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Research Article

The Impact of the refugees on the European Union and Coronavirus Affects

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Abstract

The future of the European Union been at a high risk ever since the Syrian war, large number of refugees from the Middle East and North Africa began to flee into Europe with the Open-Door policy, a policy that led to trouble within the European Union. There were negative affects to such a policy that led certain countries to raise awareness and negative policies to limit the refugees, The United States of America made the situation more difficult with their interest in the European Natural resources and trade deals that could benefit the US on the long term. EU members started suffering from financial instability due to the large numbers of migrant and Covid-19 made it worse, there were two phases of the European instability, it is the before and after the Coronavirus, since many policies targeted those who were not benefiting the EU.

Keywords: Impact, European, coronavirus

Refugee Crisis: The Sociopolitical Division and the Economic Costs on the European Union

As the Syrian war created a mass number of refugees to escape, the EU welcomed the refugees to insure a safe place for them. The EU took advantage of the flow of refugees to have access to cheap manual labor that many EU members lack, since the manual labor became highly costly due to a decrease in such forms of labor over the past few decades. As the EU welcomed the refugees, targeting the poor was an approach to benefit from the mass number of refugees, the refugees who do not have a any formal way of leaving the conflict area. The EU has targeted those who have no significant educational background, as they are seeking for a new home to build their new home at. With a lack of formal education, the refugees would be facing a manual labor opportunity, which would help to regulate and drive down the labor wages on a large scale (Sunderland, 2016).

Large number of the refugees that fled to Europe were highly skilled laborers, and they were considered an addition to the EU as a whole. With all the plans of the EU that it had worked on seem to reach a point of loss of control, since the refugees that they entered Europe were not all as expected. The refugees that are coming from a different culture, having a different lifestyle, seemed to take advantage of the welfare system that the EU been working on for quite a while, by not being productive and taking advantage of the system the EU seemed to be allocating funds in a very strict way after the rise of populist movements in Europe. Europe has been under a substantial amount of pressure as a consequence of the crisis (Paynter, 2019). The crisis had several factors, varying from security threats, social antagonism, and regular legal issues.

Such factors prevented the refugees from finding jobs and working in a peaceful way in Europe.

The European social welfare system is not as used to the people not working nor paying taxes, the system had to accept a new reality that welfare does not work when you have people that do not support the system unconditionally, now days the system is crippling not only from the refugees that entered Europe, but the spread of corona virus forced people to stay at home which also became a new test for the European Union, after such a change the people started questioning whether the EU could maintain stability for its citizens.

Prior to the coronavirus the EU had to allocate a lot of economic resources to help the refugees that have entered continental Europe, and to send humanitarian aid to those who been suffering from wars, such as Syria, Libya, and Sudan. Most of the support that was giving had to go to Syria since the large number of refugees were mainly coming from Syria due to the way the war was shaped and lasted for more than 10 years. The EU fear a new influx of refugees going towards Europe, adding to that the early stages of the Syrian refugee crisis they EU had to cut deals with Turkey to limit the flow of refugees that been crossing from the Turkish border, and the deals were a bit costly and Ankara demanded a lot of money to prohibit the entry and passage of refugees through the Turkish territories, this boarder was considered the largest exporter of Syrian refugee passage, tension occurred between the EU and Turkey in 2020 due to a lack of trust from the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for the EU policy makers, since they were postponing the payday and that led the Turkey to open its boarder again (Menke, 2020).

The EU expended plenty of economic resources or order to tackle the issue of the refugees, yet such a massive budget being put on to tackle the issue of refugees did not come into a great effect since the refugees that entered or still entering the EU had a different understanding, experience of how the a welfare state is and how it must function and taking advantage of a welfare state would only lead to an economic instability which the EU is suffering from (Barder, Ritchie, 2018). The refugees only saw the recipient state is always capable of funding them, and the integration became a problem at that time since coming from a different region had different perspectives of how society could be. The problems that are being caused by the refugees are basically due to the hosting countries that are not able to pay attention to their own citizens, and they citizens are feeling more and more neglected by their governments, ignoring the people of the country only led to the rise of populism and nationalism in Europe. In some European States the parties are influencing the current status quo to change in the anticipation of a difficult cultural change.

