

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND EMERGENCE OF MULTICULTURALISM IN EUROPE

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Abstract: *No civilization can sustain itself in the long run in the absence of a modest rise of its population, as with the required addition in population, a civilization shapes its future course of action. Being the leading and trend setter civilization of modern times, Europe kept the Western cultural dominance with its own population. But due to various reasons, Europe could not maintain its own required population and, as a result, in the late seventies, countries of Europe witnessed migration and therefore the emergence of multiculturalism. Thus, U.K., Germany, or France have become destinations of large migration waves of people from Asia, Africa and not only, which led to the emergence of multiculturalism in Europe, in its various perspectives. The present paper has studied the role of the demographic trends in the emergence of multiculturalism in Europe, the point of discussion being whether the decline in the population of Europe has encouraged migration of the people from non-European continents and subsequently the emergence of multiculturalism. This paper would be helpful to policy makers, scholars and officials of the government to understand the relationship between demographic trends and multiculturalism and how multiculturalism is important for the development and peace of the European nations.*

Keywords: *multiculturalism; demography; European Union; birth rate; migration*

1. INTRODUCTION

As per an estimate the population of the world is 7.6 billion (<http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>) in which the largest number of the population is of the continent of Asia (59.6%) followed by Africa (16.5%), Europe (9.8%), Latin America and the Caribbean (8.5%), North America (4.8%) and Oceania (0.5%) (*Distribution of the global population 2017, by continent*) The continent of Europe stands on the third position in terms of population. There are 51 independent nation-states in Europe, while the European Union, the powerful block, consists of 28 countries. (*European Union. About the EU*) The study of present paper starts with data before the establishment of European Union in 1993. So, many countries which were in Europe and now in the European Union are in focus of the study of this paper.

The study of the demographic trends of the European Union is an important point for this paper as this represents an attempt to establish a relationship between the demographic trends and the emergence of multiculturalism. To settle this relation one has to see the trends of the demographic movement in terms of the natural

growth rate and immigrants from inside and outside the European continent.

There were numerous minority indigenous communities present in many countries of Europe but the policy of multiculturalism got momentum only when the immigrants set their feet on the European soil. With the coming of the immigrants, multiculturalism also draws the attention of indigenous communities from another perspective. The scholars, the policy makers and the political parties, along with the national and international human rights activists, were also interpreting the various issues of the indigenous communities from new perspectives. The present paper has put more emphasis on the immigrants rather than on the indigenous communities.

Multiculturalism is one of the important ways to live in unity and peace in the present day global world where a large number of people move from one place of the globe to another, for numerous reasons, particularly for economic reasons. The migration of people in many countries, particularly people from other cultural backgrounds, creates problems and challenges to the well-established cultural models around the world. The case of Islam phobia based on hatred, the emergence of violent

struggle in the Islamic world and the sharp reaction against the westernization around the world are some examples of anti globalization and cultural clashes. As a result there emerged a need to find such a model which could calm the reaction and bring peace and adjustment. The trend of Multiculturalism is emerging as an accepted model for adjustment of various races, religions, languages etc. in a country. Europe as a block of diverse races, languages, cultures and religions needs multiculturalism. This multiculturalism becomes more vital when Europe and particularly the European Union receive a large number of immigrants from various cultural backgrounds. Some cultures are pro-western ethos while others are in opposition to the very basics of the western culture.

Multiculturalism has been seen in relation with the balance between the ethnic and aged population and immigrants from the Middle East. Kosherbayev *et al.* (2016:145) states “The rapidly aging Europe, regularly suffering from many economic, political and demographic factors, has faced an acute ethno-cultural problem today and the reason for this problem is migrants actively populating the EU, leaving the Middle East region. Designed as a tool to control and create conditions of mutual existence, the policy of multiculturalism leads not to mutual understanding and enrichment but to inciting ethnic and religious hatred” while other scholars like Casals (2014) sees multiculturalism in the context of the identity crisis due to coming of the immigrants and cultural differences found in the minority groups of the European nations. He says that “Identity cleavages are more apparent in an age of intense inter-cultural encounters and connections that have virtually transformed society as they are, too, the relative privileges or vulnerabilities experienced by members of different groups. International immigration and refugee flows – both significant side effects of globalization – have further accentuated identity politicization by altering the composition of Western societies and potentially disturbing their core values.” (Casals, 2014:6)

Manyakin (2015) states that the reason for adopting a multicultural policy is the establishment of a diverse society due to coming of the migrants. In his words “Definitely, the complex historical and social processes that followed World War II were the main reasons why multiculturalist policies were adopted. Most importantly of all, societies in all of the mentioned countries became, and continue to become, increasingly diverse as a result of massive immigration from other countries and

continents in the second half of the 20th Century caused by the demand for additional labour and skilled force” (Manyakin, 2015:16).

