

## The Politics of Migration from the Arab Spring Countries to Europe

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to discuss the issues of migration from the Arab Spring countries to the European countries in terms of its causes and consequences. The study concluded that migration from the Arab Spring countries refers to what can be called as the factors of expulsion in the countries of the Arab Spring and the factors of attraction in the receiving countries of migrants, these motives or factors can be classified as political, economic and social factors. Furthermore, the revolutions of the Arab Spring have created a disastrous situation for migrants, both within their own countries and in the host countries, especially in light of the increasing number of migrants and the negative effects of their migration. Migration has become a challenge faced by both exporting and receiving countries.

**Keywords:** Migration, Arab Spring, Europe.

### Introduction

The Arab Spring revolutions have brought about major changes in the Arab world and its neighboring countries, and more changes will occur in the coming years. The revolutions have generally been followed by years, perhaps even decades, of instability, resulting in deep and comprehensive changes.

The changes taking place in the Arab world have significantly affected migration, asylum seekers, and people's movement, as well as the policies pursued by countries on migration-related issues. If these revolutions succeed, democratic political regimes that respond to the people's demands for freedom and restore citizens' confidence in the state on an economic level will be established. Poverty and unemployment rates will decline, and there will be economic growth rates reflected in the increase in citizens' quality of life. These improvements will affect the emigration rates, which are expected to decline in view of the stability of the situation in the Arab Spring countries, and perhaps this will lead to reverse migration; that is, if the situation stabilizes and political freedoms and economic security prevail, the migrants will return to their countries of origin.

The Arab Spring revolutions which raised European fears of large waves of unwanted immigration have prompted European countries to strengthen their border control efforts to address the risks of illegal immigration.

In this study, we try to identify the causes and consequences of immigration from Arab Spring countries.

### Research Problem:

The period leading up to the Arab Spring revolutions witnessed a large wave of emigration from the Arab Spring countries. From 2001 to 2010, the number of Arab immigrants from North Africa to Europe increased significantly. Contrary to the prevailing view that international migration trends are globalized, the overwhelming majority of Arab immigrants from the Mediterranean countries were going to Europe, especially in the direction of France, Spain and Italy, where these countries represented attractive environments for immigrants, especially workers and migrants with intermediate skills and experience. Those countries have a state of economic prosperity and high living standards compared to their Arab countries, and a large proportion of these immigrants found in the formula of "family reunification" a legal means to bring their family members and settled.

The initial European reactions to the Arab Spring revolutions were very positive. These revolutions were considered

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by Europeans a unique political opportunity not only for the Arab peoples, but also for the Mediterranean region for the multiple links between the peoples of the Mediterranean. The first European reaction was to shift their focus from the support of Development to the promotion of democracy, and many EU countries have linked financial support to the Arab Spring countries with the implementation of political reforms, and launched an initiative called 'A Partnership for democracy and shared prosperity' for the Southern Mediterranean, European countries have committed to funding a lot of projects aimed to support democratic transitions in the Arab Spring countries. The prospects behind the EU's focus on democratization and political reform in the Arab Spring countries have been that, in the long run, political stability in the Arab Spring countries will lead to lower migration and better and safer regulation.

Despite the efforts and funds allocated by EU countries to build and strengthen democracy in the Arab Spring countries, all of this did not achieve the desired objectives. With the exception of the Tunisian case, the situation in the Arab Spring countries, especially Egypt, Libya and Syria, did not develop in the desired direction. Immigration and asylum to Europe continued, which adopted strict immigration policies.

Hence the problem of this study is to answer the following main question: What are the most prominent European policies towards the issue of migration from the Arab Spring countries?

**Significance of the Study:**

The significance of this study stems from the paucity of previous literature, or its absence within the scope of the researcher's knowledge, which examined the subject of European policies towards the issue of migration from the Arab Spring countries, making it one of the first studies in this field. It sheds light on the policies adopted by European countries and the causes and consequences of the Arab spring revolutions.

In light of the above, the research is also significant in the fact that it addresses the attitude of European countries towards the migrations of the Arab Spring from the perspective of political, economic and cultural relations, and the importance of this in the field of international relations. On the practical level it is an analytical study that may open the door to further studies examining the relationship between the problem of migration and the reality of political life in the Arab spring countries, and it is hoped that the recommendations and results of the study to explore the reality of European attitudes towards the Arab Spring

**Objectives of the Study:**

The study aims to achieve a number of objectives, notably:

1. To identify the causes and effects of migration from the Arab Spring countries to Europe before, during and after the Arab spring revolutions.
2. To explore the attitudes and policies of European countries towards the problem of migration from the Arab Spring countries to Europe.

3. **Research Questions:**

This study examines the dimensions of the problem of migration to Europe in the Arab spring stage. One of the direct repercussions of the popular uprisings in the Arab Spring countries is the increasing numbers of immigrants and asylum seekers to Europe. This issue has occupied the attention of decision-makers and opinion leaders, in both the Arab Spring countries and the European Union. It became the European theme and the subject of the hour, or the most important topic like the fight against terrorism, as a result of the concern it caused to the European Union, this study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. How did the Arab spring revolutions affect migration and asylum in the EU?
2. What are the difficulties and challenges faced by immigrants and asylum seekers from the Arab Spring countries in the EU countries?
3. When did the migration begin from the Arab Spring to Europe and what are the European countries' policies towards immigrants?
4. What are the European reactions to the movements of immigration and asylum from the Arab Spring countries?

The limits of the Study:

The spatial, temporal and objective boundaries of the study are the following :

1. Spatial boundaries: the Arab Spring countries and the European Union countries.
2. The temporal boundaries: the period between 2010, the beginning of the revolutions of the Arab Spring and 2018, the period that represents the continuation of the Arab Spring revolutions for six years and the consequent instability of the situation and the high numbers of immigrants to Europe.
3. Objective boundaries: European policies on the issue of migration from the Arab Spring countries.