Refugee impact on the EU internal politics

The refugee crisis had a huge impact on the EU internal politics, prior to the rise of populism the EU been trying to maintain a strong unity, but for the UK the EU was considered a weak ally since the US has been always sticking its nose into EU politics, which felt as a weak union that has been dominated by a power that only seeks to benefit of. In October 2016, Prime Minister Theresa May, announced her intention to invoke Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, and formally giving notice of Britain's intention to

leave the European Union (Pruitt, 2017). The reasons for the UK to exist is basically due to the weak EU policies that ruined its relations.

The Brexit is divided into two issues, the first issue is the economy, since the EU failed to address the economic problems that have been developing since 2008, the rise in the unemployment rate and reaching up to 20% in southern Europe had its own influx on the UK. The tension grew that the policies that the EU is coming up with is only helping the strong states such as Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands (Tahir, 2018). For Germany to enjoy in 2021 an unemployment rate of 3.7% and while the Brexit was in process the unemployment rate was 4% makes a huge gap between the strong and weak states, since most of those who want to leave the EU focused on the UK since it had better opportunities.

The second reason for Brexit is the rise of nationalism around the world, as mentioned earlier that continental Europe been the solid ground for the world wars that shaped the way it is today, lack of trust and fear from some institutions no longer serve the same purpose as before, for example the IMF and NATO are reaching a point of losing control. Those who support the EU still acknowledge that those institutions are weak and must be fixed but not discarded. Adding that the rise of nationalism and rise in populism started with the refugee crisis, the immigration crisis in Europe has affected the internal life in the UK, while the EU been ignoring the rising tide of nationalism, it has forced the voters to think of their national right, making migration the trigger for Brexit (Jenkins, 2018). For the UK the issue is not only the EU but also Ireland and Northern Ireland is considered an internal problem, if the UK adds customs or any border control

between the two, that could revive the tension between both the Irish Catholics and British Protestants. The History between the two is known for the large number of deaths, nearly 3,700 people were killed in the 30 years of violence between the two sides, which only stopped with a peace deal in 1998 (Casert, 2018).

There are many disadvantages for the EU since Brexit, and it is the diminished in nuclear arsenal that made the EU stand as a huge power. Collectivism is the key for the EU to stand strong, however ever since the EU began functioning as a weak union with its policies, only led to the rise of populism and refugee policies that decreased trust in the EU. Brexit only guided other countries to consider exiting the EU, some of these countries are highly important for the EU economy and as mentioned collectivism is the way for the EU to maintain its stability.

Italy: The Breaking Point for the European Union

The understanding of the EU been getting questioned by Italy, the key country that could change the future of the European Union, the balance of its structure, and at that time the Italy held its last election in March 2018. The result of the election led to the formation of the coalition government between two parties, the Five Star Movement and the Right-Wing League, such result shows the rise of the populism in Italy. The reason why there is a rise in populism is really simple to understand and expected, Italy been suffering from a high unemployment rate which is mostly located in southern part of Italy, with the numbers rising from 17% in 2014 up to 29% in 2019 the numbers showing are only the unemployment rate in southern Italy (The economist, 2018). However, as a whole in 2014 Italy's unemployment

rate was 12.7% and it was as high as Italy for a quite a long period since Italy used to float between 6% - 8% of unemployment rate. Ever since the two parties got together the unemployment rate started decreasing.

During the 2008 financial crisis, Italy was seen as the main destination for the North African migrants that been crossing the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, Leaving the unemployed in Italy to direct their frustration towards those who illegally entered Italy, most of the frustration exists due to the lack of resources in the country. Northern Italy voted for more independence from the South, such a voting struck due to the differences in economic stability within Italy, all that led to an internal disagreement till the last election that had parties willing to stand against the EU to keep the Italian people safe.