Yegeenoglu (2003) sees multiculturalism in the context of the global capitalist system for the purpose of the management of the migrants to exploit the resources of the west. He says that “Globalization, according to the advocates of this position, marks the beginning of a process whereby difference is dissolved within the logic of sameness and cultural homogenization” (Yegeenoglu, 2003). So he believes that globalization is the point behind the emergence of multiculturalism.

Against the background of such studies the present paper has attempted to look into the question of the effect of demographic trends on the emergence of multiculturalism. How is multiculturalism linked to the various trends of population? Would immigrants increase in case of a perfect natural growth of population? Would natural growth encourage multiculturalism? Is the rise of multiculturalism associated with the decrease in population and rise of immigrants in Europe?

It is not possible to study all the European countries in detail in order to understand the relationship between the demographic trends and the emergence of multiculturalism. Only a general trend encompassing the whole Europe has been taken into the present study with the hope that in future more and more scholars would study the relationship between demographic trends and the emergence of multiculturalism at a micro level.

2. THE DEMOGRAPHIC TREND OF EUROPE

The demographic trends of Europe and after the establishment of the European Union depict a peculiar pattern. Starting from the post World War II to 2017, the demographic trends show the decline of natural growth in population and the growing role of the immigrants in increasing the population of the nations of Europe. What are the demographic trends of Europe after World War II? Table-1 shows the demographic trends of Europe from 1955 to 2018.

Table 1 shows an increase in the population of Europe of 165,537,650 from 1955 to 2018. Yet it declined from 1955 to 2018 in terms of the overall population in share of world population. Rank of it in share of world population has declined and reached from 2 to 3. The fertility rate of Europe declined from 2.66 in 1955 to 1.61. The share of

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Europe in the world population also declined from 22.8 percent in 1955 to 9.7 in 2018. The early

change in the population was more due to natural birth than migration till 1995 and later vice versa.

Table 1 Population of Europe from 1955-2018

Year	Population	Yearly Change	Yearly % Change	Fertility Rate	Migrants (net)	Europe's Share of World Pop	Europe Rank
2018	742,648,010	574,157	0.08	1.61	1,058,329	9.73	3
2017	742,073,853	626,695	0.08	1.61	1,058,329	9.8	3
2016	741,447,158	633,199	0.09	1.61	1,058,329	9.9	3
2015	740,813,959	730,076	0.10	1.60	810,747	10.6	3
2010	737,163,580	1,374,780	0.19	1.55	1,760,364	11.3	3
2005	730,289,682	617,749	0.08	1.43	1,710,154	11.9	2
2000	727,200,939	-176,731	-0.02	1.43	742,665	11.6	2
1995	728,084,593	1,277,201	0.18	1.57	1,048,115	13.7	2
1990	721,698,587	2,694,354	0.38	1.81	533,762	14.8	2
1985	708,226,818	2,803,896	0.40	1.88	314,570	15.9	2
1980	694,207,337	3,320,504	0.49	1.98	391,545	17.0	2
1975	677,604,816	4,050,936	0.61	2.17	420,966	18.3	2
1970	657,350,134	4,403,580	0.68	2.37	-84,454	19.7	2
1965	635,332,234	5,881,359	0.95	2.66	-275,255	20.9	2
1960	605,925,437	5,763,015	0.98	2.66	-563,385	21.9	2
1955	577,110,360	5,547,068	0.99	2.66	-275,255	22.8	2

Source: Worldometers, Eurostat and UN

The natural growth of the population declined after 1995 when the differences between ratios of births and deaths became zero. The migration took a positive node after 1975. In 1975 the net positive migration reached 420,966. This was the first time in post World War II when more people came to Europe than left it. What is an important thing to note is that with the passage of time more and more immigrants reached Europe. This period is also the period of starting of the policy of multiculturalism in many European countries. Was this policy started in the response to the increasing number of immigrants?

