

Title Name -Axiological assumptions of the European Union and the United States in their response to the immigration crisis.

NAME: DEEVI RAJA SRI HARSHA

Course Title :The United States and the European Union: Cultural, Political and Legal Differences in Approach to Modernity (US_EU)

Module Leader: Prof. Andrzej Bryk

Date of Submission: 17-01-2018

Introduction

Since long time ago individuals have moved from one place to another. Individuals have different reasons for reaching the European shores, and they also use various channels. Individuals looking for the legal ways but at the same time put their lives at risk to run away from the oppression, fights, and poverty. Some seek to unite with their families; others seek entrepreneurship and education. In the recent past, the European Union has experienced a large number of refugees and immigrants (Geddes, and Scholten 2016). Approximately one million individuals arrived in Europe, a majority of these immigrants running from war and terror especially in their countries.

The European Union has agreed on specific measures to deal with the crisis. These include ways to resolve the causes as well as increasing help to individuals who require humanitarian support both inside and outside the European Union. There are several ways the EU wants to relocate the asylum seekers who are already in Europe, resettling the needy individuals from neighboring countries and return those who do not qualify for asylum (Peers 2016). The EU is coming up with better measures to improve security at the borders, tackling immigrant smuggling, and providing people with ways to legally enter the European Union.

Majority of individuals who require international protection are coming to the European in need of asylum. Individuals who flee their homes and cannot return due to fear of persecution or risk of suffering serious harm. The European Union has legal and moral rights to protect the needy. The countries of the European Union are responsible for checking and confirming asylum

application and making a decision on whom to receive the protection (Schapendonk, and Steel 2014). Specifically, the commission is working continuously to ensure that the necessary child protection measures are taken. This has become a cause of concern mainly because the number of children in immigration especially those who are not accompanied is increasing. Due to their vulnerability, these children require particular attention.

Not everyone who goes to Europe requires special attention. Majority of the people leave their homes to improve their lives. These individuals are called economic immigrants. If these individuals lack a legal protection claim, then the government has the right to make sure that they return to their motherland country or to the state through which they passed. Thousands of people have died in an attempt to reach the European Union (Lutz, 2016). Majority of the people of the immigrants and refugees have paid criminal gangs and people smugglers to cross the borders. When these individuals are provided with food, water, and shelter, some of the European Union strain their resources. This is particular in the case in Greece and Italy whereby most of the immigrants have to first arrive in the European Union.

The European Union for the past twenty years has placed some of the common asylum standards in the world. Over the last two years, the European immigration policy has made advancements because the agenda on immigration that was proposed by the European Commission in the year 2015 is implemented. The European Union has increased ways to carry out rescue operations and to deal with criminal networks, especially in the Mediterranean. Through tripling the available resources most lives have been saved, and a majority of the traffickers and smugglers have been caught.

The European Union is tackling the issue of immigration by working closely with five countries which include Senegal, Nigeria, Niger, Mali, and Ethiopia. For instance, the European Union through cooperating with Niger is helping in the reduction of transit flow through the Sahara with the EU giving support to transit zones and six immigrant centers for immigrants who are vulnerable. Also, hands-on European Union support on the ground, aiding in dealing with human trafficking, and smuggling.

The Turkey statement in the year 2016 aimed to stop the uncontrolled movement of immigrants across the Aegean Sea and also provide the proper methods for refugees to enter Europe. This effect has resulted in the reduction of the number of immigrants coming from Turkey (Lazaridis, 2016). The European Union with turkey have come to the agreement that immigrants were arriving on the Greek islands from Turkey who don't make applications for asylum, or those immigrants whose application have not been approved may go back to their country. For each Syrian citizen returned to Turkey after irregular crossing, the European Union will take in a Syrian from Turkey who has not sought to take this journey in a manner that is irregular.