The economic instability and refugee flow led to the birth of the anti-immigration movements as the Italian shores were the easiest to reach for the illegal migrants that been fleeing away by water. The internal discomfort in Italy been existing until this day due to the EU policies that are not acting for the states' interest, all from 2008 until today's date reducing the poverty level is a hard task for the EU since its acting for the interest of stronger states, all that caused an internal breakdown within Italy. As the two parties got together and been capable of reaching common points, the coalition came up with joint programs for governmental planning, which includes plans for mass deportation of illegal migrants, those migrants that entered Italy and did not claim legal documentations, and a strong anti-immigration policy (the Economist, 2018). As the Northern league switched their initial goal of separating Italy in small states, they reached the point of understanding that Italy is off better

being one united front, therefore they agreed on transforming the country to a nationalist and anti-immigration country in order to keep Italy united, but distant from the EU policy making that has been forcing Italy to accept the refugee's that they no longer wish to welcome. Matteo Salvini, The Deputy Prime Minister of Italy and Minister of Interior said in reference to Sicily, that "The island must stop being the refugee camp of Europe" (Euobserver, 2018). With such claims this clearly demonstrates how Euroscepticism is growing in many countries in Europe, as its growing in Europe having it nurture in Italy points out the upcoming future of Italy and Europe.

The regulations that have been added by the EU on the refugees that are seeking to reach Europe from the Italian shores and not remain in Italy, the refugees want to reach the northern richer countries of Europe such as Germany and Sweden. The EU and been taking advantage of Italy by adding regulations that had to force the refugees to stay and get processed in the country where they must get their fingerprints in Italy, which indicates that the strong countries of the EU are only working for their own interests (Rusheva, 2018). This could draw attention to Italy alongside with Greece, the country that also been dealing with refugee crisis, and economic instability, which led to the rise in nationalism. Greece held the highest public dept in Europe, but that also led Italy to be the second with the highest public dept, such a dept put together the parties and led them to a coalition to work together to find a better solution to get rid of poverty in Italy. Such solutions would be costly, tens of billions of euros cannot be afforded by Italy on its own. The solutions were extremely hard to achieve, but important for the EU if they do not want Italy wants

to ask for a withdrawal, especially that Brexit ended up being an actual shock for the EU, to have a member actually withdrawing. The policies that the Italian party coalition seeks is to guarantee basic income for the poor families in Italy that have been suffering from unemployment, families will be provided with a salary of 780 euros per month as a basic monthly income. Such a salary to be provided forces family members to work to keep the money flow running in the system. Such a program is costly, the implementation of this program had an estimation cost of around 17 billion euros, in order to get rid of the high poverty in the state, that was the first policy (Ghigiarelli, 2017).

The other policy that developed to fix the Italian problems is based on two income tax rates, and this policy is the most expensive policy since the idea of two flat tax rates set at 15% and 20% (Horsfall, 2018). There has been a plan that sales and taxed would increase in a year of the implementation of the policy, yet there will be a deficit of 12.5 billion euros, that put economists in a place of hesitance that such a policy could lead up to 50 billion euros in lost revenues (Reuters, 2018).

The Third policy is the pension reformation, this policy is important for the Italian citizens, that would boost people to work in order to secure a place for a pension, as mentioned that the pension is set to be 780 euros, abolishing the current pension program that raises the retirement age in phases. The point system in Italy was introduced to help the elderly retire earlier, this system combines the people's total years of social security with their age with a total of points that must at least be 100, that means a person who has paid his taxes and invested in the system for 41 years could retire at the age of 59 (Trifiro, 2018). Such a system is ideal for the

European countries, especially when it comes to Italy, a state that is suffering from stable social security since every government that comes has its own policies on workers.