In another study by Avdeev, Eremenko, Festy, Gaymu, Bouteillec & Springer (2011) based on the data from Database of developed countries (INED) and Division database of the centre for population Studies (Moscow), the demographic trends of Europe show the decline of the natural growth of population and the increase of net migration in the total population of Europe. In 1950, the annual growth rate of population was ranging between 10 to 11 percent. After the growth of 1950, the population of Europe subsequently declined and reached zero by 1995-96. What is important in the study of the demographic trends of Europe is the addition of population more from the net migration than the natural growth (the more birth than death). As per the data, the addition in the population from 1962 to 1985 due to net migration was zero. It was only after 1985 that two thirds of the European countries experienced positive migration which added more in population.

According to data, the population of Europe was 692.5 million on January 1980. As per the data of Adeev et al. (2011) in *Populations and Demographic Trends of European Countries, 1980-2010*, the highest growth in three decades was recorded in the decade of 1980-1990 when except Bulgaria (-0.9%), Hungary (-3%) and Macedonia (0%) the population of every country increased. Between 1990 and 2000 the population of Europe increased to 725 million with 4.5 million addition or 0.6 percent increase in the population. (cf. 18)

In recent years, the European Union has become the destination of the world immigrants. With Europe there is need to know about the population of EU along with other nation-states of Europe to understand the demographic trends and multiculturalism in a better way.

The European Union came into existence in November 1993. At present there are 28 nation-states as members of European Union. The total population of European Union is 508 million (2015-28 Countries). (*European Union. About the EU*) In 2016, the total population of EU was 510.3 million (*Eurostat*), while as per Eurostat the population of the 28 EU countries is 511 million (Jan-2017) (*Eurostat*). As per the population of Jan-2017, Germany is the most populated nation with 82.8 million or 16.2 percent followed by France with 67 million or 13.1 percent, UK (Until the whole process of BREXIT is not completed) with 65.8 million or 12.9 percent, Italy with 60.6 million or 11.8 percent, Spain with 46.5 million or

9.1 percent and Poland with 38.0 million or 7.4 percent. Out of the rest of the nations which are members of EU, nine have a population share between 4 percent to 1.5 percent and thirteen nations have less than 1.5 percent. (*Eurostat*)

If we take the whole European Union as a single entity then it has the third largest population after China and India, residing over a 4 million km² area. In each study above there is a rise of population of Europe or EU but not due to natural growth but to net positive migration.

3. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND MULTICULTURALISM

The present paper is about finding the relation between demographic trends and the emergence of multiculturalism in Europe. One should perceive the relationship taking into account the indigenous communities residing for a longer period of time and the migrants who came from other European or non-European nation-states.

Europe is a continent politically strong and economically advanced. The rise of multiculturalism in Europe is due to many reasons, as many scholars suggest. Some scholars make multiculturalism a product of historical development. Many countries, before the rise of the modern nation-states, functioned on the basis of race which advocates for the unity of a particular culture (the 16th century). Later they formed their own cultural zone in the rise of nation-states. This was the emergence of diverse cultural zones in the form of the nation-states. So, the whole European continent can be perceived as an example of a multicultural world. If we could call Europe a multicultural continent before the rise of nation-states may be a matter of debate.

In recent years, the rise of multiculturalism in Europe is a post-World War II phenomenon. The important thing to observe is the rise of numerous minority groups of people on cultural, political marginalization, economic ghettoization, languages and social structure in an already established diverse culture on the basis of nation-states. This is the reason why Marina Lukšič Hacin (2016) sees multiculturalism in the context of between exclusiveness and inclusiveness; between majority and minority; between marginalized and non-marginalized. This condition makes modern multiculturalism more complex and fearsome among the people divided on the cultural line and who believe in the superiority of their own culture.

In the words of Kymlicka (2010:98) Multiculturalism is a “feel-good celebration of

ethno-cultural diversity, encouraging citizens to acknowledge and embrace the panoply of customs, traditions, music and cuisine that exist in a multi-ethnic society.” This definition makes multiculturalism not only the acceptance of diversity but also a celebration of it. The diversity is nothing to worry but to make it useful for the advancement of the community and the nation. Was this thought to be found before 1970, the year of emergence of multiculturalism in particular nation-states?

