

Chapter 6

Irregular Migration and Economic Nationalism in EU

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ABSTRACT

Nationalism is one of the controversial issues in political science studies. Nationalism includes rational approaches as well as emotional ones, both strong support and intense criticism. This chapter will apply the primordial approach of nationalism, considering its roots from before the French Revolution and as a result of human psychology. So, the sense of belonging, is the main argument of the primordial approach in nationalism studies, will be examined with its effect on the migration economy. The main focus of the chapter will be the European Union facing huge refugee flows from Syria, the economic impact of refugees by the effect of migration, and citizen reaction to immigrants and the economy.

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INTRODUCTION

December 17, 2010: A politically important date when the crisis has exploded, which still oppress the Arab world, as well as Europe. The main actor of the day is Tarek al-Tayeb Mohamed Bouazizi, who was born March 29, 1984, in Sidi Bouzid. After his father's death when Bouazizi was 3-years-old, he became an important source for financial support of his family. Without graduation in high school, he tried to find a job that he could have taken care of his family. So, he worked as a street vendor, selling fruits on the streets to earn in a day, as usual, he did on December 17, 2010, too.

11:30 am: In the Tunisian town of Sidi Bouzid, it was an ordinary day till Bouazizi was slapped and harassed by policewoman together with two market inspectors to demand bribes. His crates and electronic weight scale were tried to expropriate. He had lost his capital, also was humiliated in the public. Bouazizi went to the local governor to complain, but he was denied. Later in the day, he set himself into the fire. Bouazizi died on January 4, 2011, but his fire did not inflame only his life, also millions of people just a week after.

So, the story above is not only the film strip of Bouazizi. This is also the story of the Jasmine Revolution, sprouting in Bouazizi's protest. As Jasmine is the national flower of Tunisia, it was sloganed as 'Let's give jasmine to the police!' by many media organizations, which has caused President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to be forced out of the presidency. So, the new term 'Arab Spring' has been decided to use after those protest leap to Algeria with a domino effect.

One of the critical processes of the Arab Spring was observed in Syria, causing huge migration flow into neighboring and European countries. Since March 2011, over 5.6 million people have fled Syria. Still, European Union countries are one of the top favorite destinations for most of the Syrian immigrants. Among them, Germany, Italy, and France are the countries with a high number of asylum applications. Their balanced economy, high living standards, stable politics, and democracy are attractive factors for an immigrant to migrate. But, what about the other side of the coin? What difficulties do these countries have in the economy during the post-immigration process? So, in this study, the focus will be given to the economy to find out the impacts of immigration into the EU countries in the eye of nationalism. This research aims to answer how Syrian immigration affects the current economic situation of EU member states; and how a sense of belonging can affect the citizens choice in the economy.

The rest of the chapter is organized as follows: The first part of the chapter consists of discussions on nationalism in the light of several approaches, including their cultural, emotional and instrumental dimensions. The main focus will be

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