement programs, displacement, migration narratives, migration in the global south, migration and security, immigration reform, cultural integration, globalization, migration and innovation, transnationalism, multiculturalism, migration and development, and migration ethics.

Introduction

The degree to which migrants are functioning as free agents—having the ability to choose when, where, and how long to leave—will undoubtedly have a significant impact on their experiences leaving their homes and journeying to settle in a new location. Members of the affluent, highly educated, and globally connected elite who are able to move from job to job throughout the globe represent one extreme. They can pick where to settle, making them the quintessential voluntary migrants. On the opposite end of the spectrum are people who are forcibly removed from their nations and compelled to apply for asylum abroad.

The quintessential forced migrants are those who are escaping in such circumstances, with little control over their destiny. Neither typology is likely to describe the migratory experience of the great majority of people travelling around the world. Furthermore, attempts to distinguish between voluntary and coerced migration in actuality sometimes result in inconsistent and somewhat arbitrary consequences.

However, the difference between them is present in public, scholarly, and policy discourse. How the lines are drawn is crucial in many situations. It might mean the difference between being deported back to one's home country or being permitted to remain in the country. It could influence how people are viewed in the community they relocate to as well as their chances of ever going back to their hometown. But as I will demonstrate, there is no consistent correlation between the "type" of migration and specific results. Forced and voluntary migrants may be viewed very differently and subject to quite different regulations, depending on the situation. Where economic migrants are viewed as a threat, refugees may be (relatively) welcomed; in other contexts, the opposite may be true. Because of this, it is risky to depend solely on generalizations, particularly unqualified statements regarding forced or voluntary migration worldwide.

What constitutes voluntary versus coerced migration? There is no unequivocal response. An someone escaping their residence due to threats of violence, abandoning all valuables, is likely to be classified as a refugee. Depending on the location of their refuge, individuals may eventually acquire new citizenship.

However, upon consideration of their migration, it can be characterized as coerced. However, we may no longer refer to them as forced migrants, as they are now merely citizens. If they opt to utilize this new citizenship to relocate, it now appears as voluntary migration. What occurs when a refugee secures asylum in one location and subsequently chooses to relocate to another in pursuit of improved, potentially safer, living conditions?

This obscures clarity; this secondary migration has occurred due to the refugee's 'free' choosing. Their destiny is no longer solely characterized by compelled migration. Consequently, the perception of migration as either coerced or voluntary will differ based on the specific aspect of the overall movement being evaluated and the timing of the assessment (about the importance of time in migration governance. In numerous instances, an individual may be perceived as both a coerced and voluntary migrant simultaneously. We must also evaluate the concept of voluntary migration. To what degree is the decision to relocate for improved economic prospects, in response to dire living conditions, considered voluntary? The delineation remains ambiguous. The graduate, having undergone extensive training yet lacking career prospects in her home country, may feel compelled to emigrate in pursuit of a more rewarding position. She relocates in pursuit of an improved quality of life, albeit transitioning from one position of privilege to another. Is this   optional?

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These considerations, coupled with several empirical instances (Aidani 2010, Bakewell 2011, Crawley and Skleparis 2018, Long 2013), demonstrate that the distinctions between forced and voluntary migration are intrinsically ambiguous and their analytical significance is constrained. Nevertheless, the terminology is essential in the migratory discourse, influencing policy and individual lives. Consequently, it is essential to examine the roots of the differentiation and the related definitions more thoroughly.

The international migration patterns in Europe throughout the latter part of the 20th century and the early 21st century were predominantly shaped by three distinct occurrences. The manpower deficit in Northern and Western Europe, European decolonization, and the emergence and eventual dissolution of the Communist bloc in Central and Eastern Europe exert a substantial influence. Numerous northern and western European nations have recuperated from the catastrophic repercussions of the Second World War, experienced remarkable economic expansion since 1950, navigated the economic downturn of 1973/1974, and contended with the ramifications of the global economic crisis.