Another important view regarding multiculturalism is that of Taylor who considers the whole Europe as a multicultural entity and rejects the negative outcome of multiculturalism like ghettoization etc. He believes that multiculturalism is a unity force to unite the diverse groups of the people.

As per the data and scenario of Post-World War II, multiculturalism is the new phenomenon in the European nation –states, which emerged due to the immigrants. In the European nation-states the policy of multiculturalism started not to keep in mind the minority groups living in the respective countries but the migrants. The already existing minority groups of the nation-states got their political rights based on equality and dignity through the democratic process or they were so weak to assert their influence to get their due rights against their governments. Equally, they were representing the western cultural life, imagination, Ideas and thoughts. It was the immigrants whose arrival to many western nation-States of Europe on the economic and political grounds that complicated the well-established system of governance, economic structure and cultural equilibrium.

The coming of immigrants to many nation-states of Europe and the discrimination that they faced on racial, cultural, economic and political grounds led to the demand for equality, dignity and address all of the problems of the migrants. The demands of the immigrants and their different way of life created tension and tussle in many nation-states of Europe. The emergence of many far right political wings and advocacy for controlled migration are few examples which show how the European nations took to immigrants. The emergence of tussle between the minority and the majority groups led to the policy of emergence of multiculturalism in Europe. The main aim behind this multicultural policy was to bring numerous cultures into harmony by accepting the uniqueness of each culture. The essay of Charles Taylor, “Multiculturalism and the Politics of Recognition”

(1992), highlighted the necessity of the right to recognition and the right to dignity for both to ensure universal dignity” (Hacin, 2016).

The demographic trends which were negative on natural growth made the policy makers of many European states follow a liberal policy towards immigration. The policy of “Guest Workers” (Gastarbeiter), the policy of “oil Crisis” and the liberal policy of post 1980s are some examples which show a close relationship between demographic trends and the immigration policy of Europe. As per the data, the total migration from 1955 to 2017 shows many demographic trends. From 1955 the trend started was neutral with both net positive and net negative migration. It was only after 1985 that the net migration started to show an upward movement with more positive net migration than net negative migration (Avdeev *et al.*, 2011)

If we see the data of Eurostat regarding the European Union with 28 nations in its fold, the total population of EU increased from 406.7 million in 1960 to 510.1 million in 1916, adding 103.4 million people. The average increase in population was about 3.3 million per year in the 1960 decade, which declined to 1.5 million persons per year in the year 2015-16 (*First population estimates EU population up to almost 512 million at 1 January 2017*).

Being the leading colonial continent in the world, Europe is economically powerful. To continue with the development, there was a constant need for labour supplying. For the continuous supply of required manpower there was a need to sustain the natural growth of population, which means the higher birth rate over the death rate or to allow the migration of the people from other countries to Europe or allow the surplus labour from one nation of Europe to another one.

The other worrying points were the increasing number of the aged population (65 and above) and the decreasing number of the working population (15-64 years). As per an UN estimate as to the European Union the aged population rose from 9.5 percent in 1950 to 15.5 percent in 1995 and the working population fell from 7.0 percent to 4.3 percent from 1950 to 1995 (*United Nations Population Division, Replacement Migration*). On the basis of these two economic necessities there was the need of an increasing population.

On the basis of the data of 1995 for aged population and working age population the UN projection for Europe till 2050 shows the need of immigrants to sustain the economic development of Europe. UN saw the need of migration from 47.4 million to 153.6 million due to loss of

working age population in various scenarios (*United Nations Population Division, Replacement Migration*). Another projection by OECD (2014) regarding working –age population (15-64) of Europe states that between 2013 and 2020 this would decline by 7.5 million (-2.2 percent). In another estimate of OCED (2012), (Migration Policy Debates (2014)) over the next ten years the need for work force would increase by 70 percent in Europe (Dumont, Liebig, 2014).

The study of Avdeev *et al.* (2011) (Population and Demographic Trends of European Countries 1980-2010) about the population of Europe for three decades from 1980-2010 shows that from 1980 to 1990, the number of births was higher than number of deaths and as a result “the population of Europe increased by 3.6 percent with an average ‘political’ natural increase of 3.2 percent”. (In Avdeev *et al.*, 2011) During this period deaths were higher than births in two European countries – Hungary and Germany.

