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THE FUTURE OF GLOBALIZATION AND MIGRATION: THE CASE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract

With the development of technology, transportation, and communication opportunities with globalization, the circulation of people worldwide has increased. People who experience the level of development and economic, social, and cultural differences in other countries by leaving their own country have started to migrate from their countries for reasons such as education, tourism, employment, health, and family reunification. Migration is one of the most important phenomena that transcends the nation-state. It is a complex structure with political, economic, and socio-cultural aspects. Migration directly concerns and affects not only the individual but also the society from which he or she leaves. The versatility of immigration makes it necessary to establish a legal framework on the one hand and makes these legalizations difficult on the other. Another problem related to immigration is that the conditions under which a person who immigrates from their country to another country will be an immigrant and under what conditions they will leave the immigrant category are determined by the domestic policies of the countries. Therefore, it becomes difficult to define immigrants precisely. For this reason, there are differences in the national immigration policies of countries. This study aims to explain the link between international migration and globalization based on data from around the world and to reveal the policies developed by the European Union as an essential global power for international migration movements.

Keywords

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KÜRESELLEŞME VE GÖÇÜN GELECEĞİ: AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ ÖRNEĞİ

Öz

Küreselleşme ile birlikte teknolojinin, ulaşım ve iletişim imkânlarının gelişmesiyle birlikte dünya genelinde insanların sirkülasyonu artmıştır. Kendi ülkelerini terk ederek başka ülkelerdeki gelişmişlik düzeyini, ekonomik, sosyal ve kültürel farklılıkları yaşayan insanlar eğitim, turizm, istihdam, sağlık, aile birleşimi gibi nedenlerle ülkelerinden göç etmeye başlamışlardır. Ulus devleti aşan en önemli olgulardan biri olan göç; siyasi, ekonomik ve sosyo-kültürel yönleriyle karmaşık bir yapıdır. Göç sadece bireyi değil, ayrıldığı toplumu da doğrudan ilgilendirir ve etkiler. Göçün çok yönlülüğü, bir yandan yasal bir düzenlemenin oluşturulmasını gerekli kılarken, diğer yandan bu yasallaştırmaları zorlaştırmaktadır. Göçle ilgili bir diğer sorun ise, ülkesinden başka bir ülkeye göç eden bir kişinin hangi koşullarda göçmen olacağı ve hangi koşullarda göçmen kategorisinden ayrılacağı ülkelerin iç politikaları tarafından belirlenmekte ve bu nedenle zorlaşmaktadır. Bu nedenle ülkelerin ulusal göç politikalarında farklılıklar bulunmaktadır. Bu çalışmanın amacı, uluslararası göç ve küreselleşme arasındaki bağlantıyı dünyadaki verilere dayalı olarak açıklamak ve uluslararası göç hareketleri için önemli bir küresel güç olan Avrupa Birliği'nin geliştirdiği politikaları ortaya koymaktır.

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INTRODUCTION

There is no common view on the definition of globalization in literature. Globalization is a concept that has been used frequently by governments, policy makers, political party leaders, business, trade, and academic circles in recent years, and has important effects on our lifestyle. Although the concept of globalization has political, social, and cultural dimensions, it is defined within the framework of economic and commercial relations between countries. In this framework, globalization is seen as an international integration process, and products and services are at the global level. In other words, globalization is increasing international integration, exchanging world views, products, and all cultural elements (Kung, 2020, p. 9).

In fact, globalization has now become an interdisciplinary topic. Scholars in different fields have interpreted globalization from their own perspectives. When we evaluate globalization in terms of the intensification of social relations and enabling cultural change, we establish a strong link between the concepts of globalization and migration. For example, British academic Anthony Giddens' connection between the concepts of globalization and modernity, as modernity is globalizing in its essence, supports this idea. Giddens emphasized the social dimension of globalization, starting from the definition of the intensification of social relations around the world. In this way, regions that are spatially far from each other can connect with each other. Thus, an event in any place can be affected or shaped by an event or process occurring in another place, kilometers away, or vice versa (Kung, 2020, p. 5).