#### **Study Concepts:**

- **Arab Spring:** The wave of violent popular protests witnessed by the Arab countries and started in Tunisia in late 2010 and then moved to most Arab countries driven by political, economic, social and demographic factors, and led to the fall of a number of political systems such as Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.
- **Migration:** The transfer of a person or group of persons from their place of residence to another location in search of a better standard of living or the result of escaping unsafe situations at home with the intention of settling and remaining in the new place for ever.
- **The European Union:** an international association of 27 European countries after the departure of Britain. It was founded in 1992 under the Treaty of Maastricht. Its most important principle is the transfer of national powers to European institutions such as the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission.

#### **Methodology:**

For this study a mixed method approach is undertaken; the analytical descriptive approach which is based on identifying the characteristics of the phenomenon, describing its nature, its causes and trends, and the quality of the relationship between its variables and exploring a particular problem or phenomenon and identifying its reality on the ground and so on. In this case , the studied phenomenon is the problem of migration to Europe in the Arab Spring stage, which the study seeks to analyze and describe it in a scientific way.

The comparative approach assumes that there is partial similarities or partial differences. Comparisons between different phenomena are not quite identical or similar. The comparison is not comparable then. In this study, comparison is made between migration to Europe before and after the Arab Spring reactions to migration, and the realities of migrants in new societies.

#### **1. Literature Review**

A vast body of literature has been written on the Arab migration to Europe. The task of exploring this tremendous body of literature is further complicated by the different arguments presented by the authors. However, to keep the review to a compact size, the researcher reviewed some exigent literature that shed light on the subject. Among the major studies that address migration flows to Europe and Europe's response are the following:

##### **1.1 Mohamed Mutawea study (2015), entitled: European Union and Migration Issues: Major Problems, Strategies and Developments [1]**

This study aimed at identifying the characteristics and orientations of European policy on issues of migration and political asylum as they became a pressing issue on the European agenda after the Arab Spring revolutions, which led to an increase in the number of immigrants to Europe from the countries of the Middle East and Africa in an unprecedented manner in European history, prompting most EU leaders to consider a strategic move aimed at countering this unprecedented wave of immigration .

One of the findings of the study is that European policies in the field of immigration and asylum are not uniform and rely heavily on the national policies of each European country in the first place. It can be said that Europe is divided into two camps: Central and North Europe, in exchange for the camp countries in the South, as the camp of the South states that it is on the front line directly with the issues of migration and bear the greatest burden in dealing with them, and calls for redistribution of the burden of this issue on the rest of the EU as a European problem, not an internal issue, while

Central and Northern Europe countries consider the issue of immigration essentially as an internal issue and they receive a great deal of illegal immigration and asylum applications.

The study concluded that the Arab youth did not reap the fruits of their revolutions and aspirations, but broke the barriers of fear not only from dictatorships, but also from the sea, so that he crossed the sea in dilapidated boats in order to realize his dreams on the other side of the sea, even if his dreams led to drowning.

### **1.2 Ben Bouaziza Esté study (2015), entitled: EU Policy in the Face of Illegal Migration [2]**

The study aimed to identify the policy adopted by the EU to deal with the problems of illegal immigration, which has become a concern for the EU countries because of the problems it poses from various types, especially the potential relationship between terrorism and migrants.

The study examined the motives and mechanisms of the EU in the fight against illegal immigration. The study reached a number of results, the most prominent of which is the phenomenon of illegal immigration that has been linked to European security by considering it a threat. European countries are seeking to stop the increasing tide of illegal immigrants. The security approach is the method adopted by the EU countries in dealing with the issue of illegal immigration. Security was and remains the subject that is included every time in the policy of all the EU countries and seeks to achieve it, but to no avail. This is due to several reasons including most of the agreements relating to the regulation of migration to the countries located on the two shores of the Mediterranean, and did not move to all EU countries, and that the support provided under these agreements is limited and does not achieve the desired goals and that the majority of projects that were launched to combat illegal migration based on security solutions, were impractical.

### **1.3 James Hollifield study (2014) entitled, Controlling Immigration: A global Perspective. Stanford University press, 3 edition [3]**

This study aimed at providing a systematic, comparative assessment of the efforts of a selection of major countries, including the U.S., to deal with immigration and immigrant issues— paying particular attention to the ever-widening gap between their migration policy goals and outcomes.

Retaining its comprehensive coverage of nations built by immigrants and those with a more recent history of immigration, the study pays particular attention to the tensions created by post-colonial immigration, and explores how countries have attempted to control the entry and employment of legal and illegal Third World immigrants, how they cope with the social and economic integration of these new waves of immigrants, and how they deal with forced migration. The core argument of this work is that immigration policies are converging globally, but also failing to achieve their goals.

### **1.4 Elena Ambrosetti and Angela Paparazzo study (2013) entitled, Which Future for Migration in Europe? A Brief Analysis of the EU Migration Policies in the Mediterranean [4]**

The study aimed at identifying the EU policies on migration before and after the events of the Arab Spring in order to assess these policies and to determine their success in reducing the issue of illegal migration. The study paid special attention to Italy as one of the most receiving countries of the migratory waves of the southern Mediterranean.

One of the main findings of the study was that the policies of restricting or combating illegal migration were not effective in preventing waves of migrants from the southern Mediterranean towards Europe, and therefore, doubts are raised about these policies, especially in light of the presence of trans-boundary societies and the role of migrants who succeed in reaching Europe in facilitating the arrival of more migrants as well as networks of human trafficking and in effective EU sanctions against illegal immigrants.