The post-war recovery and accelerated economic expansion are central to the heightened labor demand in these nations, a demand that the domestic workforce cannot fulfil. A significant consequence of the Second World War is Europe's withdrawal from its status as a global leader. Following the Second World War in non-communist Europe, three significant and overlapping migratory waves are evident: labor migration (to address workforce shortages in Western and Northern Europe), family migration (for family reunification or establishment), and post-industrial migration (encompassing highly skilled labor, illegal migration, and refugee migration). Alongside these three migratory waves, post-colonial migration flows must also be taken into account. Consequently, novel destinations, fresh regions of origin, and new flows have arisen. The economic transformation, political alterations, and ethnic strife in Central and Eastern Europe have influenced the magnitude and trajectory of European migration patterns, whilst migration from non-European nations has persistently constituted a significant portion of migration within Europe. Concurrently, increasingly stringent immigration regulations have resulted in a transition from conventional migrant laborers and their families to substantial influxes of asylum seekers and illegal migrants. The significant rise in immigrant populations in Southern European host nations following recent regularizations illustrates the current scale of informal recruitment networks. Despite the inadequacy of old national migration models, significant alterations in migration policy have occurred, and new regulatory frameworks have been instituted in the majority of European nations.

Examining data by geographic location gives further insights into prevailing tendencies. In 2000, Europe held the foremost position in the number of international migrants, with 56.3 million, but in 2017, it occupied the second position. In 2017, Asia had 80 million

international migrants, whilst Europe had 78 million. Northern America accommodated the third highest population of

international migrants, with 58 million, succeeded by Africa with 25 million, Latin America and the Caribbean with 10 million, and Oceania with 8 million.

Migration is a complicated phenomenon that has an impact on every area of global society, including economic growth, cultural identity, and national security. In the 21st century, migration influences all of these aspects. In this study, the primary research question that tries to investigate the opposing narratives around migration is as follows: Is migration a worldwide problem, an opportunity, or both? On the one hand, migration is frequently portrayed as a crisis, particularly when it is prompted by humanitarian catastrophes, economic inequities, and worries over national security. On the other hand, it is becoming more widely acknowledged as an opportunity that can contribute to the growth of the economy, the creation of new ideas, and the maintenance of a sustainable population, particularly in cultures that are getting older. This question will investigate whether or not these two points of view can coexist, as well as how they influence the decisions that are made regarding public policy, public perception, and the integration of migrants all over the world.

The purpose of this article is to critically analyze the ongoing discourse on migration, exploring whether it is best understood as a crisis or as an opportunity. The study will investigate the various dimensions of migration—economic, political, social, and humanitarian—through a thorough review of existing literature and case studies from different regions. The goal is to present a balanced view of migration's complex nature, moving beyond simplistic dichotomies and offering insights into how migration policies can be shaped to maximize benefits while mitigating challenges.

The significance of this study lies in its potential to inform policy discussions and contribute to a more nuanced understanding of migration in the 21st century. As migration continues to be a key issue for governments, international organizations, and communities, the findings could influence the development of more effective and humane migration policies. By examining the economic benefits, cultural contributions, and humanitarian challenges posed by migration, the study aims to provide policymakers with evidence-based recommendations for managing migration in ways that benefit both migrants and host countries. Furthermore, this study will emphasize the importance of shifting the narrative surrounding migration from a crisis-focused approach to one that recognizes its potential as a tool for global development.

Literature Review

Migration as a Crisis

Within an environment that was characterized not just by the geopolitical upheaval that was associated with the conclusion of the Cold War, but also by larger social and political shifts that were associated with the concept of "globalization," migration emerged as a security issue. Therefore, the current arguments that are taking place about migration

and security are a reflection of changes that have taken place not just in the nature of migration but also in the nature of thinking about migration. In the past, migration was thought of as a social and economic phenomenon that belonged to the fields of socio-economic history, historical sociology, and anthropology.

However, in recent years, migration has become an essential topic of discussion in discussions concerning global politics (Castles and Davidson 2000; Castles and Miller 1993; Sassen 1996; Sayad 1999: 303-413; Soysal 1994). Migration has been discovered to be a method to construct an alternative narrative in a situation where the fall of the Iron Curtain and the breakup of the Soviet Union had destabilized its dominating script. This is seen in the fact that it has been introduced into the expanding field of security studies, which has found in migration a means to develop an alternative narrative.