Italy undergoes a hard time due to its high debt, there was a fourth policy implemented and its controlling and cutting the dept. The populist parties that got in power in 2018 been asking the EU for a revision to the EU's Stability and Growth Pact, the revision which set a tough budget deficit in limit of 3% of the country's GDP. The plan is to reduce the debt with building solid grounds for the revival of the internal demand, and not by continuing austerity. Italy had its bad days regarding the debt, its percentage of national GDP debt reached as high as 132%, such a high percentage is abnormal and put Italy in a position of crisis. As Greece at some point led the EU into crisis, Italy a could also lead the EU into problems. The decisions that must be taken by the EU might not as effective since the policies that they adopted in early 2021 only affected Italy negatively (Kermani, 2018). Italy is seeking a better future therefor it must seek better opportunities and better economic stability.

The populist parties had other targets ever since they got in power, it is not only the economy or Italy's debt. Anti-immigration programs became the solid hand that led to the coalition of the two parties, there for their goal is to start with a mass deportation program to keep out the refugee's not from the EU, but from Italy that is suffering from a lot of pressure from the EU. The plans that they came up with are considered against human rights, for Italy, to have a brighter future and more stable deportation of the people arriving from North Africa is a must, they estimate at around half a million person (Ellyatt, 2018), Italy consider deportation since those who

entered are undocumented, which makes it a priority fir Italy to deport them. There are disagreements between Italy and the EU members on this policy, since they EU wants them to hold the refugees in Italy and not send them back, which in theory demands Italy to set part of its GDP to help the refugees, while their own citizens are suffering from unemployment. However, it is important to have a stronger co-operation to fight the human trafficking organizations that exist between North Africa, Turkey and Europe.

As the populist party grow stronger in Italy, the foreign relations became a setback between Italy and the EU, since Rome saw it right to reach out to Russia. Such buildup of relations led to a disagreement between the populist party of Italy and the EU in regards of the sanctions that are imposed on Russia, as Italy wants them to be lifted. Italy no longer see Russia as a military threat, rather as a prospective partner for Italy, NATO and the European Union. As the Mediterranean Sea is considered a smuggling route for the illegal migrants it is considered as a threat, therefor Russia suggests finding a solution to end it and to end the continuous influence of violent Islamists that claim to speak in the name of Islam, although all they do is ruin the reputation of the religion.

With an unstable Middle East, Russia is seen as the key play for ending the wars in the region in the scope of Italy, especially that Russia became the most important actor involved in defusing the situation in Syria, in theory, if Russia was capable of limiting the problem in Syria, and stabilize the Middle East, that could also limit the problem for Italy and the EU with the massive flow of refugees trying cross their borders. The US accusations were followed by the EU's which propagate the pressure that is being put on the EU

by the US against Russia to perceived hostile anti-western activities, notably following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 only made this endeavor harder for Italy.

As the EU pressure on Italy grew, the Russian-Italian relations maintained a growing path, it led both states to build co-operation plans to have stronger ties. Such a growing relation is seen as a threat for the EU especially after Brexit, the breakaway state UK, is functioning normally even after the massive loses, at the end the EU is being threatened with a new break in its union, and this time it is a continental European country. Such a threat is growing ever since an unexpected bond due to events that led to this strong relation between Moscow and Rome, had them acting together in strategic manners. The fear of having another breakaway state induced into the EU, countries were heavily effected, France, a state that had an EU ally lost from its near shores seas and led to economic loses, has also been experiencing direct tensions with Russia over the case of Libya, and their intervention for the killing of Libya's falling leader Muammar Gaddafi.

The EU experienced an internal threat since Italy, demanded from Russia to get involved in the Libyan issue to avoid the massive flow of refugees that are trying to escape their unstable country, the EU realized that Italy is no longer seeking solutions with the EU, since EU members are using their power outside of Europe, which led to the flow of illegal migrants, and pushed Italy to seek solutions with Russia to limit the problems. Italy wants a simple solution that would stop the flow of illegal migrants from coming from Libya or any other country. Rome's position regarding Libya been against the camp in power that has been recognized in Tripoli, Italy supports Khalifa Haftar, it

became a problem for Italy ever since the reopening of the Italian embassy in Tripoli, while the French embassy been closed ever since 2014. The damage that has been done to Italy is basically due to unorganized international policies that are affecting many countries, Italy happened to be one of those countries, therefore Russia is the first to be contacted by Italy to resolve the problem and find better solutions to ease tension in the region, that became one of the most alarming issues for the EU since one of their union members no longer seek the union for help. Italy has been putting pressure on the EU through their internal policies, while on the international relations they have become a threat to the EU, such tensions has also led to a division in the Italian politics and happened to create confusion in Rome.