Overall, the study considers that the sterile policies pursued by the EU countries, especially Italy before and after the Arab Spring revolutions have not stopped migration. On the contrary, these measures seem to have had a positive impact in the sense that they encouraged more immigrants to board the sea and migrate to Europe.

### **1.5 Philippe Forges and Christine Fandrich study (2012) entitled, Migration after the Arab Spring [5]**

This study aimed to provide a statistical analysis of migration before and after the Arab Spring revolutions in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean, as well as review and evaluate the Arab and European policies on the issue of migration. The study relied on statistical information and data collected directly from the specialized offices of the EU Member States, based on surveys conducted in a number of Arab countries such as Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Morocco.

One of the fundamental discoveries of the study was that: The revolution in Tunisia did not lead to a significant increase in the number of Tunisian immigrants to Europe, but the rates of migration from Tunisia to Europe remained at the same rates before the revolution. In contrast to Tunisia, the Libyan revolution and the Syrian revolution led to a huge increase in the number of immigrants from Libya and Syria to Europe. The Libyan revolution and the Syrian revolution led to the emergence of two of the largest refugee crises in the European neighborhood. The European reaction to these crises was the launching of a series of regional protectionist programs to absorb the refugees and provide them with protection in their home areas and in neighboring countries, to prepare for their return home after the war and thus prevent their migration to Europe. The countries of the world and the international organizations have participated in these efforts as well as the Arab countries hosting the refugees. European countries also seek to finance projects and reform initiatives in the southern Mediterranean countries to establish democratic political systems capable of managing the state in a new way that prevents the conditions of conflict and violence that ultimately lead to migration.

### **1.6 Michael Bommers, Heinz Fassman and Wiebke Sieves study(2012) entitled, Migration from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe [6]**

The study aimed to analyze the phenomenon of migration from North Africa and the Middle East to Europe by reviewing the history of migration, its models and its effects on European countries, as well as the European policies on the issue of immigration and the scenarios and future of immigration to Europe in light of the available figures on this subject.

The main findings of the study was that, the main factors driving for migration in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East are the increase in the population of North Africa and the Middle East, with limited employment opportunities in the light of the slow economic growth. Thereafter, the events of the Arab Spring and the resulting violence and instability led to an increase in the pace of migration to Europe.

And the effects of migration on the countries sending the refugees as many of the countries of North Africa and the Middle East lose as a result of the migration of this trained manpower in economic terms. There are also the social consequences of the high frequency of migration from these countries to Europe, especially since the vast majority of migrants are young males.

With regard to the European position on migration, the study pointed out that EU countries see illegal immigration from the Middle East and North Africa as a major threat to European security. EU countries have therefore sought to stop illegal migration flows using political, economic and security mechanisms.

### **1.7 Joel Peters study (2012) entitled, The European Union and The Arab Spring: Promoting Democracy and Human Rights in the Middle East. Lexington Books [7]**

The study aimed to analyze the response of the European Union to recent uprisings in the Middle East. The past years had witnessed a wave of popular uprisings across North Africa and the Middle East which the Western media dubbed "the Arab Spring." Demanding greater freedoms, political reform, and human rights, the protesters swept away many of the region's authoritarian autocratic regimes. The events of the Arab Spring have been truly historic. They led to profound changes in the domestic order of Middle Eastern states and societies and impacted the international politics of the region. Additionally, these events necessitate a comprehensive reappraisal by the United States and most notably by the EU in their relations with the states and peoples of the region.

This collection investigates three central questions: What role did the European Union play in promoting democracy and human rights in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East? How did the EU respond to the uprisings of the

Arab street? What challenges is Europe now facing in its relations with the region?

**1.8 Andrew Geddes study (2008) entitled, Immigration and European Integration: Towards Fortress Europe, Manchester University Press [8]**

This study aims at providing comprehensive analysis of the EU's free movement framework, of the development of co-operation on immigration and asylum policy, of the mobilisation by groups seeking to represent migrant's interests in EU decision-making, the interface between migration, welfare and the EU's social dimension, and the impact of enlargement on migration and asylum.

Geddes addresses three key questions that underpin EU responses to migration policy. First, what role does the EU play in the regulation of migration? Second, how and why have EU measures developed to promote the integration of migrants and their descendants? Third, what impact do EU measures on migration and asylum have on new member states and non member states? Migration is at the heart of the contemporary European Union.

The updated edition covers important recent developments, addressing new migration flows and the external dimension of EU action on migration and asylum and placing in all these in the context of a 'wider' Europe.

This paper build upon the previous literature in order to better understand the Arab Spring migration to Europe as a complex social fact which brings into play demographic, economic, political, sociological, historical and other factors.

**2. The Causes and consequences of Arab Spring migration to Europe**

Migration from the Arab Spring countries refers to what can be called the factors of expulsion in the countries of the Arab Spring and the factors of attraction in the receiving countries of migrants, these motives or factors can be classified to be political, economic and social factors as follows:

**2.1 Political Factors**

Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Yemen have witnessed a range of political conditions over the past few years as a result of the accumulation of miserable situation of political and civil rights, which led to a state of popular explosion that began with peaceful protests and then developed into chaos, persecution, civil war, instability and widespread violence. These circumstances led to sudden large waves of migration, including temporary displacement of citizens inside and outside their countries. The effects of the conflicts and unrest experienced by the Arab spring countries not only affected the citizens of these countries but also affected the international migrants who live and work in these countries at the start of the unrest, especially Libya and Yemen [9].