The intersection between free mobility and national welfare systems: what happens? Contemporary EU reveals part of the solution and the resulting precarious social and political equilibrium. Since its founding in the 1950s, the EU has prioritized free movement of commodities, capital, services, and people, known as the four freedoms, which are intimately linked to economic integration. Uneasy tension exists between promoting free mobility and open borders, and maintaining social solidarity and cohesion in member states through national welfare states. Attempting to resolve this issue has created new political forces that threaten the European idea. This links free movement debates to perceived welfare impacts, deteriorating political confidence, and increased support for Eurosceptic, populist, and extreme right parties. In summer 2013, Austrian, German, Dutch, and UK interior ministers sent a joint letter to the Council Presidency, emphasizing the political sensitivity of the issue. The letter called for action to combat the fraudulent use of free movement and the resulting strain on social systems in receiving societies. The letter caused divisions among the EU, with newer member states and Sweden deeming it unnecessary scaremongering. The EU Commission requested evidence of benefit abuse from the letter-writing states, stating that the assertions did not align with EU statistics (ibid.). In 2013, the Commission introduced initiatives to enhance people' rights, including legislative freedom of movement.

Jean Claude Juncker, Commission President since June 2014, emphasized the importance of free mobility as a basic value of the EU, refusing to compromise on it. Recent opinion research indicates that both EU technocrats and citizens highly respect the right to free movement. Each year, the Eurobarometer rates 'freedom to travel, study, and work anywhere in the EU' as a top concern for a united Europe (Recchi, 2015: Recchi argues that free movement, not the euro, democracy, or peace, defines the EU in the minds of Europeans, as evidenced by Eurobarometer 2011 data indicating that 48% of EU citizens view it as the most important right attached to EU citizenship.

Migration as an Opportunity

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As documented in the recent study Canada's Aging Population and Implications for Government Finances,1 Canada's federal and provincial governments will all be facing enormous financial pressures from increases in spending on such programs as health care and income support for seniors. Those pressures will occur at the same time that economic growth is expected to slow.2 The pressures could lead to deficits that are 5.3 percentage points of GDP higher in 2045 than in 2017, which equates to roughly $107.1 billion (Jackson, Clemens, and Palacios, 2017). Canada is not unique in dealing with an aging population. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is a group of 35 of the world's most industrialized countries. The OECD predicts that the dependency ratio (the ratio of retired people to the working-age population) for all OECD countries will increase from 28 percent in 2015 to 51 percent by 2050 (OECD, 2015a: Facts and Figures). The anticipated fiscal pressures on the OECD countries from their aging populations have motivated many of them to enact a variety of reforms in an attempt to mitigate these pressures.

When it comes to governing migration, Canada and Germany seem to constitute fundamentally different national contexts: On the one side of the Atlantic, Canada represents for many the ideal "settler society," whose sense of collective identity is constituted by the widely shared experience of migration. Canada's forty-year commitment to multiculturalism has led to a significant reduction in social marginalization of newcomers, unlike many European nations. Germany had a distinct concept of citizenship and did not consider itself a "country of immigration" until the turn of the century (Green 2000).

A comprehensive integration program is in its infancy, and Merkel has stated that multiculturalism has "utterly failed" in Germany. A comparative analysis of both countries may reveal a disparity in knowledge, with the former being the "champion of multiculturalism" and the latter still grappling with effective migration and integration policies. A simple categorization of both countries is inaccurate in two key ways: To claim Canada as a "champion of multiculturalism" is historically false. Canada's migration policy originated from European nation-building traditions. Canada has steadily distanced immigration policies from ethnic national identity and embraced diversity, challenging the European concept of nationhood. The idea that different national contexts exist is founded on a questionable premise that unique and homogenous national models are acceptable for governing migration and diversity. Concerns about a trans-Atlantic comparative study stem from a general focus on national integration models in migration research (Entzinger & Biezeveld 2003; Parekh 2006).