Migration means "the movement of persons away from their place of usual residence, either across an international border or within a State. The term migrant reflects the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons" (International Organization for Migration, 2023a). International Organization for Migration also defines international migration as "the movement of persons away from their place of usual residence and across an international border to a country of which they are not nationals" (International Organization for Migration, 2023b). Here, over a 12-month period meant a permanent stay. We cannot define shorter stays in another country as a permanent international migration. They are classified as short-term migrants if they stay for 3-12 months and as long-term migrants if they stay for 12 months or more (Rees, 2009).

1. The Reasons of International Migration and Current Statistics

1.1. The Reasons of International Migration

At the macro level, migration has five key drivers: economic, demographic, social, political, and environmental. On the other hand, at the micro level, migration has different reasons, like income level, gender, and age. Countries' policies on emigration and immigration affect people (International Organization for Migration, 2023c).

One of the main reasons for international migration is economic reasons. Especially qualified people prefer to go to countries with better conditions than their own in terms of their careers and personal rights. Better employment conditions are also the key to a better life. In parallel with this, the labor shortage in developed countries and the high number of qualified and unskilled labor in developing countries, and high unemployment rates in these

countries, also trigger migration to developed countries. People's lifestyles are also factors that increase international migration. For example, the number of digital nomads and people working remotely has been increasing lately. Education is another important reason. According to the Migration Data Portal, the number of international students studying abroad in 2020 was 6.3 million. International education programs are the preferred way to learn a new language, meet a new culture, and gain experience. This helps to start a better career (Localyze, 2023).

Wars, political instabilities, and lack of peace push people to migrate (Cummings et al., 2015; Mlambo et al, 2019). The concept of irregular migration emerged because of the labor shortages and aging problems of European countries on the one hand, and the strict migration policies on the other. While the developments in transportation and communication that emerged with globalization facilitated the movement of migrants and the exchange of information, the impoverishment of underdeveloped and developing countries became the most important factor in the increase in the number of migrants (Yilmaz, 2014, p. 1689).

1.2. Current Situation of International Migration

According to the International Organization for Migration's 2020 data, although there are 281 million international migrants worldwide, this number corresponds to 3.60% of the world's population. According to the World Migration Report 2022, Europe and Asia have 87 and 86 million international migrants, respectively. These continents have the biggest migrant stock. In 2020, North America had 59 million migrants.

When we compare the international migration percentage in 2020, we see that Oceania, North America, and Europe have 22, 16, and 12 percent, respectively. But international migration rates are smaller in Asia (1.8%), Africa (1.9%), and Latin America and the Caribbean (2.3%). On the other hand, Asia had the greatest growth (from 2000 to 2020) with 74 percent growth (37 million people). During this period, Europe, North America, and Africa received 30 million, 18 million, and 19 million international migrants, respectively (Localyze, 2023). This shows that international migrants prefer Europe for different motives.

The United States has been in first place among the countries receiving the most migrants since 1970. From 1970, the number of foreign-born people increased from 12 million to 51 million in 2019. Canada is another country that has 23% of its population (that is 8.3 million people) who are immigrants with permanent residency. Especially western European countries, led by Germany, Italy, and France, came in third place. 37,7 million foreigners (whose nationalities are from the EU and EFTA countries) live in the EU in 2023, nearly 8% of the region's population. When we look at the migration, we see that most of the migrants move from developing countries to developed countries. Higher wages, life standards and social safety are important factors for this choice. It is seen that the most emigrant countries are from the Asian continent. More than 40% of international migrants come from the Asian continent. The 6 Asian countries that send the most immigrants are India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines, and Afghanistan. All around the world, more than 11 million Indians live outside of their countries. Mexico is the second-largest sending country. As of 2020, approximately 12 million Mexicans live abroad, of which 10.8 million are in the United States. They work such

jobs as service professionals (20%), blue-collar laborers (21%), and agricultural laborers (Localyze, 2023).