The European Union has offered support to Italy and Greece for the setting up of hotspots to aid the authorities in these countries to better deal with the future immigration challenge. The EU has also sent the member state professionals to assist in screening, identifying and registering individuals arriving and to notify them about their mandate to apply for protection internationally. The European Union has raised the rate of returns irregular returns of irregular immigrants who have no mandate to live in the European Union to their home country.

In October 2016, the latest European border and coast guard was set up to make sure that Europe can take care of its borders and face the immigration issue and challenges concerning security together. In addition to the 100 000 bodyguards existing in the member states, more than 1550 officers have been deployed in support of the member states at the borders. Furthermore, in 2015, an emergency relocation scheme was set up. With members of the European Union committing to relocate people from Italy and Greece to other European Union countries. The EU also wants to come up with safe and legal methods for individuals seeking asylum and the refugee who enter the European Union so that they do not risk their lives by seeking assistance from smugglers and traffickers.

The United States is capable and should do more. It has given approximately four billion dollars for relief purposes but has only accommodated 1500 Syrian refugees, and it has also given temporal protection to about two thousand six hundred currently in the country. The US government pledged to increase the number of immigrants from around the world. But still, the Syrian refugees to be resettled will not be as high as Europe's total despite the fact that the population of the United States is almost the same size.

The priority of European Union member states is to protect the immigrant seekers who are unable to return to their countries and then distributing the numbers among themselves equally according to the economic conditions of each country. The right way for Europe to start is by the new sensible proposal by the EU commission's to know how 120, 000 individuals who require protection who have arrived in Hungary, Greece, and Italy should be shared among the European Union countries. Each country should be mandated to accept a certain number of

immigrants. The member states should consider the commission's proposal because it acknowledges that most of the immigrants and individuals seeking asylum are of the working age and are going to some of the European countries with stagnant economies that contain debts. This is the main reason the commission's plan put the economic conditions into consideration and keeps the number of people assigned to each country at low levels.

The labor immigration levels in all the countries should be low, increasing and decrease depending on the economy's health because the labor market requires time to adjust to new workers when job availability is scarce. But suppose there are crisis countries that are stable should be generous and allow levels of humanitarians to be on the rise temporarily even if there are negative on the labor market. The policy proposed by the commission allows the European countries give permission to the EU countries to comply with their legal mandate to take care of the immigrants, but they should do so without risking their labor market.

The influx of young individuals in some countries, present a great chance. Germany for instance with old employees, low population, and the unemployment rate which is low is the first country ideally placed to receive a large number of immigrants and individuals seeking asylum. However, the government has pledged to manage the situation. Germany as a country has the challenge of training, educating, and integrating many immigrants and asylum seekers since they will not pass through the regular skills-based labor immigration channels crafted to match immigration worker skills with the labor market needs. However, if it is done correctly, it will be successful. According to the study of Oxford Economics, the GDP of the country is expected to rise.

Other countries that are rich should coordinate with the European Union to accommodate immigrants and asylum seekers too. The Persian Gulf States should be given credit for donating billions to the relief programs, but few individuals seek protection in the region because the gulf-states, due to their wealth do not resettle refugees and their geographical proximity to the individuals affected. Japan also despite the fact that it could benefit from immigrant workers prefers to donate money.

There are no hopes for the United European to respond to the refugee's crisis. There is still lack of network for reception centers that are commonly funded. Leaders nationally have avoided the idea of resettling quotas equitably for EU states. The old Dublin regulation remains to be the cornerstone of the European approach. And the injustice of Italy and Greece two of Europe poorest countries continue struggling with large numbers of immigrants. Being led by Merkel, Europe has recalibrated its efforts in preventing immigrants from entering Europe.

The immigrant crisis was not a European crisis since few numbers of immigrants make it there. In the recent past, the number of immigrants that enter the shores of Europe has declined due to the change in approach (Beyer, and Smets, 2015). Majority of immigrants who live in Greece in legal limbo are in conditions that cannot be tolerated. United Nations help is reaching only a small number of the two million immigrants who live in Turkey. Due to security issues, Jordan has closed its borders resulting to many internally displaced individuals with no humanitarian help.