Gaps in the Literature
Lack of balanced narratives

Narratives serve as a fundamental mode of understanding, a component of meaning, and a means of sharing experiences, representing one of the most essential genres of

human linguistic communication (De Fina & Tseng, 2017, p. 381). They provide significance to both what 'is' and what 'ought to be done' (Roe, 1994; Rein & Schon, 1994). According to Robert D. Newman, narratives facilitate our engagement with both the world and our own identities. We achieve this by utilizing patterns that reflect what is essential for maintaining and expanding our tenuous sense of continuity among our past, present, and aspirations for the future. The process of narrative engagement is both dynamic and subtle as a creative act.

The narrative concept has transitioned from literary theory to various disciplines, gaining prominence in the social sciences. It initially entered sociology to delineate 'self' and 'other' in the context of identity construction and to elaborate on practices of othering (Somers & Gibson, 1994). Narrative analysis has been adopted across various disciplines, including political science, psychology, legal theory, gender studies, social work, anthropology, and media studies, serving as a concept, theory, and method. Narrative, despite its widespread application, remains a contested concept frequently used interchangeably with terms like discourse, story, or frame/framing, and is defined in various ways (Bradby, 2017; Rein & Schon, 1991; D'Angelo & Kuypers, 2010; Wodak & Meyer, 2009).

Hinchman and Hinchman characterize narrative as a discourse that possesses a distinct sequential order, linking events in a meaningful manner and thereby providing insights into the world and individuals' experiences of it (2001, p. xvi). Patterson and Monroe (1998) characterize narratives as a specific category within discourse.

The primary distinction between narrative and discourse lies in their composition; discourse encompasses all discussions related to a topic, irrespective of their format, whereas narratives are predominantly composed of stories pertaining to the topic (Hagström & Gustafsson, 2019). Narrative transcends a simple story; it constitutes a system of interconnected stories that share coherent themes, resulting in a whole that surpasses the sum of its individual components (Halverson et al., 2011, p. 1). Narratives are defined as "based on frames, meaning a general plot based on 'aspects of a perceived reality' and developed through communicative interaction among different actors" (Castells, 2009 in D'Amato & Lucarelli, 2019; see also Entman, 1993; Miskimmon et al., 2015). Some scholars argue that narrative encompasses a broader phenomenon than the category of frames, which subsequently evolve into repertoires that assemble political positions, ideas, and arguments for communication among actors, both externally and internally, as seen in social movements or diaspora organizations (Sökefeld, 2006; Collyer, 2008).

Underrepresentation   of   migrant   voices
The 20th century was called the "century of refugees" by holocaust survivor Hugo Gryn in 1996 (Kushner & Knox, 1999, p.1) and "the century of people helplessly seeing others, who were close to them, disappear over the horizon" by English writer and critic John Berger (Dyer, 2012, p.128), but displacement has continued. The UN Refugee

Agency calls 2010–2019 a decade of displacement. Only in 2019, 79.5 million people were forcefully displaced, including 26 million refugees and 4.2 million asylum seekers. Europe has seen an unprecedented increase in asylum seekers since 2015 (UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 2020). Since then, European politics, policy, public discourse, and media have focused more on refugees than ever. Media must authentically and diversely portray refugees since they shape public perceptions. First, media impact public opinion, making this crucial. Journalists choose themes and their coverage methods (e.g., angle, terminology, register). They provide information, govern how it is interpreted and accessible, and impact our view of events and attitudes towards certain people. Especially with refugees, prudence is needed: most people have little or no interaction with them, so they rely on the media for information. Thus, journalists must portray migrants realistically and pluralistically, not stereotypically. For, refugee stories that emphasize on crime and threat are problematic. Second, refugee wellbeing requires authentic, nuanced representation. Media portrayals of them and their peers "weigh on migrants who develop and shape their self-representations and identities partly based on the media" (David, 2015, at 119). Negative media coverage may make refugees feel excluded and avoid mainstream media. Worse, kids may internalize these unfavorable impressions. Like other social cues, media can influence minorities' self- and group-based perspectives, say Ramasubramanian et al. (2017). Intergroup comparisons in mainstream media may heighten identity salience and threat (p.1881). However, more positive and diverse representations welcome them and help them assimilate to the host country. Martin & Nakayama (2010, p.326) say Berry, Kim, Minde & Mok's (1987) definition of "psychological health"—emotional ease in a new culture—is crucial to refugees' cultural adaptation. Media portrayals of migrants can affect their mental health: If host culture sees refugees as more diverse and human, they may be less antagonistic and more inviting, making refugees feel more at home in the new nation.