The uprisings in Syria and Libya have had a profound impact on migration patterns in the region. The conflict in Libya has led to the displacement of large numbers of migrant workers, Libyan citizens, and refugees to neighboring countries. In late 2011, 422,000 Libyans left Libya, most of them went to Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt and Chad [10]. As the violence escalates and public order collapses in 2014, many migrants have left again, with some 400,000 displaced within Libya.

In the midst of this chaos, the waves of mixed migration to Europe increased through Libya, the Mediterranean, and in 2014 there were about 140,000 refugees and immigrants [11].

The conflict in Syria has had a significant impact, and its repercussions have spread to all neighboring countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq), [12]. as well as to Arab countries, Europe, South America and the United States. About one third of Syria's citizens have lost their homes, and over two million have found refuge in neighboring countries (of these, half are under 18 years old). The rest of the displaced population (estimated at six million) is still in Syria. It is difficult to verify the numbers, but the trend is clear. Approximately 700,000 Syrian refugees are in Turkey, about 200,000 of them in refugee camps near the border, and it was reported recently that the Turkish government has begun to construct a fence along the border in order to prevent the arrival of more refugees. A quarter of million Syrians, mostly Kurds, have fled to Iraq, a country that itself suffers from chronic political and security instability. Egypt is host to about 125,000 Syrian refugees, in addition to tens of thousands of refugees from Libya and Sudan. Some displaced Iraqi and

Palestinian refugees in Syria had been displaced again

Yemen was before the Arab spring revolutions and continued as a sending, receiving and transit country. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between migrants and refugees who take Yemen as a final destination or transit point to continue their journey to Saudi Arabia. The continued civil war in Yemen has caused the displacement of millions, and the continuation and complexity of the conflict, has made it difficult to obtain accurate and comprehensive statistics on the Yemeni situation [13].

Although, the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions were less violent and bloody than the rest of the Arab Spring, the stumbling of the democratic process, especially in Egypt after the military coup, led to the migration of a large proportion of Egyptian and Tunisians citizens to neighboring countries that are most democratic, secure and stable.

## **2.2 Economic factors**

The economic conditions in the countries of the Arab Spring are disappointing. The levels of poverty and unemployment are high. The per capita income of the gross national product has not increased during the past years; most economic planning programs have failed, the problem of external indebtedness has worsened, corruption has increased, all economic structural adjustment programs which were followed by debtor countries in cooperation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund had failed. On the contrary, these programs had increased poverty and unemployment rates and have increased the gap between the rich and the poor.

If the waves of migration in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Yemen are the primary motive for escaping from conflict, widespread violence and persecution, escape from economic hardship and seeking better livelihoods and opportunities for life abroad is one of the main reasons why many people flee or emigrate [14].

If the economic expulsion factors in the Arab Spring countries are a cause of migration, in addition, we find economic attractors in the receiving countries, in which their economy helps to receive immigrants, especially European countries where immigrants engage in certain occupations such as agriculture, construction, cleaning and other professions or sectors that domestic workers refuse and migrant workers accept. These employers often warn that without access to cheap foreign labor, the costs of producing their products will rise and they may be forced to close their businesses. Foreign labor is part of the economics of industrial democracies, and this explains the continued flow of migrants to Europe, despite stringent restrictions and high unemployment rates in the receiving countries [15].

Economic factors are linked to the unbalanced population growth factor in developing countries, including the Arab Spring and the developed countries. The population in developing countries is growing faster than in developed countries. In Germany, for example, the program of importing migrant workers began in the mid-1960s to expand the industry. When it decided to stop importing labor in 1973, the migration stream was supposed to stop, but that did not happen because many years of attractions have increased the importance of foreign labor, and German businessmen are accustomed to the presence of foreign labor, continued to use these labor and thus emigration to Germany had continued [16].

With regard to migration from the Arab Spring countries, statistics indicate that large numbers of Egyptians, Tunisians, Libyans and Syrians have been able to get employment in the countries they went to. Several sectors such as agriculture, construction, restaurants, hotel service and home care for the sick and the elderly are benefiting from the activity of these immigrants and led employers to tolerate their informal residence. Furthermore, they do not pay taxes, do not receive their civil rights, face difficult working conditions due to the nature of their illegal residence, and are subjected to many violations, pressures and exploitation [17].

## **3.3. Social Factors:**

Social factors are closely linked to economic factors. Poverty, hunger, unemployment and low standards of living, despite being an economic factor, have social and psychological repercussions in the society in which they arise.

In the countries of the Arab Spring in general, the citizen suffers from an unprecedented level of deterioration of social, economic life, social exclusion, alienation and social inequality, poverty is one of the secretions of chaos and civil

war experienced by these countries, and the resulted in malnutrition and other problems. These factors are repulsive especially with the presence of other political and economic factors. These social conditions have led many Syrians, Egyptians, Libyans, Tunisians and Yemenis to emigrate [18].

Among the social factors that have led many immigrants from the Arab Spring countries to migrate, is the possibility to live with relatives in the Diaspora large numbers of immigrants from Arab Spring countries have decided to stay rather than return to their countries with deteriorating economies and unjust governments. Those who were able to legalize themselves or get the right to asylum did their best to obtain entry permits for their wives and children [19].

A significant number of migrants from Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Syria have been able to use family reunification laws in European countries to bring in more migrants despite the obstacles faced by these communities in previous countries.

### **3. The Consequences of Migration:**

The Arab Spring revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Syria have brought about the largest displacement in the Middle East in recent times. Millions of people have been compelled to flee their homes as a result of the armed conflict, violence and chaos that followed the Arab Spring protests.

These migrations have had their effects and repercussions both on the level of exporting countries and receiving countries or of migrants themselves, as will be address in the following section.