1.3. European Union and International Migration

The statistical data shows that the EU is one of the most important destination countries for international migrants. The EU does not have a standard migration policy at the Union level. For this reason, each country carries out its migration management according to its own national legislation. In this case, factors such as political discourses, xenophobia, and Islam phobia, which have been quite common in the country recently, play an active role in determining the destination country of immigrants. New and important policies are used to ensure that the different migration policies among the member states are united under a common roof based on equal burden sharing and the spirit of solidarity with the latest regulations. The EU is mainly exposed to 3 international migration movements: regular, irregular, and asylum. The policies followed for all kinds of migration movements are included in subheadings. First of all, international migration flows and their causes will be examined in the historical context of the EU.

2. International Migration Movements Towards the EU In Historical Framework

Migration movements towards the European Union and the migration policies developed are generally divided into 4 periods. These include the guest worker period covering 1945-1970, family reunifications covering 1970-1980s, the disintegration of the Soviet Union covering 1990- early 2000s, and increasing immigration from non-EU countries to the European Union from the 2000s to the present, policies developed for their movements.

The guest worker period after World War II includes trying to supply the labour force needed by the European Union in the process of eliminating the destruction and destruction caused by the war and restructuring its economy, industry, and infrastructure from third world countries (Aykaç and Yertüm, 2016, p. 14). In this period, European countries sought to recruit unqualified guest workers from countries with a colonial past or from countries such as Spain, Italy, Turkey, Portugal, Yugoslavia, and North Africa through bilateral agreements to ensure rapid economic development. European labor importation, which began in the 1950s, continued until the economic crisis that broke out in 1973. With the decrease in the need for low-skilled labor migration due to the economic recession that started in the 1970s, some European countries have started to implement policies to end the recruitment of guest workers, limit the demand for guest workers by imposing annual quotas, and encourage the return of existing guest workers to their countries (Gençler, 2005, p. 177). The policies implemented by European countries to reduce the number of guest immigrants in their countries have not been successful. Guest workers preferred to benefit from their social rights in the European countries they were in, and increased their numbers even more through family reunification. Those who have citizenship and permanent work permits in the countries go to work as guest workers, first of all, their children and spouses. Later, he brought his parents with them. This is not the case as a mass meeting of the demand of guest workers for unskilled labor in the labor market by the European countries receiving immigration. It has caused it to be perceived as a mass that tries to take advantage of the opportunities of the social

state, jeopardizes the social order and welfare in the society, and poses a threat to public security (Aykaç and Yertüm, 2016, p. 16).

Family reunification, which started in the 1980s, constitutes the second phase of migration to European countries; in this way, the increasing number of guest workers paved the way for intergovernmental cooperation and politicized migration. At the end of the 1980s, since the countries with labor migration, such as Spain, Ireland, Greece, Italy, and Portugal, began to gradually become target countries, intergovernmental cooperation was replaced by the creation of common migration policies at the Union level (Gençler, 2005, p. 177).

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, those in the Eastern Bloc country, which were in a negative socio-economic situation, started to migrate to Western European countries in order to find a job and lead a better life. The country most affected by these migration movements was Germany, whose citizens, who had lived in low-prosperity levels in East Berlin for years, migrated to the west with the fall of the Berlin wall. It has been determined that approximately 4 million East German citizens immigrated to Germany after the collapse of the Iron Curtain (Aykaç and Yertüm 2016, p. 16). In the 2000s, the policies of the member states regarding recruiting unskilled migrant workers have evolved into policies aimed at attracting highly qualified workforce to their own countries. In this direction, facilitating legal arrangements have been made in work and residence permits in various EU countries to make their countries attractive for qualified workforce. For example, The UK started the High-Quality Immigrant Program in January 2002 by turning to a new type of visa application. For the same purpose, the Green Card application started in Germany as of August 1, 2000 (Karaşahin, 2012, p. 51). In fact, in 2007, EU countries put on their agenda the regulation, which is now known as the Blue Card, and which is examined in detail in the next heading, for granting work and residence permits to these people to encourage qualified workforce from other countries (Aykaç and Yertüm 2016, p. 24). However, these policies were interrupted due to the 2008 Economic Crisis and the old policies were returned. Following these developments, the UK plans to introduce a quota application for highly skilled migrant workers. France and Italy started to discuss regulations that would make it easier to deport even EU citizens (Karaşahin, 2012, p. 51).