Methodology

Qualitative Approach

Content analysis of policy documents

Most studies in communication policy research employ documents as research material in one way or another. With the growth of the Internet and computer-mediated research tools, policy researchers can access and search a wider range of documents with greater ease than ever before. As a distinctive research method, however, document analysis is not especially well explicated either in textbooks on the methodology of media and communication studies or in most actual research contributions.

In fact, although the term itself is used routinely in some languages – such as German and Norwegian – 'document analysis' is not even much used in English-language contributions to the field of media and communication studies.1 Some of the ambiguities of document analysis as a research method can be explained by disciplinary barriers between different strands of media and communication studies, and between the field of communication studies and broader discussions in public policy analysis and political science. However, the challenges do seem to apply to social research more broadly. As

John Scott (1990: ix) has noted, interviews, questionnaires and other methods figure centrally and in detail in textbooks and courses on social-science research methods, but documentary research is usually considered in only a fragmentary way. Often it is as if the use of documents was self-evident, without much need for any further methodological reflection. Yet, the increasing availability and ease of accessing various sources of data that can be identified as documents also creates methodological challenges.

First of all, within the social sciences there are several different notions of what constitutes a document. In one much-quoted definition, sociologist John Scott (1990: 5) describes a document broadly as 'an artefact which has as its central feature an inscribed text' (see also Scott 2006a: xx). For sociologist David Altheide (1996: 2), a document is 'any symbolic representation that can be recorded or retrieved for analysis.' In a textbook on media policy research, Trine Syvertsen defines documents as 'written or audio-visual remains not produced or generated by the researcher' (2004a: 215, our translation).

Two interesting issues emerge from these definitions. The first is the distinction between documents and research literature. Syvertsen introduces this distinction, which leads to a restricted definition (see also Bryman 2001: 370), while Scott and Altheide's definitions cover practically all kinds of text. As such, they include more than definitions traditionally used in the discipline of history or political science (e.g. Johnson and Reynolds 2005: 206ff). The second issue concerns the definition of 'text.' Whereas Scott is careful not to delimit his approach to texts merely in the sense of written sources, he treats other text forms as marginal: 10 of the 195 pages in his book deal with visual texts such as paintings and photographs. Audio-visual texts are implicitly left out, as they also tend to be in contributions in political science. Syvertsen and Altheide, who write more from the perspective of media studies, on the other hand, employ an explicitly media-neutral concept of text. In the following, we will use these two issues as entry points to discuss challenges with the definition and use of documents in communication policy research.

Thematic coding and comparative analysis

There is a large body of scholarship investigating either the coverage of one particular newspaper or magazine (e.g. Cohen, 2010) or how the press reports on one specific educational issue (e.g. Bierbaum, 2021). Thereby, press coverage of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), mostly in single countries (e.g. Baroutsis & Lingard, 2017; Hu, 2022), but sometimes also in comparative research (e.g. Hopfenbeck & Gorgen, 2017; Waldow et al., 2014), is one focal point of interest.

However, studies which analyze press coverage about school education are scarce. With regards to the two countries under study, notable exemptions include Warmington and Murphy's (2007) study of the British media debate about A-level results, Allgaier's (2010) investigation of British press coverage about a controversy within the science education curriculum, Kelly et al.'s (2021) investigation of COVID-19- related media coverage in the UK, Herzog et al.'s (2022a) study of how different actor groups position themselves in the German press and Blomekes (2005) and Koller et al. s (2019).

