

NATION BEYOND NATION

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Abstract: *During the last years, due to constant wars and civil strife in many countries, a large number of people have left their nations. They have moved towards and settled down in other nations of Europe or U.S.A. According to UN's International Migration Report 2017, international migration reached about 258 million people, out of which 60 percent reside in Asia (80 million), Europe (78 million) and Northern America (58 million). As per the report of PEW Forum, about 27 percent Muslims (60 million) migrated from their home to live in other countries. The migration of such a large number of people and their settlement in other countries raise many questions related to the culture of the migrated people and culture of the host nations. Would the migrated people abandon their culture and adopt the culture of the host nation or would they form a zone of their own culture in the host nation? The present paper has studied the migration of the Muslims in Europe and U.S.A. and discusses it in the context of this question. The present paper is important in order to understand the pros and cons of the migration process of Muslims in Europe and U.S.A. This would help in unfolding a complex relation between Europe, U.S.A. and the Muslim world on the other hand, which could help in promoting world peace and protecting human rights*

Keywords: *culture; multiculturalism; migration; nation; human rights*

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the important phenomena of the global world is migration. Migration is defined in simple words as the movement of those who are leaving their countries for another country out of some particular reasons. As per the definition of The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, migration can be called "the crossing of the boundary of a political or administrative unit for a certain minimum period of time. It includes the movement of refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people as well as economic migrants." (*Migrant/Migration*) In the context of this paper only the migration of Muslims in Europe and America has been studied.

The process of globalization has brought the nations of the world very close to each other, thus to the overcoming of time and distance. The technological development speeded up and facilitated the migration of people at national and international levels while the expanding of the global economy at a faster rate has made possible the movement of the work force from one part of the world to another. The constant war in few regions of the world has forced people to migrate from their regions of strife to regions of peace. The qualitative higher education has also made people

move from one part of the world to more attractive ones. A large number of students who migrated from their own countries for higher education reasons also prefer to stay in the host countries or settle down in some another countries. Against the background of these factors, the number of migrants has increased at both national and international levels. As per an estimate of International migration report, "The International Migration Report 2017" the number of total migrant around the world is 3.4 percent (258 million) of the total resident population of the world. (*The International Migration Report 2017*)

The present paper has studied the migration of Muslims in Europe and the United States of America, the rationale behind the selection of these two regions being that there has been created a significant load of fear against the Muslim migrants, these being considered a threat to the culture of these regions.

The study is important due to the emergence of fear of clashes between the world of Islam and the West represented by Europe and USA. The thesis of the clash of the civilizations by Huntington draws the attention of scholars worldwide, particularly of the scholars of multiculturalism, to study the civilizational conflicts rationally rather than hypothetically. The present study has in view the

concern of the cultural clashes which are identified in the increasing number of migrants in Europe and USA. Is the number of migrants so huge that can it pose any threat to the culture of the host nations and pave the way for the creation of an exclusive cultural zone in Europe and USA? Can the exclusive cultural zone create a separate identity from the mainstream and produce the spirit of separatism resulted in the demand of a separate nation? Can the exclusive cultural zone be an expansion and strengthening of the multicultural zone or the end of the spirit of multiculturalism? Is it possible to create a cultural zone in the host country from migrated cultural zone?

This paper has studied these questions in the context of the number of Muslim migrants in Europe and USA. Migrants from other cultural backgrounds have not been included in the study as many European nations represent the same cultural values for which Europe stands. An important point to be noted while studying Europe and U.S.A. is the supremacy of race and culture over the religion. In this paper the notion of culture of the immigrants has been analyzed in the context of religion, races and ethnicity. The whole paradigm is to see the

religion of immigrants in the context of the culture of the host nation, which is more racial than religious.