#### **3.1 Implications for Arab Spring Countries:**

The waves of large-scale migration pose great challenges to the countries of the Arab Spring, especially Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, and to a lesser extent Tunisia, especially since these countries have limited capabilities to meet their needs and fill the shortage due to migration. The situation is exacerbated by the continuation and complexity of the conflict, especially in Yemen, Syria and Libya and the prospects for a peaceful solution and the return of the situation to what it was before the outbreak of revolutions have diminished [20].

The negative repercussions are intensified by the lack of funding especially for the internally displaced, especially in Syria, Libya and Yemen, where the majority of assistance goes to those who have refugee status, and the responsibility for assisting the internally displaced in their own countries. The migration of millions of Syrians, Yemenis, Libyans and, to a lesser extent, Egyptians and Tunisians, have created great implications for their countries especially when specialists, capitalists and business owners leave in large numbers whose departure will have serious consequences for the economy [21].

Even after the return of refugees and migrants, after years of conflict, war and destruction of infrastructure, these conditions have a significant impact. This is evidence in Libya, Syria and Yemen, where social amenities have deteriorated and in many cases displaced persons and migrants were unable to return to their original homes and found themselves compelled to live in temporary camps or alleged irregular camps or public buildings, without access to justice, security, and development.

The sudden return of migrants from crisis-prone countries may pose major challenges, especially for countries with large waves of returnees, whose economy relies on remittances from abroad, and when returning migrants require financial, emergency or other humanitarian assistance.

In Egypt, which is the largest recipient of remittances in the Arab region, hundreds of thousands of migrants working in Libya have been forced to return to their home countries in recent years due to violence, prompting the Egyptian government to take the necessary measures to facilitate their return, despite the economic and social difficulties Egypt faces.

#### **3.2 Effects on Migrants:**

Migration has many effects on migrants, especially those forced to leave their homes and internally displaced persons from the Arab Spring countries that are forced to live in camps.

Refugees are often characterized by residing in remote areas with limited natural resources, lack of basic

infrastructure, poor planning and sometimes even restrictions on the rights and freedoms of persons.

These conditions can lead to overcrowding and insecurity within the camps, especially for women and boys, as well as malnutrition and outbreaks of communicable diseases. In the months following the establishment of the Za'tari camp in Jordan, measles, scabies, diarrhea, hepatitis (A) and other diseases were recorded due to overcrowding and lack of sanitation facilities. Incidents of harassment and sexual violence have led to high levels of insecurity, however, the conditions have improved since then.

The camps may contribute to social tensions, adversely affecting the local environment through deforestation that leads to soil erosion, loss of habitats and wildlife, in addition, it leads to air pollution, water depletion and pollution, and other energy and transportation problems. The needs and capacities of refugees and displaced persons are linked to their vulnerability and their ability to withstand. At the height of some crises, everyone living close to the scene of the crisis may face a lot of risk due to the spread of the repercussions of resource scarcity and chaos. This was the case in the 2011 famine that unfolds in Somalia and left 3.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and in other cases, the case of internally displaced persons in Sudan, and Yemen. The extension of the periods of displacement or replication may lead to undermining the ability of individuals to withstand the repeated risk. The ability to withstand the repeated risks affected by demographic, social, and economic characteristics. Some groups are vulnerable because of their health or age, such as children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Some groups have special needs because of the lack of support systems, such as women heads of household, ethnic and religious minorities, the poor and victims of trafficking and, in some cases, the population is at risk of their legal status, especially those residing in a particular country as non-regular refugees, such as those from sub-Saharan Africa in Libya, and other factors affecting vulnerability are sex abuse and sexual orientation. Women and girls in conflict situations may be at greater risk of sexual violence, while men and boys are at greater risk of forced recruitment and joining armed groups, although they are not immune to sexual violence, and the conditions surrounding crises and displacement, with the collapse of traditional support structures, the lack of the rule of law and the resorting of populations to riskier coping strategies and the use of irregular transport to ensure cross-border and remittance migration will increase the vulnerability of refugees, displaced persons and other migrants [23].

As for the effects of immigration on immigrants from the Arab Spring countries in the countries where they are settled, especially the European countries, the former countries are considered by the immigrants from the Arab Spring countries to be the Promised Land. They are politically and security ally stable countries and their economic conditions are excellent compared to their countries of origin. Their return to their country of origin is very unlikely. However, this survival has its price as these immigrants suffer first from the so-called cultural shock due to the difference of language, environment, customs and traditions, and even many customs and traditions of those immigrants are completely contradictory to what prevails in the new communities, especially within the social and family issues, and the role of women and women's rights. Western societies less interaction and less cohesiveness makes immigrants dealings with new communities difficult, and they become traumatized as a result of these differences [22].

The other problem of migrants from the Arab Spring countries to the European countries is the problem of social integration. The cultural and historical specificities of immigrants from the Arab Spring countries to the new societies hamper their integration and exacerbate the problem. These immigrants, even in the case of getting foreign citizenship, does not change a thing, as they are continue to be seen as second-class citizens.

When migrants attempt to adhere to their customs and cultural identities, they face many problems, especially in raising children and trying to raise them in a way that reflects their culture and identity. Finally, immigrants from Arab Spring countries face the problem of marrying foreigners which entails the impossibility of raising children resulting from this marriage in line with the culture and identity of migrants [23].