We intend to compare certain examples of a specific event to understand the unique characteristics of each case (Yin, 2018). In Hallin and Mancini's (2017) foundational

typology for media system comparison and subsequent research, England and Germany are exemplified as key instances of the liberal and democratic corporatist models, respectively. 2 Examining cases from the liberal model—England notably exhibits certain traits of the democratic corporatist model—is particularly insightful, as there is a prevailing trend among media systems in various countries, including Germany, to evolve towards this model, which is defined by minimal state intervention, a robust market presence, and significant journalistic professionalization.

In addition to the national level, we will concentrate on two representative regions: South-West England and Schleswig-Holstein. Both regions are appropriate for comparison due to their notable similarities and variances. Both are rural coastal areas, distant from the metropolis, with a similar population size. Considering the average household income, both regions are impoverished. They demonstrate the most unfavorable educational outcomes for underprivileged youth in the [UK]. According to Sim and Major (2022, p. 3), Schleswig-Holstein exhibits an unusually high percentage of young adults, aged 30–35 years, without occupational qualifications (Hollstein et al., 2021, p. 65). This renders them exemplary subjects for examining matters of educational disparity and the collective benefit (Rawolle & Lingard, 2022).

Quantitative Approach
Global migration datasets

Migration studies have substantially enhanced our comprehension of mobilities and migration-related diversities. It has established a unique corpus of knowledge about the reasons for migration, the mechanisms of movement, and the implications of migration broadly, for both migrants and the societies affected by migration. Migration studies, as a comprehensive research domain, has developed at the intersection of multiple disciplines. This encompasses fields such as sociology, political science, anthropology, geography, law, and economics, while progressively extending to a wider array of disciplines, including health studies, development studies, governance studies, among others, leveraging insights from these areas. Migration is not a novel issue; yet, the focused and interdisciplinary examination of migration is comparatively recent. While the origins of migration studies can be traced to early twentieth-century research, it was not until the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries that there was a notable increase in specialized master's programs in migration studies, a significant expansion of journal outlets, the emergence of numerous specialized research groups and institutes globally, and the recognition of migration studies as a distinct academic discipline within the broader scholarly community. As of 2018, there existed a minimum of 45 specialized journals in the field of migration studies (Pisarevskaya et al., 2019, p. 462). The discipline has established its own worldwide research networks, including IMISCOE (worldwide Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe), NOMRA (Network of Migration Research on Africa), and the globally orientated policy network Metropolis.

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Statistical Analysis

Numerous studies have concentrated on the impact of immigration on the labor markets and welfare states of host countries; however, a new body of literature has emerged that examines another pertinent aspect of immigration: the relationship between the immigrant population and bilateral trade. Recent study suggests that immigrants may positively influence bilateral trade between their host and home countries (Gould 1994; Head and Ries 1998). Notwithstanding the extensive proliferation of ICTs, information costs continue to significantly influence global trade dynamics. Rauch (2001) posits that social and corporate transnational networks are likely to mitigate some knowledge deficiencies that constrain economic exchanges. Cross-border networks are likely to replace organized markets in facilitating the matching of international buyers and sellers. In this context, co-ethnic networks are particularly noteworthy, as demonstrated by Casella and Rauch (2003).

Immigrants' connections to their nation of origin may facilitate trade for at least three reasons. Initially, immigrants possess a comprehensive understanding of the customs, language, laws, and commercial practices in both their host and home nations. Their presence facilitates the closure of the knowledge gap between suppliers and buyers on both sides, so fostering bilateral trade prospects and developing enduring relationships founded on trust and a shared cultural understanding.

Secondly, immigrant networks can facilitate contract enforcement via sanctions and exclusions, compensating for inadequate institutional regulations and lowering trade expenses. The literature indicates that these two types of trade-enhancing effects are pertinent in facilitating both import and export flows between the destination and home countries of immigrants. Thirdly, immigrants introduce their desire for native items, resulting in a corresponding preference effect that is likely to enhance imports from their country of origin to the host country. Research has increasingly concentrated on the distinct influence of immigration in producing new exports and imports to elucidate the significance of preference and network effects (White 2007; Felbermayr and Toubal 2008).