The Venezuelan crisis created complications for Italy, ever since Italy vetoed on the EU statement regarding the Venezuelan crisis that only led in destabilization in the Italian domestic politics. According to "Politico" the EU Italy had no proper reason to Veto, as for Rome, the main concern is the Italian nationals that are resident in Venezuela. The Italian veto has only put a limit to the EU plan on issuing a unified statement, a statement that recognizes Juan Guaido as the Venezuelan interim president. The EU was taking the path of the US and joining them with other South American states to resolve the Venezuelan crisis. The EU members that signed up for the recognition of the Juan Guaido, started with the UK before exiting the EU, France and Germany, and found a way to convince other EU members to sign up for it. Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Denmark, the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Poland Sweden and Spain, those members signed up for

the acknowledgement and support for Juan Guaido, the interim president that claimed that there will be free and fair election.

Juan Guaido is an obvious US hand puppet, chosen by the US to replace the president Nicolas Maduro, in the aim of granting the US a share from the Venezuelan natural resource. For Juan Guaido to take over, the EU had to help the US with its decision making in order to put Juan Guaido on the presidential seat and enforce a presidential election that could change the current status inside of Venezuela. The US under any administration seeks to have military presence, and the case of Venezuela is not much different since they wanted military presence and intervention, that shows the US hostility to secure natural resources and creating more chaos and wars under the pretext of freedom and democracy, all that in order to take advantage of the oil of Venezuela, and any other country it happened previously in Iraq the endless war. As Venezuelan crisis is an internal problem, it is also an international since it became a race to get the oil and natural resources out of the country (Rettman, 2019).

As Russia is concerned about the Venezuelan issue, president Vladimir Putin expressed the need to have President Nicolas Maduro in charge, and insuring on keeping him as the Venezuelan president, with support of other countries, China and Cuba. Italy's decision to block the EU plan to vote for Guaido was so important, ever since Italy saw the poorness in the EU decision making, and the hostility of those who they follow. Italy decided to invest its time in building relations with China, which led to having Italy officially as partner with China on the Belt and Road Initiative. The leading parties of Italy are pro-Russian and willing to consider the Russian policy suggestions, while not

taking the EU suggestions into consideration, especially after all the failed policies that led Italy to a devastated economic situation in Italy (Ore, 2019).

According to Juan Guaido the tension in Venezuela comes from the people, since the people no longer want to live in poverty and no longer satisfied with the socialist system, and it is unacceptable for the people to live in such a situation. As Guaido asked the US to mobilize its armed forces to intervene in Venezuela, Russia publicly highlighted the consequences of having such an interim president in Venezuela would only lead the country into chaos, especially after all the previous experiences that the world have suffered from when the US intervene in a country the consequences are drastic. Russia sent 100 troops as well to Venezuela to ensure that the US is not crossing the line, to analyze the aim of the US in such a country that holds a lot of natural resources.

According to Alsessandro Di Battista, who left the movement in February of 2021, as a former Italian MP that was preparing himself to lead the Five Stars movement, has expressed that his opinion on the issue of Venezuela, also signed an ultimatum that would lead Venezuela to chaos (RFE/RL, 2019), such an action was considered a scheme for Italy and for the party itself, since an identical scheme happened during the Libyan war and Ghaddafi period. As soon as Italy veto on the unified EU statement, other Russian friendly countries saw analyzed the possibility of the US taking advantage of a country and push it into a worse position that it is at the moment, therefor following the Italian position was the right decision making. These countries, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and Malta.