The Central Mediterranean current situation is worse. The EU's response has moved from emphasizing on operations and efforts that resulted in a decline in the late 2015 decline in

drowning to collaborating with the Libya coast guards to make attempts to halt the immigrants' movements. The efforts to destroy the wooden boats used by smugglers have made the immigrants opt for even worse and dangerous rubber dinghies. Though it is not getting enough support from the European Union, the Italian government is accusing the NGOs that operate the search and rescue boats near the Libyan waters of supporting human trafficking. However, these desperate individuals have endured and survived the challenging journeys to Libya and have endured days, weeks and months in Libya where rape, forced labor, and torture are common (Guild, Costello, Garlick, and Lax, 2015). In any case, no proof preventing the search and rescue operations will do anything other than pushing the death toll up. The European deterrence efforts have worsened the situation. According to the UN agencies, there is evidence of the Libyan coast guard cooperating with the smugglers and selling boats that have been stolen by other smugglers and returning the immigrants to detention facilities that are appalling.

The European Union has responded by making deals with dictatorial countries that are quasi like Turkey and what is left of the failed state of Libya, giving money and boosting the regime's credibility with human rights records that are terrible with the aim of shifting the problem to someone else. Britain has been in the forefront for European response to economic difficulty advocating for decision making due to requests of more support for Greece and Italy. Cameron agreed to resettle 20,000 Syrian immigrants over five years, and it was because of the public pressure after a three-year-old body found on the Greek beach went viral in the year 2015. This is not a big deal since there are millions of refugees in the third world countries that are close to conflict zones, including Uganda, Kenya, Lebanon, and Jordan. A nation like Lebanon for instance, which has the highest number of immigrants in the world some of its schools are

operating both in the night and during the day to sustain the pressure. Uganda, an African country has one of the best approaches in the world since it allows all immigrants the right to seek employment putting Europe with all the wealth it has to shame.

The issue of Anti-immigration is on the rise in western countries. The problem would have been easy to solve if it were about the question of money. Both the US, Europe and Australia are wealthy, and it is clear that the cost of resettling the immigrants who need help could be afforded. And eventually, immigration tends to be an economic boost for the immigrants and their countries. However, the problem is not money related but to rather about tackling the domestic political forces that drive anti-immigration policies, right-wing populism, and nativism. Though the political effects are involved, they often bring anxiety about change.

Accepting a large number of immigrants needs acceptance that these individuals will change the nation's identity or culture which most of the time is a positive thing. For long periods of time, immigrants have been enriching countries that have been hosting them, making improvements both scientifically and regarding the snack foods. Accepting these changes is hard since it means taking scary changes. According to Max Fisher, accepting large numbers of immigrants means that there will be a modification of the vision of how your town and neighborhood will look like, and also to broaden how the community culture will look like.

The immigration crisis has come about a period when a majority of the citizens in the wealthy countries feel threatened by these immigrants, and by the thought that their cities, communities, and cultures are changing in ways which is uncomfortable to them (Massey, and Coluccello, 2015). That is particularly acute within the European Union because economic duress

has resulted to the rise of right-wing, populist anti-European Union parties that are also anti-immigration, and partly due to the reason that internal migration within the European Union has heightened the anxieties of populist about foreigners. According to the political scientist Deborah Schildkraut, this kind of anti-immigrant populism is driven by the belief of insecurity over demographic change.

Studies in the United States have found out that when Americans are shown news of the country becoming a majority-minority, it makes the country conservative on several issues including the issues that are not related to immigration. According to Dara Lind, the anti-immigrant appeal demagoguery is at the root and not about the issue of employment or economics, but about fear (Wodak and Boukala,2015). One study notably found out that the white American prefer immigrants who are like them, for instance, those who are white or are of Christian origin or those who are from a European country that has similar cultures with that of the United States compared to those who have a different religion, ethnic origin, or different culture.