Flows of immigrants arriving to the European Union (EU) are very important, with 70 an historical corridor linking Northern African and EU countries. Statistics reflect 71 that total (official and unofficial) migration flows originating in the Mediterranean 72 area account for approximately 10–15 million people, what represents some 3–5 % 73 of total population in this area. The main people's flows arriving to the EU region 74 were those from Turkey, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, with immigrants mainly 75 establishing in Spain, France, Italy and Germany (Eurostat 2011). The Turkish- 76 Germany link has been analyzed already by previous contributions (Siliverstov 2007), obtaining a positive relationship between migration and 78 (total) trade flows.

Discussion & Analysis
Economic Dimensions

Migration refers to the movement of individuals or groups, driven by political and social factors, resulting in displacement or relocation from their original residence. Changes in location within the same community are classified as "internal migration,"

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whereas movements between different governmental systems are categorized as "external migration" (Tekeli, 1978: 17). Internal migration within nation states refers to the movement of the population towards regions that constitute economic growth poles. Following the 1950s, there was significant observation in developing countries. Internal migration is increasing due to urbanization and industrialization, which encompasses the movement from rural to urban areas.

This stage has introduced the element of "the driving factor - pull factors" into the agenda. Additionally, another focal point is the internal migration leading to "proletarianization" and a departure from peasant subjects. Driving factors, such as high unemployment, tend to be conservative and lead to migration for improved security. Conversely, attractive factors like economic growth appear to promote migration that embraces risk and aims to enhance revenue (Marshall, 1999: 314, 685).

External migrations undertaken to achieve improved living conditions are classified as voluntary migrations. In contrast, migrations prompted by factors such as war, natural disasters, famine, and terrorism are categorized as forced external migrations (Sahin, 2010: 57).

In 2014, the global migrant population was estimated at 19.5 million individuals. Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees, totaling 1.6 million, followed by Pakistan with 1.5 million, Lebanon with 1.2 million, and the Islamic Republic of Iran with 1.1 million. Over 50% of the global refugee population (53%) originated from three nations: Syria (3.9 million), Afghanistan (2.6 million), and Somalia (1.1 million) (UN, 2016: 1). Immigration is a phenomenon with a history that parallels the entirety of human existence. The primary factors contributing to a more comfortable and improved quality of life for humans are identified. It has been utilized in various methods to enhance quality of life. Migration has been the primary method among these approaches. Migrations hold significant relevance in the nation's historical narrative. Many countries have been established through immigration (Eker, 2008).

The migration phenomenon, which persists alongside human history, exhibits variations across different periods. The latter half of migration history has witnessed movements whose effects are still evident today. It is important to note that the migration movements shaping contemporary Europe and America stem from the slave trade conducted by Western states from the 15th century, which persisted for nearly 300 years. The ban on the 300-year slave trade resulted in the introduction of paid workforces from Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, many of whom have attained resident status in these countries (Canpolat, 2012: 8).

Social & Political Dynamics

In Asia, temporary contract migration is a predominant type of international migration, typically regulated by strict control measures. For example, the denial of rights related to family unification, long-term residence, and settlement. Migrant families often experience 'transnationally split' conditions, with non-migrating family members remaining 'left behind' (Yeoh et al., 2002; Piper 2006). This migration exhibits distinct

dynamics and frequently becomes less temporary, as numerous migrants extend their contracts multiple times and/or re-migrate upon returning at regular intervals. Repeated interactions with colleagues in the destination country, as well as with family members and other villagers upon return to the origin country, represent significant social exchanges that may serve as a catalyst for change (Abril and Rogaly, 2001).

This phenomenon can be understood within a framework of social development. The relationship between international migration and economic development in the country of origin has been traditionally analyzed through two opposing theoretical frameworks: the convergence perspective and the divergence perspective (Papademetriou and Martin, 1991; Appleyard, 1992a; Battistella, 1992; Fischer et al., 1997; Sørensen, 2004; Cohen, 2005; Faist, 2008).