That was considered a breakdown for the EU, since many of its members are no longer blindly accepting the decision making, a corrupt and flawed system that is dependent and solely fulfilling the US interest, the interest of the US that claim that the world need a Liberal identity and a adopt the democratic order. Di Battista raised the question of whether the EU have learned from its failed decision making and mistakes of telling nations what to do, gave examples of Syria under Bashar al Assad, Libya under Muammar Ghaddafi, and Venezuela under Maduro, the first two examples that were given proves that there was a massive war that occurred and never ended in Syria, and an ongoing chaos and poverty in Libya, where is the liberty and democracy that been mentioned. This is an example to prove how much the US is pressuring the EU to follow its interest, which led many EU countries to seek relations with rising powers, Russia and China for assistance, and that could be a greater opposition that could lead into chaos within the EU due to their weak policy making and following a hegemon that basically cares about its interest only.

The Covid-19 ramifications on the EU Economy and Security.

Prior to the 2020 pandemic the world economy and security had its own course, with the US top advisor of the former US president Donald Trump, Peter Navarro said that the Euro is grossly undervalued, there is one EU country that is considered as the powerhouse of the union's economy and its Germany, though according to Peter Navarro, Germany is finding tricks to manipulate the euro exchange rate for the purpose of trade (Donnan, 2017). To dive deep into the economics world, there is no clear method to analyze whether a currency is undervalued or

vice versa, therefor many economists think that some economic measures could pull the euro, or any other currency. Ever since the implementation of utilizing the euro as a common currency in the EU, it suffered from fluctuations, however it never lost its value compared to the US dollar, the lowest it reached was approximately 1.0339 USD to 1 Euro (Alphagold futures, 2018, p. 1-25).

According to the previous Minister of Finance in Germany Wolfgang Schaeuble, a strong united single currency is better for Germany, considered as important to boost the German economy, yet for some it could be more difficult from the EU members since they do not have the same economic basis, and they are considered weaker economies such as Greece that put the EU in a tough position for a while. The US consider any strong currency as a threat, when it comes to the euro it is below most estimates of fair values and the German exporters are the ones benefiting the most from it. The US market was less dependent on the European products, however with the euro being undervalued, German, and other EU products started flooding the American markets with their low prices, risking the American production market. The result of such large number of imports from Europe, is a disruption in the American currency and it is considered a threat for the US since their market is also suffering from a race with China.

After a lot of economic studies, the main focus of the US is the Purchase Power Parity "PPP", this index gives the ability to compare different countries' currencies with each other, also to determine whether the currencies are undervalued or overvalued and according to the results the German euro is 17 percent undervalued against the

American dollar. While the overvalued currencies are the French and the Greek, the French euro by 5 percent and the Greek by 7 compared to the American dollar (McGeever, 2017).

The former European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker, who is considered as a individual that dislike the rise in nationalists and populist parties in Europe, yet he emphasized the need to defend European sovereignty. As the euro is the second most used currency in the world, for it to become the most used currency Europe must be sovereign and not having any international pressure. According to Juncker Europe pays 80 percent of its energy import bill that is worth of 300 billion euros each year, and only 2 percent of the EU energy imports that comes from the US (Reuters, 2018). There were other complaints other than the energy imports, another point is the unfairness that European companies are forced to buy planes in American dollars instead of euro's there for the euro is under high pressure done by the EU mainly the United States of America.

Even though crude oil is one of the main imports for the EU, but it does not change the fact that paying in American dollars is not fair, and according to Eurostat, the majority of these imports are invoiced in dollars. Since the aircraft industry is European, buying the crude oil is mainly for the EU, and a study is conducted by the European commission that there is no legal or accounting obligation for not trading in euros. Clearly the US created a system that forced the industries to adopt the US dollar, since the dollar stands for business and the crude oil is set on two US exchanges that are "Intercontinental Exchange and the New York Mercantile Exchange".