After 2015, the EU's migration policies focused on combating irregular migration and effectively finalizing asylum requests. In 2015, Europe faced a migrant crisis known as the Syrian refugee crisis. There were 1,8 million people, mainly from Syria, but Afghans, Nigerians, Pakistanis, Iraqis, and Eritreans were there. 1,822,177 people entered the EU illegally in 2015 (European Border and Coast Guard Agency, 2023). It has been determined that these people are mostly Syrian, Afghan, and Iraqi nationals and have crossed to the EU via the Eastern Mediterranean, Central Mediterranean, and Western Balkan routes. In this process, the EU first tried to find a solution to the irregular migration and influx of refugees by increasing its border security and cooperation with important source and transit countries. In the 2015 refugee crisis, Turkey was seen as an important origin and transit country for the EU. The EU has prioritized border security by approaching the migration crisis only by combating irregular migration. The EU has been criticized internationally because of the Fortress Europe Approach, whose internal borders with Schengen have been removed, but whose external borders are rising. The EU has pursued policies contrary to its core values and

international law, such as the Geneva Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. Up to this part, general information about the migration movements and types that the EU is exposed to has been given. In the sub-headings, the EU has developed policies on managing different migration movements.

3. Policies For Skilled Labor Migration and International Protection

According to Eurostat data, the EU's population aged 65 and over was 84.5 million in 2008, and it is estimated to reach 151.5 million by 2060. This situation is expected to pose a serious threat to the economic productivity of the EU. Due to the global competitive environment and the need for qualified labor, the EU has tried to produce solutions to alleviate the labor shortage and rapid aging problem through qualified labor migration from third country citizens. In this direction, inspired by the green card application of the USA, the Blue Card regulation, which allows qualified workforce from third countries to settle in EU countries, came to the fore in 2007. With this arrangement, the main purpose was to turn the direction of qualified labor migration in Asia, Africa and Latin America, which preferred to immigrate to America and Australia, to European countries. Accordingly, the Blue Card Directive was adopted on 25 May 2009 and entered into force in 2011. This directive aims to accept a highly qualified workforce from third countries, to support competition and economic growth in the EU with the workforce to be obtained in this way, to be at the forefront of the global competition for qualified workforce and to attract qualified workforce member countries together, apart from national strategies. He arranged the issues of inviting them to act (Akdemir, 2017, p. 81).

According to the data of Eurostat, the number of those who applied for international protection to the EU countries for the first time in 2022 is 881.220. This is the highest peak after 2015 and 2016. Both years, there were more than 1 million applications related to the war in Syria. Considering the nationality distribution of the people who applied for international protection for the first time in the EU countries, Syrians come first, followed by Afghans, Venezuelans, and Turkish citizens, respectively. Germany, France, Spain and Austria had the highest number of international protection applications in 2022 respectively (Eurostat, 2023, p. 5).

After the 2015 migration crisis, the most significant refugee migration faced by the EU is the migration from Ukraine to EU countries after Russia's military action to Ukraine. According to Eurostat data, the EU was in full solidarity with Ukraine in this process and granted temporary protection status to 4 million Ukrainians (European Council, 2023d). During the migration crisis 2015, the EU could not offer a humanitarian, effective, fair and fast asylum system to people seeking international protection. In addition to the legislative problems such as the Dublin Regulation, there have been experiences that damaged the spirit of solidarity due to the anti-immigrant policies developed among the member states. For this reason, the EU proposed a new Pact by reviewing the asylum system in September 2020.