The convergence school, based on neo-liberal economic theory, posits that sending areas derive significant advantages from out-migration in their development process (Hermele, 1997). This approach posits that emigration enhances 'resource availability' and 'income distribution' in origin areas (Spaan et al., 2005). The divergence school contends that out-migration obstructs the development of sending regions by perpetuating economic dependency, which undermines development prospects (Hermele, 1997).

Humanitarian Aspects

People who comprise today's mass migrations are the embodiment of an increasingly hurtful planetary interconnectedness between towering inequalities and hegemonies and human lives. We are witnessing not merely a humanitarian crisis, but rather a fundamental crisis of humanitarianism. When we say 'humanitarian crisis' with reference to migrants, we mean a great number of people are either dying, or at risk of dying, who face famine, disease, exhaustion, chaotic circumstances, as they flee to save their lives (Bradol, 2004). One million people who fled the war in Syria in 2015, with the children that were sent along unaccompanied, did what people caught in the midst of a humanitarian crisis do: they fled death.

The migrants, contrary to reasonable expectations, transition from one humanitarian crisis to another. Braidotti's concept of the 'nomadic subject' is often idealized; however, it does not accurately reflect the reality of the 65.3 million forcibly displaced individuals reported by UNHCR at the end of 2015, in contrast to the 65 million tourists who visited Spain in the same year (Bernik, 2016; UNHCR, 2015). The migration route from Syria through Turkey to Greece incurs costs ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 dollars per refugee under optimal conditions; however, it also poses significant risks to life. Since 2000, approximately 30,000 individuals have perished in the Mediterranean Sea. The Mediterranean and Balkan refugee routes have been among the most utilized since 2000. In 2015, approximately one million individuals from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq migrated to Europe. The migration corridor along the Balkan Refugee Route, established for refugees escaping conflict in the Middle East and characterized by limited surveillance, operated from August 2015 to March 2016. During this period, Turkey consented to prevent 2.5 million refugees from reaching EU borders in return for 3 billion Euros from the   EU.

Following the construction of a four-meter-high razor-wire fence at the Serbian–Hungarian border in September 2015, individuals encountered an increasing number of barriers to passage. Previously, individuals travelled from Turkey to Greece, crossing Serbia and Hungary to reach Austria; following the installation of razor wire, they were required to navigate the borders of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, and Slovenia. During the operational period of the Balkans Corridor, an average of 7,800 individuals arrived in Slovenia each day. The majority did not remain for more than one day (Country Report Slovenia, 2016). In November 2015, the Slovenian Government erected razor-wire fences along the Slovenian–Croatian border, coinciding with Macedonia's construction of a fence at its border with Greece. In December 2015, Austria constructed razor-wire fences along its border with Slovenia.

Conclusion

To sum up, migration is a phenomenon that is both complicated and multifaceted, and it has a profound impact on global society to the extent that it shapes economies, cultures, and political landscapes. Migration is influenced by a variety of factors, including historical events, national policies, and media portrayals. This is true whether migration is voluntary or forced. In spite of the fact that migration is frequently characterized as a catastrophe, it also brings major opportunities, such as economic growth, innovation, and the ability to solve demographic concerns, particularly in cultures that are getting older. Canada and Germany are two examples of countries that take quite different approaches to migration, which highlights the variety of ways in which nations control and assimilate newly arrived migrants. Because migrants contribute to the variety of countries, enriching cultural identities, and encouraging stronger social cohesion, migration also has a significant impact on the social and cultural aspects of society. When it comes to moulding attitudes about migrants, particularly refugees, the media plays a significant role and has the potential to influence the integration prospects of these individuals. Representations that are positive and diverse have the potential to improve public awareness and assist the well-being of migrants, whereas portrayals that are negative have the potential to impede integration and cause divisions.

In the end, relocation has the potential to be both a challenge and an opportunity. In order to cultivate societies that are resilient and dynamic, it is vital to have migration policies that are both thoughtful and inclusive, and that acknowledge the variety of experiences that migrants have. We can build more effective policies that not only handle issues but also unlock the potential for global growth and mutual understanding in the 21st century if we acknowledge migration as an essential component of human progress and embrace it as such.

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