From 1990 to 2000, Europe witnessed different trends. Twenty seven countries of Europe during this decade with a total population of 331 million maintained positive natural growth while thirteen countries with a population of 404 million experienced negative growth. Russia, Germany and Italy recorded more deaths than births. During this decade natural growth suffered a setback with a decline from 0.3 percent to -1 percent (Avdeev *et al.*, 2011).

What was the position of migrants? As per the data from the study of Avdeev *et al.* (2011), there was a 26.5 million or 3.8 percent addition in the population of Europe from net migration from 1980-2009. There was a record of positive net migration in 24 countries in which Spain and Switzerland received 15 percent migrants; Greece received 13 percent; Germany, Norway and Austria received 8 to 9 percent. Some countries lost a significant percentage of their population due to migration: Albania 30%, Macedonia 16%, Moldova 24%, Bosnia-Herzegovina 21% and Montenegro 14 % (Avdeev *et al.*, 2011).

Due to these demographic trends caused by natural growth and migration, Europe experienced the inflow and outflow of people from the continents and determined it to adopt the policy of multiculturalism.

4. POLICY OF MULTICULTURALISM ADOPTED BY EUROPEAN NATIONS

European nations reached such a condition where they had no option but to choose either the

economic advancement at the cost of its own culture or save their own culture by saying no to the immigrants, all this having happened due to the decline of the natural growth of the population.

The migration of people and their settlement in many countries of Europe led to the change in the policies of the governments on the basis of multiculturalism. The approach varied from assimilation, integration to the rejection of the immigrants. In the views of Kymlicka (2012:99) the multicultural policy is a historical process but in modern times the emergence of multiculturalism is of modern western democracies. He says that "It is important to put multiculturalism in its historical context. In one sense, it is as old as humanity-different cultures have always found ways of coexisting and respect for diversity was a familiar feature of many historic empires, such as the Ottoman Empire. But the sort of multiculturalism that is said to have had a "rise and fall" is a more specific historic phenomenon emerging first in the Western democracies in the late 1960s."

In the view of Banting (along with Will Kymlicka), on the basis of eight indicators of Multicultural Policy Index (MPI) concludes that "multicultural policies have been maintained or expanded from 1980 to 2010 in most OECD countries, except Denmark and the Netherlands" (Huddleston, July 28, 2011)

On the basis of his Citizenship Rights for Immigrants Index (ICRI) which is based on 41 indicators, Koopmans (2012) concludes that the policy of multiculturalism became more inclusive in nine western countries, from 1980 to 2008.

In 1970 a number of European countries followed the policy of multiculturalism. Germany, particularly West Germany, due to the economic boom and shortage of labour, was to follow a multicultural and multi racial policy after 1970. The purpose of this policy was to integrate the migrant labourers into the German society (Kim, 2012).

The policy of multiculturalism started in UK from 1970-1980 when the policy towards immigrants was based on the principle of cultural differences, the government coming with a policy to bring equality on democratic principles and recognition of the cultural rights of the immigrants. (*Multiculturalism Policies in Contemporary Democracies*) Another country of Europe which started the policy of multiculturalism was Netherlands, in 1950-60. Beside these nations, some other nations to be mentioned were Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Norway, Ireland, Greece, Finland, Belgium, and Denmark (*Multiculturalism Policies in Contemporary Democracies*).

This policy of multiculturalism was challenged in the early decade of the 21st century in many nations of Europe on various grounds, yet there is no denial of the fact that the demographic trends determined the multicultural policy of many countries around Europe.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The present paper is about the study of the relationship between the demographic trends and emergence of multiculturalism in Europe. The continent of Europe is one of the leading continents in the economic development and the power house of the world politics. Being the single powerful continent in the policy of colonialism, this continent integrated well with the people of the other continents.

The devastation of World War II eroded the political power and determined the loss of a large number of the working population, which made Europe face a crisis of population. This continent passed through various stages of demographic trends which affected its economic, cultural and political policies. Due to the decline in the natural growth of the population, the nations of this continent promoted the policy of immigrants to sustain the economic development by meeting the demands of the labour market. The demand of the economic development led to the coming of an increasing number of immigrants in Europe which determined the emergence of multiculturalism in Europe. Many nations like Germany, UK, Sweden, Ireland etc followed the policy of multiculturalism to assimilate, integrate or treat their migrants with equality and dignity. There is no doubt that the policy of multiculturalism evolved due to the coming of the immigrants and not due to the presence of minority communities in these nations.

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