China, as large manufacturing country it is also a oil buyer yet still less

of a consumer than Europe, and the European currency is way more stable and powerful than the Chinese Yuan, the Chinese Yuan did not stand a chance of competing with the American dollar, however the euro with all the pressure is still capable of competing with the American dollar. The energy sector is not the only area for the euro to challenge any other currency, but in this case the dollar could be challenged by trade, if the EU uses its accounts collectively that could be in total around 15 percent of all the international trade in goods (Guarascio, 2018). About 93% of the US trade is invoiced in dollars, and the EU is trying to do the same with its currency, since they could enjoy almost 1.8 trillion euros if the currency issue was managed properly (The Economist, 2018). After Brexit the number dropped, yet the numbers that were handed in are high and unacceptable and must be used as a reference frame to solve the problem.

For the US it is unacceptable for the EU to grow strong, while it maintains the pressure on the EU, there would not be any way to flourish, or to compete with the US, since the EU if it acts as a sovereign state it could compete with the US, even Russia and China in the realm of economy, military and political (Bershidsky, 2018).

As mentioned earlier regarding the rises in the unemployment rate in Europe, welfare states are dealing with relapse due to the policies that are no longer benefiting the EU members due to the rise of illegal migration from both African countries and Middle Eastern countries. The result is a discrimination between towards those who are coming and even discrimination between the European's themselves since the German European citizen benefit more than a Lithuanian citizen. Discrimination in Europe existed before however, it is happening again, those first generation

of migrants who stepped foot into Germany or France whether they were Christians or Muslims received less in wages than most of the nationals.

It is considered a normal act since larger number of migrants are arriving to Europe in the past ten years, and due to the massive influx of migration the social welfare program and system is no longer reliable, the large number of employments in EU countries led the governments to cut down on its funds. Until this date the illegal migration and refugee crisis is considered a massive problem for the EU, therefore the policies that been implemented prior to covid are to be studied since the spread of the virus is reaching an end, and which could trigger again another phase of migration, yet the policies were meant to be studied since they created discomfort between the people and the EU, the members that are heavily suffering and disturbed from the welfare system and state is Italy since their public debt has increased and the refugees are still in Italy. To have a perfect welfare system there must be a routine, and a work life balance, one child policy, and social responsibility (City University London, 2018).

The refugees that fled to Europe are in a rough spot, since they do not have a work life, from learning the language, and experiencing the life in the hosting country. Some refugees come with more than one child, forces the governments to pay more on the refugees instead of paying for their citizens that could be in need. That led to the disbalance in the economy in Europe, since the citizens seek equal representation or even a better one than the refugees (Zaborska, 2018).

Russia is hoping the EU would consider the eastern rising powers as their new allies, therefore after the conflict in Ukraine, Russia did not want to create tensions with the EU members,

some of those members are on good term with Russia, due to the fact that trade is their main goal. The EU saw Russia a direct threat at some point when it annexed Crimea as Russia is considered a historical major threat in wars. According to Russia the annexation of Crimea is not a plan to expand their territorial right or to create tension but to proclaim their land back.

The land was historical part of Russia, under Nikita Khrushchev Crimea was transferred to Ukraine with the framework of the USSR, after the collapse of the USSR, the land may go back to Russia, and as it was given from one state to another within a union that no longer exists (Milkoyan, 1992). The referendum helps understanding the conflict from a different perspective, that the people see themselves as Russian, yet they were threatened by the Ukrainian official and non-official statements coming against those who still believe that they are Russian and not Ukrainian. As any US administration, their ability to manipulate the world news, they were able to put pressure on the EU, and pushed the idea that the Russian president Vladimir Putin is planning to expand his territory. The US saw it as strategic to do so, since it holds risks to deteriorate important EU-Russian relations, on trade of Gas that comes cheap from Russia and redirect the market towards the northern west.