#### **4. Effects on European Countries**

The European countries face great challenges as a result of the influx of large numbers of immigrants from the Arab Spring countries. These challenges have political, security, economic, cultural and social repercussions. These

repercussions vary according to a range of factors, including the number of migrants to the population, the wealth of the host country, the demographic, economic, and social characteristics of migrants, and measures taken by both official institutions and civil society organizations to address the problem of migration from the Arab Spring countries. The burdens borne by European countries vary according to the Geographical location of these countries, nations of the South, such as Italy, Spain, Greece and France. Dealing with the issue of immigration varies from northern countries such as Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and others, and Britain, which has become outside the European Union has a totally different position [24]. The following is a presentation of the main effects of migration from the Arab Spring countries to Europe:

#### **4.1 Political Impacts:**

The mass exodus from the Arab Spring countries, whether those suffering from civil wars such as Libya, Syria and Yemen, or those suffering from political crises and deteriorating economic conditions such as Tunisia and Egypt, has become a major political challenge to European countries, resulting in enormous pressures, political divisions, disputes and disagreements among European countries, on how best to deal with the problem of migration and work to resolve or mitigate its consequences, especially the way that some European countries deal with the problem of migration considered by other European countries as a means to stimulate and encourage immigrants to migrate to Europe [25].

For example, human trafficking gangs are hauling migrants from Libyan shores by dingy wooden and rubber boats to trade them towards the Italian shores, where Italian relief ships are rescuing them and allowing them to enter the country.

As in the case of Germany, where some European countries take a lot of drawbacks to Germany in that, it is more caring and more welcoming to immigrants. Many European countries considered Italian and German policies as a sort of behaving recklessly and could seriously damage the cohesion and unity among European countries.

Europe has been under the pressure of immigration to forcedly build physical barriers on its national borders now than during the Cold War. Many European countries are planning to build border walls and security fences across the continent after the Berlin Wall was removed and made tremendous progress on the path of economic and political integration. The pace of integration has declined, and the voices calling for withdrawal from the Union have increased. If Britain is the first of these countries, it is unlikely to be the latter [26].

If the reasons for secession are multiple, security concerns and migration are at the highest priority for secession. The mass migration of hundreds of thousands of desperate people fleeing the Arab and Islamic countries, which have been spared by civil wars, is a continuous migration and there are no indications of stopping them.

European anti-immigration attitudes, whether or not from the Arab Spring or the Middle East in general, have revealed the falsity of the European claims of openness and globalization, the opening of borders, the transfer of funds, information, ideas and commodities, and human rights and fundamental freedoms. The advocates of globalization, freedom and democracy, they themselves are calling for the fight against immigration on the grounds of national sovereignty and national interest. If each State has the right to protect its national borders and to maintain its security, stability and interests, sovereignty cannot be divided so that there is sovereignty against migration, and other sovereignty with freedom of movement, information, ideas, capital, goods and others [27].

Among the political implications of migration from the Arab Spring countries to Europe is the escalation of the extreme right in European countries, especially in Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Italy and Britain, where there were terrorist attacks in the scene that claimed the lives of many innocent people. The results of these terrorist acts was the growing hostility towards Arab and Muslim immigrants, linking immigration to extremism, distorting the image of Arabs and Muslims and portraying them as a threat to Europe's security and stability [28].

The anti-immigration process has become a popular European demand, as it is clear that many Europeans are turning to anti-immigration political parties or extremist slogans against foreigners. If these demands may not be met by moderate political parties and decision-makers in Europe, so that the process of immigration is adjusted and its repercussions

reduced, the extremist force and racism will adopt the demands of stopping migration, increasing its popularity in raising society, and if these parties arrive into power, it will exercise racist policies that bring to mind the arrival of Nazi and fascist parties into power before the Second World War [29].

There is no doubt that the growth of the repercussions of anti foreigners in general and the Arabs and Muslims especially in Europe, and the increase in the proportion of extremist right currents in the decision-making centers and hence the tightening of migrants exacerbates the serious political repercussions of the migration problem. The approach of security in dealing with the problem of migration, and the justification of aggression and racism practiced against immigrants could lead to more chaos and disruption of daily life, undermining stability in Europe [30].

#### **4.2 Economic Impacts**

There are many negative economic effects of the influx of immigrants from the Arab Spring countries to Europe. With the influx of immigrants, the economic burden is increasing due to increased pressures on housing, education, social services and employment opportunities, which affects the political stability and economic situation of European countries.

The arrival and sheltering of immigrants from the Arab Spring countries has had enormous financial burdens. These countries have been obliged to secure such basic expenses as shelter, food, school costs, language learning, etc., as well as increased security spending to combat migration [31].

European countries suffer not only from migrants who come from conflict zones and who deserve to be granted asylum but from other types of migrants who come from safe areas and are called economic migrants seeking greater wealth and a better standard of living through asylum or migration. European countries are tougher in dealing with this segment; however, the issue of return to their countries of origin is a thorny issue and cost European countries a lot of effort and expenditures for legal and political reasons [32].

One of the economic implications of the crisis of immigrants from the Arab Spring countries to Europe is how the EU can deal with the fundamental problems in the countries of migrants, which started the migration crisis in the first place. The handling of the migration crisis requires the EU countries to provide financial, economic and military assistance to these countries. The relationship between migration, economic conditions are closely linked, so migration has become a factor of pressure on European countries and push them to work to find economic alternatives to migration such as easing restrictions on trade and the creation of partnerships and assistance for economically distressed countries to help these countries raise living standards and create job opportunities in countries exporting migrants. The freedom of trading of goods and capital is an approved recipe for limiting migration. Economic development in countries exporting migrants, including the Arab Spring countries, is one of the best recipes to reduce the phenomenon of migration [33].

Among the economic impacts of migration from the Arab Spring countries to Europe, has been that European countries have in the past preferred to channel their financial and economic assistance to the countries of Eastern Europe for cultural reasons at the expense of the countries in the southern Mediterranean such as Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, sub-Saharan countries and others. As the conflict in Libya escalates and the deterioration of economic conditions in Egypt and Tunisia increased, the rates of migration from former countries to Europe, which forced the European countries to change their vision so that these countries will not, directed a large part of their economic assistance to the southern Mediterranean countries.