2. MUSLIM MIGRATION TO EUROPE

In 1990 the total population of Muslims in Europe was 4.1 percent which increased to 6 percent of total population nowadays. The number of total population of Muslims in Europe has increased from 29.6 million in 1990 to 37 million in 2000 and 44.1 million in 2010. In 2016, the total percentage of Muslims was 4.9 of all European population. The projected rise in the population of Muslims in Europe till 2030 is 58.2 million which would be 8 percent of the total population of Europe and less than 3 percent of the total global population of Muslims. (*Europe's Growing Muslim Population*)

As per another set of data on national basis in Europe, Muslim population also does not show that they constitute more than 10 percent of the population of any nation of Europe in 2010 and till 2030 except only in two nations (Belgium-10.2 & France-10.3 percent). (*Europe's Growing Muslim Population*) Table -1 shows the number of the Muslims in some selected countries of Europe.

Table1 Number of Muslims in some selected Countries of Europe

Countries	Estimated Muslim Population in 2010	Estimated % of Muslims Among total population of the country in 2010	Estimated Muslim Population in 2016	Estimated % of Muslims among total population of the country in 2016
France	4,704,000	7.5	5,720,000	8.8
Germany	4,119,000	5.0	4,950,000	6.1
United Kingdom	2,869,000	4.6	4,130,000	6.3
Italy	1,583,000	2.6	2,870,000	4.8
Netherlands	914,000	5.5	1,210,000	7.1
Spain	1,021,000	2.3	1,180,000	2.6
Austria	475,000	5.7	638,000	6.9
Belgium	638,000	6.0	726,000	7.6
Denmark	226,000	4.1	266,000	5.4
Greece	527,000	4.7	614,000	5.7
Norway	144,000	3.0	174,000	5.7
Sweden	451,000	4.9	541,000	8.1
Switzerland	433,000	5.7	514,000	6.1

Source: PEW Research Center

Table-1 shows the rise of the Muslim population in the given countries. There is moderate rise in the population in each country from 2010 to 2016. No country shows the high growth rate of more than 5 percent. None of the countries of Europe has more than 10 percent of total population in 2010 and 2016. Migration is an important factor in the increase of the Muslim

population in Europe. Most of the Muslim migrants are from South Asia, North Africa and Turkey. There is internal migration within the boundary of Europe and external migration from outside of the European nations.

As per the PEW Research Center, migration of Muslims is an important phenomenon of the growth of the Muslims population in Europe.

According to available data, 3.7 million Muslims migrated to Europe between mid-2010 to mid-2016. Visualizing Muslim population under three conditions, the Muslim population is not going to exceed 14 percent of the total population of Europe in 2050. In the first condition when net migration is assumed to zero, the increase in the population of Muslims would be from 4.9 percent to 7.4 percent in 2050. In the second condition, when net migration is assumed moderate, the population of Muslims would be 11.2 percent in 2050 and in the third condition, when there is assumed high level of migration, still the population of Muslims in Europe would not exceed 14 percent in 2050 of the total European population. In each case, the population of Muslims in Europe is going to increase depending upon the condition of migration but not at an alarming pace. Their population would be doubled in high migration but not going to be more than 15 percent of total European population over a period of time. (*Europe's Growing Muslim Population*)

With count estimated of Muslims population in 2010, 2016 and projected for 2050, in three condition of migration, the population of Muslims is: 2010(19.5 million), 2016(25.8 million), 2050(35.8 million - with Zero migration), 2050 (57.9 million - with medium migration) and 2050 (75.6 million - with high migration). (*Europe's Growing Muslim Population*)

Among the 3.7 million Muslim migrants, countries from where these migrants originated are Syria (710,000 and 91 percent (650,000) are Muslims), India (480,000 and 15 percent (72000) are Muslims), Morocco (370,000 and 100 percent Muslims 370,000), Pakistan (280,000 and 96 percent (270,000) are Muslims), Bangladesh (250,000 and 95 percent (230,000) are Muslims), United States (240,000 and 1 percent (2400) are Muslims), China (240,000 and 2 percent (4800) are Muslims), Iran (220,000 and 97 percent (213,000) are Muslims), Nigeria (190,000 and 23 percent (43,700) are Muslims), Sri Lanka (190,000 and 10 percent (190000 are Muslims), Afghanistan (180,000 Muslims), Libya (180,000 Muslims), Jordan (150,000 Muslims), Iraq (140,000 Muslims) and Algeria (140,0000 Muslims) (*Europe's Growing Muslim Population*)