Some EU members noticed that the policies that been implemented are for the interest of those with stronger and better economies such as Germany, France and Sweden, and it ignores the states with weaker economies, that could lead to a breakaway. Brexit happened, changes occurred yet the union still functions, that could push Italy into a breakaway since it is seeking its sovereignty back. By avoiding dependency on the EU and following the

BRI agreement with China this could be the better strategic way to eliminate the factor of Union dependency. The refugee crisis is causing internal problems for the EU, by weakening states and this could lead to other nations to seek a breakaway as well.

The EU policies must change in order to maintain the EU as a whole and seeking solutions for the EU policies to keep the bloc together and avoid economic issues that are caused by the EU negligence over the weaker states. Supporting the nationals of the EU is as or more important than the refugees, or the result is a rise in nationalism. Even though Nationalism is the new flag for the EU members, and it is obvious that the countries are heading towards a nationalistic period, their aim and goal is sovereignty and equal living standards.

Post Covid-19 and Future of the EU: Boarder Problems and Covid-19 Regulations

Post covid is still inaccurate of the results that could come out, yet the problem is that the EU is suffering from several problems, the economic became a huge factor since there were a lot of money put during the lockdown that forced governments to pay for citizens while they are at home and not working, the EU countries faced a new major concern and it is the security that led to closing the boarders between EU countries to limit the spread of the virus, however countries started considering as a better alternative. States started feeling sovereign again, even though their boarders are open between each other, yet the upcoming policy making could be different than before the pandemic.

Those who got affected the most are those EU welfare states that accepted refugees and were forced to pay for their citizens alongside with the refugees, policies changed, and those members

started seeking ways to get rid of the refugees that they accepted during the ten-year period, yet it became an impossible task since the refugees that entered Europe have already built families and many of them became successful due to the opportunities that been handed in by the hosting countries, not necessarily because they are refugees, but the countries that hosted them hands in a lot of opportunities.

There is no sufficient evidence of how the future of the European Union would after such a great hit since, it is first massive challenge for the European countries ever since the great depression, it has been combated by the massive campaign to vaccinate most of the people to bring back the normal life, the recovery of the EU states been as high since the long lockdown. 2020 was a hard year for countries that have good economies, Germany, France and Italy are considered countries that had a large impact from covid, but tremendous comeback after the colossal crisis. The countries mentioned, suffered from drops in the typical sending yet, there were two countries that came out successfully from the crisis, Germany had a good recovery policy, it was impressive since their consumer spending post covid is 15% short from the pre-pandemic level (N26, 2021). While France had two long period of lockdowns, their initial drop reached 80% of drops yet were able to surpass this issue with the policies that were taken by them.

Such phase been considered hard for the EU, yet those countries policy making managed to succeed in this process, yet not every European country been capable of succeeding since other countries have been already suffering from economic instability. Those countries security have also been

threatened earlier by the rise of populism and also the massive influx of refugees. When the European Union decided to close its borders with the rest of the world, even between the members of the union, the citizens of the EU started considering the change is lethal for the future of the European union, especially that the citizens seek crossing borders without any check-up, a lot of pressure by the people to limit the spread of the virus by asking for vaccination programs and by demanding open borders again to benefit from cross countries relations. The EU also came up with a new system called the traffic light system, that classify each countries color whether the citizens of those countries are allowed to travel or not, the colors were red, orange and green and similar to the vehicle rules. Vaccination programs were highly recommended for the citizens of all the union even the refugees, yet to travel between country and another now proof of vaccination and documentation, that the individual traveling is negative all in the aim of having a better control over the spread of the virus (DW, 2021). All that led to a modern clash between the EU members on who should the refugees depend on, the EU as a whole or as individual member state.

Prior to the pandemic the EU been facing a rise in populism due to the refugee crisis, but with the Covid-19 the EU could not function as it used to before, therefor the strong countries took more advantage of the weaker ones, Germany, France and Sweden seemed to care about themselves first claiming if they could control the spread of the virus in their country ad have their economy flourishing would only be in the benefit of other EU members. That shows how weaker states dislike the policy making that the strong EU members are getting away with.

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