Many EU countries have been forced to transfer a large part of their economic assistance to the southern Mediterranean countries and the Arab Spring countries. These countries urgently need huge and urgent economic assistance to respond to the needs of citizens, displaced persons and migrants. This humanitarian assistance requires the joint efforts of the international community in general, not only European countries, but the support of rich and remote countries that are not affected by migration such as Japan, China and the United States of America whose contribution is well below the required level. In Lebanon, for example, the World Food Program (WFP) announced in 2012 that food vouchers for Syrian refugees would be reduced by half. In general, the countries hosting refugees as a result of the Arab

Spring revolutions from Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan to Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria were underfunded, weakening their ability to withstand the crisis and mitigate its consequences [34].

Despite the various adverse economic impacts of migration from the Arab Spring countries to Europe, there are positive impacts on migration. The age structure of the EU population is changing rapidly. In 2015, one out of every three Europeans in the labor market is more than 50 years old, while the number of people between the ages of 20-29 is 20% lower. This means that Europe's labor force is aging. Migration is 70% of the population growth in Europe. However, every retired European person needs the support of three workers, and if population trends in Europe continue to be like that, then migration becomes the solution due to population requirements, and shrinking population and the aging workforce in Europe solved through migratory flows that address demographic problems [35].

#### **4.3 Cultural and Social Impacts:**

The large and unexpected migration from the Arab Spring countries to Europe has many social and cultural effects. Most of the immigrants from the Arab Spring countries to Europe are Arabs and most of them are Muslims. The entry of hundreds of thousands into European societies will have many social and cultural repercussions. These immigrants need along period of time so that they can overcome the cultural and social trauma and to assimilate new conditions and coexistence or integrate with them [36].

There is no doubt that the influx of immigrants from the countries of the Arab Spring to Europe, with the values and cultural values they carry, is totally different from what is happening within the receiving countries of the European Union, which leads to the question of the possibility of coexistence or clash between the two civilizations: the Arab Islamic civilization and the European civilization. Many immigrants from Arab Spring countries try to preserve their cultural and religious identity. This is evident in their dress, eating, customs, traditions, practices, and other cultural and social activities. Political systems in the European Union countries in many European cities have many features of Arab cities in terms of markets, shops, restaurants, places of worship and others, which impede the integration of immigrants in new societies, while at the same time promoting racist discourse towards them, especially linking migration to extremism and terrorism, This is common in many European media and literature, especially after the involvement of Muslim immigrants in a series of bloody events in Europe.

The feeling of division and confrontation is reinforced by Europe's expectation that after the demise of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, conservative danger are its southern border overlooking the Mediterranean Sea through the influx of illegal immigration and radical Islamic movements, especially the Islamic State Organization (ISIS), which has succeeded in penetrating security and European barriers, thus recruiting many Muslims living in Europe and carrying out terrorist operations in a number of European countries [37].

The Europeans also link migration to the threat of their identity, culture and civilization, in view of the migrants who are adhering to their customs, traditions and identity, and refusing to adopt the customs, traditions and identity of European host countries. Some explain the anti-immigration attitude of many Europeans, regardless of whether they are officials or ordinary citizens, the European countries fears that this space will become a Muslim Arab, especially since Islam is the fastest spreading religion in the world including Europe, which fuel incitement against Arab and Muslim immigrants to Europe, and translates its attacks on these migrants.

Among the cultural and social effects associated with the issue of Islamic civilization is that the European Union, in its current form, is a club of Christian countries. With hundreds of thousands of immigrants flowing into Europe through Turkey, many European countries have become more rigid in Turkey's accession to the Union. This position is reinforced by the fact that Turkey is an Islamic state, it has borders with Syria, Iraq and Iran and they are among the most unstable countries in the world and the most exporting of migrants.

Among the cultural and social effects of migration from the Arab Spring countries to Europe is the change in the patterns of production and consumption of food. Many of the immigrants from the Arab Spring countries who settled in a number of European countries have had an impact on changing many of the habits of Europeans in the food and other

changes in theater and even sports [38].

There are also large-scale effects of immigrants on the media by broadcasting programs dedicated to immigrants and minorities dealing with issues of concern to them. The spread of the Internet and the means of social media have led to the fact that Arab immigrants in Europe have their own websites and discussion forums that are managed, monitor and analyze by them to relate their issues and interests, etc.

Here, it must be stressed that there is no justification for European countries to adopt a policy of hostility towards Arab and Muslim migrants, rather cooperation, partnership, coexistence, social and political upbringing based on tolerance, dialogue, citizenship and pluralism, are the best means of achieving stability in the society and facilitates the integration of migrants. In addition, after some time, cultural and social norms weaken among the children and grandchildren of immigrants and the Arab countries from which they originate.

#### **4.4 Security implications**

European countries have faced significant security challenges as a result of hosting large numbers of migrants from the Arab Spring countries. Many European countries have taken border measures dominated by security concerns such as the use of sanctions, occupation and security control, and despite all these measures, as is common in various countries of the world, concerned with the issue of migration, which integrate the conclusion that it is physically impossible to exercise effective border control in open countries, as in industrialized countries, that explains large numbers of clandestine immigrants in European countries. The closure of borders and standing order against the movement of the transition to European countries put at stake the reality of Western democracies and their enrichment by the slogans of democracy, freedom and human rights.

In addition, maintaining the freedom of movement of European citizens among the various EU countries under the Schengen Agreement requires that the borders be open and that the European borders are safe and controlled. If these limits can not be secured, the flows of migrants will continue which would threaten the political stability of the European Union and could lead to the strengthening of separatist tendencies in it, leading to the weakening and dismemberment of the Unions [39].