In Europe, insecurities that are similar have led to the increase of anti-immigrant parties and policies. According to the United Kingdom poll, 67 percent of individuals are of the idea that the government should enforce law and order by deploying the army to prevent immigrants from crossing in the United Kingdom through the channel tunnel. Also, the polling outfit YouGov concluded that when the immigration is viewed as an issue, it is linked to government failure, economic insecurity, and the fall of Britain from greatness. Philip Hammond, the UK prime

minister, claimed that African immigrants were a threat to Europe's living standard and social infrastructure.

The prime minister of Hungary, Victor Orban defended his harsh government treatment of immigrants by claiming that they are a threat to Europe's Christian identity. The western countries are behaving like they don't care. The reality of the matter is that it would not be possible to freeze a country's ways of living in a status quo that is fixed. The kind of policies that Europe has on immigration, culture, and social norms will continue changing as they have always been (Algan, Bisin, Manning, and Verdier, 2013). However, it is part of what has been driving the desperation of anti-immigration politics. Even if they don't take any immigrants it is still a losing war.

Due to their unwillingness to face the harsh reality, several western countries have ignored the crisis and made it not their responsibility. The UK doesn't want refugees from France. France wants Italy to keep immigrants away from its country. Italy and Greece are of the idea that the rest of Europe should take responsibility for its refugees.

The United States has the available resources to resettle more immigrants and a resettlement program with the experience to enhance the resettlement (Triandafyllidou, and Gropas,2016). However, the United States has opted not to perform its responsibility to the global community. Their crisis is increasing each day with each country except for Germany not willing to handle the crisis. There is a crisis already there. These desperate immigrants have to move to another place. Leaving these individuals to die due to bomb attacks, or be persecuted by

dictatorship, or to undergo any form of mistreatment is not an option. But the world is opting for these people to die which is a failed strategy.

In showing solidarity, seventeen billion pounds has been set aside from the European Union budget to handle the immigration crisis with ten billion pounds for planned funding outside the European Union including three billion pounds for the humanitarian aid, six hundred billion pounds for the trust fund for Syria and two billion for the emergency trust fund in Africa. The humanitarian help that the European Union provide assists the immigrants in states outside the European Union. These countries include Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey. In supporting Turkey's refugee's facilities, the European Union in collaboration with countries that are also within it have allocated 2.2 billion pounds both for the humanitarian and non-humanitarian assistance. The European Union is also in the forefront leading donor in responding to the international Syria crisis. (İçduygu 2015)

To deal with the issue of immigration, the first step is to accept the humanitarian responsibility of accepting refugees while at the same time making a step to end the war in Syria countries (Burrell, 2016). This is achievable if the US and its allies which are Turkey and Saudi Arabia stop in their quest of overthrowing President Assad and if the United States together with its allies, with the inclusion of Iran and Russia with the help of the UN security council, support a joint action against the Islamic states. Once peace is restored in their countries, most of the immigrants should return to their mother countries. The United States together with its allies use trillions of dollars while they are reluctant to rebuild schools, homes, clinics and other important facilities. The irony is that Europe's aid budget is being used in caring for refugees in Europe's

land while that amount of money could be used in building stable economic futures in these countries.

Europe and the United States should finance the necessary investments needed for a viable life in African countries, the middle-east, and Asia. Europe and the US have been rejecting foreign help with the claim that budgets are tight. It doesn't make sense to believe that foreign assistance cuts will be the real savings in the long term. If the conditions are unviable abroad, then the immigration crisis, wars, and the environmental catastrophes witnessed in the world will continue to increase (Lazaridis, 2016). The climate change serious agreement is also an insurance policy against the immigration mass of the future. This is evident in the Syria disaster which had some of the roots in the draughts witnessed in the last decade. Many environmental immigrants are certain to follow a global warming trajectory that is business-as-usual. The negotiations that are taking place in Paris are, therefore, an important aspect of the puzzle. There are individuals whose lives are dependent on our succor, and the right wing is cruel to reject the humanity of these individuals.