The New Pact on Migration and Asylum was designed to manage and normalize migration. It provides certainty, clarity and decent conditions. Respect for human rights is really important, and it tried to create a fairer, efficient and sustainable migration and asylum process (European Commission, 2023). With the Pact adopted on 8 June 2023, the

implementation of a common asylum procedure among the member states, the modification of the Dublin Regulation by the spirit of solidarity, the implementation of the accelerated procedure for asylum applications made from the borders, the implementation of each country's annual maximum to ensure the fair distribution of asylum seekers among the member states. Alternative arrangements have been introduced to accept at least 30.000 asylum seekers or to pay 20.000 Euros for each non-admitted asylum seeker (European Council, 2023c).

4. Policies On Integration Policies of the EU

The institution that protects the EU borders is the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. In addition to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency's operation, readmission agreements signed with source and transit countries are also crucial in the EU's fight against irregular migration. The EU has 18 readmission agreements. These agreements are on the implementation of the EU's return policy. Eventually, in September 2018, the European Commission proposed the reform of common rules of the EU's return policy. On 7th June 2019, the Council accepted that new rules would improve the effectiveness of returns (European Council, 2023a).

With globalization, it is no longer easy for societies to protect their own culture and traditions. Engaging in cultural relations creates a new group identity and opens a new culture, tradition, and way of being. It is legally and institutionally difficult enough to harmonize only European subcultures and manage any differences that arise. Generally, local communities see immigrants as a significant cultural, social, and economic danger. So, integration policies and social inclusion is very important. As an economic integration, the EU has an important role in creating social policies and supporting member states.

After November 2020, the action plan came into force for 2021-2027. This action plan is presented to promote the inclusion of the migrants. It also emphasized the possible contribution of migrants to the EU (European Council, 2023b).

CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

With globalization, the field of migration has expanded, and international migration has become widespread. Changing and increasing migration movements with globalization have made the borders of nation-states surmountable and have led to new policy searches. Globalization has made the conditions of countries visible. In general, the difficult conditions in third-world countries were the driving force. The need for labor in other countries, which became more visible thanks to communication networks, and the fact that democracy created an attractive force, accelerated international migration.

Globalization has also been a factor in the change and diversification of migration movements. Various types of migration, such as short-term, short-distance migration, labor migration, and highly qualified migration, have occurred, and the profiles of the migrants have diversified. Migration, an important pillar of globalization, is not merely demographic, cultures, ideas, and capital cross different borders. Thus, it has made the border control and security policies of nation-states even more important. Unwanted migration is a significant issue here. Those who cannot come legally try illegal immigration. Arrangements are being

made to regulate legal migration and prevent illegal immigration. However, since migration is not an issue that concerns only one country, it necessitates international policies. It is important to know whether the goals and results of international migration policies match and whether they can regulate migration, especially irregular/unwanted migration.

When we examine the international migration movements in the EU, the migration process that started with the recruitment of guest workers and the migration policies developed for the qualified workforce have developed in line with the needs and demands of the EU. The EU has accepted migrants here legally and under its own control. However, in line with the effect of globalization and the technological and transportation-related opportunities it provides, migration movements have started for a better life. Policies limiting legal immigration triggered illegal migration. The EU has not been able to take a clear stand based on its own values in this area, as there is no common migration policy, and different voices have been raised about migration policies from member states. In this sense, the 2015 migration crisis was when the EU failed and was widely criticized internationally. In addition to economic migration, the number of people who migrated to the EU due to political instability, conflicts, and fear of persecution in their countries has also increased. As can be seen, the borders between countries have become increasingly uncertain due to the effect of globalization, and the reasons and types of international migration have changed and diversified depending on time and conditions. In this direction, the EU has recently made significant changes in its migration policies in all areas.

Ethical Principles and Publication Policy

We declare that we have obtained the data, information and documents we have presented in this study within the framework of academic and ethical rules, that we have presented all information, documents, evaluations and results in accordance with scientific ethics and ethical rules, that we have referred to and cited all studies we have used in the study, and that the study is original. Otherwise, we declare that we accept any loss of rights that may arise against me.

Ethical Statement

This article does not require ethics committee approval. The wet signed consent form stating that an ethics committee decision is not required is included in the article process files on the system.

Declaration of Authors' Contribution

This article has three authors, and the contribution rate of the authors is equal.

Declaration of Interest

There is no conflict of interest in the study.

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