The security concerns in the European countries have been reinforced by the outbreak of the Arab Spring revolutions and its consequences, for example, the emergence of the extremist terrorist organization ISIS, which has claimed responsibility for many terrorist operations in a number of European countries such as France, Germany and Britain, despite ISIS geographically distant from Europe, it succeeded in penetrating the European barriers and the recruitment of many European immigrants who joined the ranks of the organization in Syria and Iraq, or who remained in Europe and carried out many of the terrorist acts [40]. Thus ISIS has become a serious threat to European countries.

What increased the European fears is that, the threat of Arab and Muslim immigrants to Europe is no longer associated with an increase in their numbers, but they are even more linked to smuggling of arms, drugs and human beings, the recruitment of terrorists, the practice of robberies, looting, theft and assault on public property. A report prepared by the European Police Agency (EPA) noted that human trafficking and illegal migration are run by gangs using the usual drug smuggling routes to enter the countries of the continent. Women, children and illegal immigrants are trafficked. Security reports confirm that traffickers and organized crime play a major role in this lucrative trade. In 2015, more than one million people reached the European Union illegally and with the continuation of the conflict in the Arab Spring countries, especially Syria, Libya and Yemen, the flood of migrants to Europe will continue.

Thousands of migrants from the Arab Spring countries have tried to reach Europe through Turkey and Greece, but the construction of the iron fence between these two countries has closed the door on this road and boat trips have become a refuge for migrants on the Mediterranean, hoping to reach Italy or Greece as transit countries to the rest of the European Union.

There is no doubt that most of the immigrants from the Arab Spring countries to Europe are looking for hope for life and stability, but the fears are caused by some Muslim immigrants who carry extremist ideas or some terrorists who disguise themselves as immigrants and commit terrorist acts thereby causing a great burden on the Europe.

## 5. Conclusions

The primary objective of this paper was to document and explain the massive population displacement of Arabs as the most manifestation of the crisis in the Arab Spring countries. Since the beginning of the so-called Arab Spring, the Arab Spring countries witnessed a significant increase in the number of immigrants and displaced persons and their proportion of the total population. The years 2010-2020 might well go down in history as the "decade of Arab refugees". The beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be remembered for the large numbers of Arab people evicted from their homes and communities and forced to find a living elsewhere. The magnitude of this displacement serves as a poignant example of the importance of the phenomenon in the Middle East as well as of its complexity. There are several reasons behind the migration from and through the Arab Spring countries, and although the economic factor is always the most important motive for migration, under the Arab Spring, there are political, social, security and religious factors no less important than the economic factor. The study reached several results, the most prominent of which are:

1. The Arab spring revolutions have had a significant impact on migration from the Arab Spring countries, especially in Syria, Libya and Yemen. In 2014, the Syrian refugees constituted the largest group of refugees in the world. The violence in Libya led to the displacement of nearly 1 million people of migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers, while the number of internally displaced persons in Yemen reached more than 11% of the total population.

2. The question is not of which the main causes of displacement (war or underdevelopment) is more important or prevalent. Nor is it always the number of people displaced that determines the significance of the event. Rather, the important point to draw is that displacement needs to be seen as an outcome of a combination of causes involving a multiple set of factors.

3. There are many negative effects of the phenomenon of migration from the countries of the Arab Spring, and these effects are not limited to the host countries, but extends to the countries of origin, and these effects are economic, cultural, social, political and security.

4. Forced migration in the countries of the Arab Spring has placed great burdens on countries of destination, asylum, transit and origin, as well as migrants themselves. For countries of origin, large-scale internal displacement poses major challenges to these countries, while the negative impact on host countries is exacerbated. Refugees and displaced persons are suffering from extremely difficult and tragic conditions, especially those relying on networks of organized crime.

5. As the EU countries removed their internal boundaries, they became increasingly concerned about strengthening external boundaries, to prevent an influx from Middle East and North Africa. The successful mobilization of extreme right groups over immigration and supposed threats to national identity helped bring these issues to the centre of the political stage.

6. It is certain that immigrants from the Arab Spring countries have an urgent reason to emigrate a lot, and if the European countries are right to combat this phenomenon in order to preserve its security and stability and interests, they must take into account as much as possible the balance between combating immigration and considerations to human rights and human dignity.

7. Migration is a global problem and not a national or regional problem of a particular country or continent, efforts to combat or control immigration is a global issue. The globalisation of migration provides grounds for optimism, because it does give some hope of increased unity in dealing with the pressing problems which beset our small planet.

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## قضايا الهجرة من دول الربيع العربي إلى الدول الأوروبية

محمد بني سلامة، محمد حمد القطاطشة \*

### ملخص

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى مناقشة قضايا الهجرة من دول الربيع العربي إلى الدول الأوروبية من حيث أسبابها ونتائجها . وخلصت الدراسة إلى أن الهجرة من بلدان الربيع العربي تشير إلى ما يمكن اعتباره عوامل الطرد في بلدان الربيع العربي وعوامل الجذب في البلدان المستقبلية للمهاجرين، ويمكن تصنيف هذه الدوافع أو العوامل على أنها سياسية ، واقتصادية واجتماعية. علاوة على ذلك، بينت الدراسة أنه خلقت ثورات الربيع العربي وضعا مأساويا للمهاجرين ، سواء أكان في داخل بلدانهم أم في البلدان المضيفة ، وخاصة في ظل تزايد عدد المهاجرين والآثار السلبية المترتبة على هجرتهم. وأصبحت الهجرة تحدياً تواجهه كل من الدول المصدرة والمستقبلة على حد سواء .

الكلمات الدالة: الهجرة ،الربيع العربي، أوروبا.

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