And where are these migrants heading for when they come to Europe? As per the PEW Research Center, the countries of Europe which received a significant number of migrants from 2010 to 2016 are: UK (1,600,000 in which 43 percent (690,000) are Muslims), Germany (1350,000 in which 63 percent (850,000) are

Muslims), France (790,000 in which 67 percent (530,000) are Muslims), Italy (720,000 in which 56 percent (400,000) are Muslims), Sweden (450,000 in which 67 percent (300,000) Muslims), Netherlands (310,000 in which 57 percent (170,000) are Muslims), Switzerland (280,000 in which 33 percent (90,000) are Muslims), Austria (240,000 in which 46 percent (110,000) are Muslims), Belgium (230,000 in which 57 percent (130,000) are Muslims) and Spain (210,000 in which 39 percent (81000) are Muslims). (*Europe's Growing Muslim Population*)

The important points related to the population of Muslims that need to be remembered are that the increase in the Muslim population is due to the high rate of fertility (period-2015 to 2050 Muslims 2.6 to 2.4 and Non-Muslims in same period from 1.6 to 1.7) (*Europe's Growing Muslim Population*) and the net migration which has been mentioned above.

3. MUSLIM MIGRATION TO U.S.A.

The United States of America is one of the leading powers of the global world and one of the economic centers of the world economy, being one of the best examples of unity in diversity.

As per an estimate the population of America in 2017 was 325.72 million. (Resident population of the United States from 1980 to 2017) In another estimate by United States Census Bureau, April 25, 2018, the population of America is 327,600,50511 As per the estimate of PEW Research the population of Muslims in USA in 2007 was 2.35 million which rose to 2.59 million in 2010 and to 3.45 million in 2017. There was an increase from 0.8 percent to 1.1 percent of the total population of the United States of America from 2010 to 2017. (*Muslims in America: Immigrants and those born in U.S. see life differently in many ways.*)

The migration of Muslims in America started to rise after 1990. Only in few years of post 9/11 there was a decrease, otherwise the increase continues. In 1990 the number of migrants who got permanent residence was 50,000, which rose to 66,000 in 2000, 115,000 in 2010 and 109,000 (projected) in 2020. Due to the policy of the present administration there may be a decline of the migration of the Muslims in America. (*The Future of the Global Muslim Population. Region: Europe*)

As per the PEW Research Center's Survey 2017, the Muslims in America show no racial or ethnic majority. All of them show racial and ethnic diversity. The origin of American Muslims is from 75 countries. The PEW Research Survey finds "No

single racial or ethnic group accounts for a majority among Muslim immigrants, with 45% identifying as white and a similar share (41%) identifying as Asian.” (*Muslims in America: Immigrants and those born in U.S. see life differently in many ways*)

As far as their view towards religious practices is concerned, what constitutes in fact the essential culture of Muslims, 65 percent immigrants say that religion is very important for them while 44 percent pray five times; 80 percent observe fasting during Ramadhan; 45 percent attend a religious service once in a week; 47 percent considered Halal food (the permitted foods in religion with permitted method of preparation) essential for Muslims and among women 40 percent prefer head covering most of the time or all times. (*Muslims in America: Immigrants and those born in U.S. see life differently in many ways*) These data show that the Muslim population of America is not so fundamentalist nor does it follow its religion strictly.

4. MIGRATION AND CULTURE

As the theme of the paper is to see the relationship between migration and culture in a host nation, the study of the Muslim migrants in Europe and America shows that there is no such threat of exclusive cultural zone of Muslim migrants in Europe and America. Neither the migrant population is too big in Europe (with high migration the population of Muslims in Europe in 2050 would be no more than 14 percent) nor is it in America (the number of Muslim in America would be 2.1 percent only) (Mohamed, January 3, 2018) How such a small population can put a threat to a population five times bigger is indeed a matter of study. The study of the behavior of the migrants in terms of their origin country cannot be accepted in the study of the behavior of the migrants in the host countries.