Also, the pro-refugee politicians will not be eventual winners if they fail to pay attention to the deeper causes of the crisis. Accepting the immigrants currently should go hand-in-hand with ending the current Syrian war. There should also be a stop to the US-led wars of regime change, more cooperation, more cooperation and unity in the UN security council and a long term investment in the sustainable development (Hill, Smith, and Vanhoonacker, 2017). The issue of immigration will be tackled effectively when people everywhere the world including those from poor and unstable countries see a future that is safe for themselves and their children.

References

Geddes, A. and Scholten, P., 2016. *The politics of migration and immigration in Europe*. Sage.

Lazaridis, G., 2016. *Security, insecurity and migration in Europe*. Routledge.

Hill, C., Smith, M. and Vanhoonacker, S., 2017. *International relations and the European Union*. Oxford University Press.

Beyer, R.C. and Smets, F., 2015. Labour market adjustments and migration in Europe and the United States: how different?. *Economic policy*, 30(84), pp.643-682.

Strier, R., 2013. Responding to the global economic crisis: Inclusive social work practice. *Social work*, 58(4), pp.344-353.

Burrell, K. ed., 2016. *Polish Migration to the UK in the 'new' European Union: After 2004*. Routledge.

Triandafyllidou, A. and Gropas, R., 2016. *European immigration: a sourcebook*. Routledge.

Lutz, H. ed., 2016. *Migration and domestic work: A European perspective on a global theme*. Routledge.

Peers, S., 2016. *EU Justice and Home Affairs Law: EU Immigration and Asylum Law (Vol. 1)*. Oxford University Press.

Massey, S. and Coluccello, R., 2015. Introduction. In *Eurafrican Migration: Legal, Economic and Social Responses to Irregular Migration* (pp. 1-11). Palgrave Macmillan UK

Catchpole, M. and Coulombier, D., 2015. Refugee crisis demands European Union-wide surveillance!. *Eurosurveillance*, 20(45).

Guild, E., Costello, C., Garlick, M. and Lax, V.M., 2015. *The 2015 refugee crisis in the European Union*. Centre for European Policy Studies.

Wodak, R. and Boukala, S., 2015. European identities and the revival of nationalism in the European Union: a discourse historical approach. *Journal of Language and Politics*, 14(1), pp. 87-109.

İçduygu, A., 2015. Syrian refugees in Turkey. *The Long Road Ahead. Transatlantic Council on Migration. Transatlantic Council on Migration, Migration Policy Institute. Brussels. Available online at <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/syrian-refugeesturkey-long-road-ahead>, checked on, 3(8), p.2016.*

Levy, C., 2010. Refugees, Europe, camps/state of exception: “into the zone”, the European Union and extraterritorial processing of migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers (theories and practice). *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 29(1), pp.92-119.

Schapendonk, J. and Steel, G., 2014. Following migrant trajectories: The im/mobility of Sub-Saharan Africans en route to the European Union. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 104(2), pp.262-270.

Algan, Y., Bisin, A., Manning, A. and Verdier, T., 2013. *Cultural integration of immigrants in Europe* (p. 359). Oxford University Press.

Van Der Waal, J., De Koster, W. and Van Oorschot, W., 2013. Three worlds of welfare chauvinism? How welfare regimes affect support for distributing welfare to immigrants in Europe. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice*, 15(2), pp.164-181.

Obućina, O., 2013. Occupational trajectories and occupational cost among Senegalese immigrants in Europe. *Demographic Research*, 28, pp.547-580

Giulietti, C., Guzi, M., Kahanec, M. and Zimmermann, K.F., 2013. Unemployment benefits and immigration: evidence from the EU. *International Journal of Manpower*, 34(1), pp.24-38.

Galgoczi, B., Leschke, J. and Watt, M.A. eds., 2013. *EU labour migration since enlargement: Trends, impacts and policies*. Ashgate Publishing, Ltd..