On the other hand the population of Muslim migrants is not homogeneous and hegemonic so that it could threaten the culture of the majority of any nation. As per the survey of PEW Research Center, the Muslim migrants of America come from 75 countries while in Europe the origins of Muslim migrants are from as many as more than 50 countries. (*Muslims in America: Immigrants and those born in U.S. see life differently in many ways*) The Muslim migrants are divided on the racial, ethnic and cultural line, only religion being that that binds them all. In such a case how can the Muslim migrants pose a major threat to the major culture of Europe and USA?

The point that should be considered while studying the culture of the Muslim migrants in Europe and USA is that they are not seen in terms of racial and ethnic groups but in terms of religion. In terms of racial and ethnic groups, Muslims migrants are more diverse in their culture than the people of their host nations. They are similar to other racial and ethnic groups residing in the continent of Europe and America. In case of racial or ethnic groups the Muslim population in USA is divided into white (42 percent), Black (20 percent), Asian (28 percent) Hispanic (8 percent) and others/mixed (3 percent). (*Muslims in America: Immigrants and those born in U.S. see life differently in many ways*)

Similarly, the ethnic and racial division of the Muslims in Europe is Asian, African, Eastern European (Bosnian, Macedonian, Russian etc.), Turkish, Arab etc. In the same way, in terms of religion, the whole of Europe is an example of the hegemony of Christianity. And if religion is taken as the basis of a culture, then Europe presents a hegemonic cultural zone of Christianity which has no match and threat from the Muslim migrants which are in very small numbers.

In the case of the racial and ethnic basis of culture, Europe is a multicultural continent and in that case too Europe should not fear any cultural threat from the migrant Muslims whose number is small and divided into numerous races and ethnic groups. In the case of USA too there is no cultural threat from the Muslim migrants as they are divided on racial and ethnic lines and are very small in number, just 1.1 percent in present and about 2 percent in 2050. In case of a culture based on religion, there is no match of the culture of USA with Migrant Muslims both in terms of numbers and sects (Shia, Sunni, Qadyani etc.).

Perceiving the culture of the Muslim migrants and the host nations in term of religion is nothing but to create enmity through misunderstanding between the world of Islam and the world of Christianity, although both these religions have many common grounds to share and help each other. In case of Muslim migrants religion cannot be accepted as a tool to study the culture. If it is accepted as a tool it will create misunderstanding, which would be threat to the world peace and development.

In the same way the survey of the PEW Research center shows that the American Muslims do not strictly adhere to the basic principles of Islam. It means that a considerable number between 20 to 50 percent are either assimilated or integrated with the culture of the host nations as the response

on various aspects of the culture by Muslim population shows. In another example 93 percent considered themselves as proud Americans while 95 percent considered themselves to be proud Muslim, which makes us observe that here is no line of division between religion and nationality. (*Muslims in America: Immigrants and those born in U.S. see life differently in many ways*)

Therefore, in the light of the present study there is no chance for the creation of an exclusive cultural zone or hegemony of the culture of Muslim migrants in the continent of Europe or in U.S.A. till 2050. Whatever could be the possible threat to the culture of the host nations has been eliminated with the policy of multiculturalism, assimilation and migration policy. The real threat can be seen in the reversal of the multicultural policy by many European nations and emergence of many political right wings opposing the immigrants in Europe and in America.

The hypothetical fear that has been created around the increasing number of the Muslim migrants in Europe and America is not true and misleading in the light of the number, racial, ethnic and cultural background of the Muslim migrants and the host nations.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The present paper has studied the migration of the Muslims in Europe and in USA from various points of views of culture and reached the conclusion that, with the present ratio of migration of Muslims in Europe and America, it is not a threat to the culture of Europe and America. Even on the basis of projection of the population, there is no chance of the creation of an exclusive or cultural zone of migrated Muslims and cultural hegemony of any sort till 2050. The fear for separatism on the basis of increasing number of the Muslim migrants is hypothetical, which has no basis taking into account the available data presented by various organizations. There is no chance till 2050 of the creation of nation (culture) beyond nation (culture of origin). There may be possible the emergence of few small pockets of cultural zone in many parts of Europe but they would be not so powerful to threaten the hegemonic culture of Europe based on diversity and unity (European Union).

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