


## AN ESSAY ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF THE GLOBAL MULTICULTURE THAT HAS BEEN BEGINNING TO CHANGE CAUSED BY THE CIRCULATION OF ILLEGAL REFUGEES

Haktan BIRSEL

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5130-3522>

*Onbeş Kasım Kıbrıs University, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus*

© The Author(s) 2022

### ABSTRACT

After World War I the age of a nation state had begun. And the concept of the nation, nationalism and multiculturalism was very important. The peoples of the states evolved in these concepts and the ethnicity that is existing in the origin of these concepts, this was the identity of the people. This is very important. Because the identity of the ethnic people is their nationalism. But at the same time in the states there are different groups. They are minorities. Even if they are citizens of the country, they have a saying in their ethnic culture. On account of this opposition, every nation state improved special multicultural politics. Alas these politics change every time between integration and assimilation. As a result of this the conflicts between nationalism and multiculturalism never finished.

But today there is a very important impute that it affects the multicultural politics of the states. These are the refugees. The people that have left the homeland and cannot return because of fear of death, famine, and terrorism. According to data from the UNHCR, there are around 85 million refugees and the numbers are increasing continuously. The direction of the refugees cannot be controlled as they are entering from every border to the country. This is an important roadblock for the future of the multicultural life of the states. Because country would have, new minorities and this could cause issues for multicultural aspect of the nation.

In this article, we will examine the movement of the refugees and the negative impact it may have on the influence of multicultural politics of the nation. Also in this article, we will also try to find solutions and certain precautions that may have to be taken by the nations.

© 2022.All rights reserved.

### ARTICLE INFO

#### ARTICLE HISTORY

Received:  
05 January 2022  
Accepted:  
19 March 2022  
Published:  
20 April 2022  
Available online:  
30 April 2022

#### KEYWORDS

Multiculturalism,  
nationalism, UNHCR,  
refugee, multicultural  
politics, ethnic culture



## Introduction

During humankind's history, humans have been displaced by many factors, which includes wars and altercations with the government. With this being said every human has changed their culture and in time, this movement has transformed into a heterogeneous structure. Therefore, because of this reason, multicultural life has been around since the beginning of the World.

But this multicultural life has been progressing in different ways for every people and nation. As a result; today it can easily be seen in many different politics and multiculturalism and it has been accepted as a very important problem for every nation. From the past until today, the concept of multiculturalism is on the main discussion in the World.<sup>1</sup>

It can be said that multiculturalism is a social form of living by gathering different ethnic groups together. However, this definition is not enough to explain this concept. Since this concept does not have a common definition, the states could not find a way to differentiate between nationalism and multiculturalism. Especially after the beginning of the period of nation-states, the government became strong with nationalism. But the different ethnic groups that live in the same states were the problem for the states.<sup>2</sup>

Countries wanted homogeneous people and tried to change their smaller ethnic groups' culture. It was easier to politicize the rule "either love or leave".<sup>3</sup> In the long history of humankind, many bloody wars have started because of this.

Henceforth the multiculturalism concept has passed different stages until the present day. Now it is being defined in these five fundamental principles.<sup>4</sup>

**First:** Protecting the minority's culture and the right to continue the culture

<sup>1</sup> Simpson YINGER, "Racial and Cultural Minorities", Harper & Brothers Edition, New York, 1953 (pp. 324-400).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/minorities/home>.

<sup>3</sup> Paul Weis, <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/travaux/4ca34be29/refugee-convention-1951-travaux-preparatoires-analysed-commentary-dr-paul.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Hugh MIAL, "Minority Rights in Europe", Council on Foreign Relations Affairs Press, New York, 1994, (pp. 56-98).

**Second:** Being able to integrate into a different culture without losing its identity

**Third:** Accepting the identity of the country

**Fourth:** The minority culture and heritage are accepted by the nation

**Fifth:** not accepting this is an international problem, if the states could not find a solution.

However, the basics of multiculturalism have been affected negatively in this century. Especially after the collapse of the USSR in 1990, this changed every political system and the world entered a state of chaos. The causes of this chaos are; US interventions, International terrorism, the Arab Spring, and civil wars. As a result, the hyperactive illegal movement of humans began.

The number of refugees increases every day. The refugees are illegal occupiers and they try to find where they can live without taking harm. Nevertheless, because the numbers are so high, they are a very real problem for the host country. And the administration of the host nation cannot find an efficient solution for them. The state politics in multicultural is not enough for this new problem.

This is a very big problem that is unique to this century. Because today millions of refugees are moving around the World without a home. And once they find a place where they can live without the danger of death, they settle in. In addition to settling the refugees, a new problem arises in the host country. And the governments try to find new policies for the unexpected visitors. In this article, we will examine the effect refugees have in the social lives of the host country and try to find solutions for this problem after the analysis.

### **A look at the global movement of refugees**

The movement of humans has been observed in every period of history. This movement and settling in new areas eliminated the intercourse of the slang and therefore the ideologies of the race disappeared. Moreover, in place of racism, ethnicity that was characterized by cultural relations was set.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Norman YETMEN - Hoy C. STEELE, "Majority&Minority", Publishes of the University of Kansas, 1972 (pp. 120-245).

Account of today every person is an ethnic person. Alas, this change did not bring good life to the people. The people were face to face with conflicts instead of peace. Now we are continuing our lives on a national but at the same time on a multicultural level.

The history of humanity is very long. In addition, it has passed from important points by evolving. It has taken a long time to understand the important effect refugees had on multiculturalism.

The first important point for the world is the First World War which demolished the period of imperials and kingdoms. After the war, every administration type changed, and the period of state nation and nationalism began. Because the victories from the war expanded, they did not know what to do with the different cultures that rested there before. The nation-states had been a heterogeneous population. After this period, a new war began "The Conflict of Nationalism and Minorities". This has been continuing since the Second World War and it is continuing to this day. For every country for every continent, multicultural policies are interchangeable.

After the Cold War, the world entered a new social and cultural period. In Asia Central and Caucasus, ex-Soviet republics were independent, but they had two big problems: economy and multiculturalism. Moreover, from their independence until today their economic problems are continuing. In addition, the government of these new states is continuing to search for useful multicultural policies just like the others. <sup>6</sup>

After the collapse of the USSR, there were two important reasons that halted the progress of the multiculturalism concept. This is the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan by the US and the increase of international terrorism. Because of these two problems, millions of refugees preferred leaving their country rather than dying in their country. Finally, the movement of refugees and meeting enormous crowds in the host country has been a very important and unsolvable problem for the states. Because after refugees came to the host country, they did not want to return and wanted to stay legally or illegally. As a result, they are transformed into new minorities.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/history-of-unhcr.html>

Refugees: the humans that could not find a way to live in their country and because of this left their homeland. In addition, they have to use different and difficult solutions since they are not thinking of returning to their homeland.<sup>8</sup>

They have collective priorities. They are from different cultural groups. They have left their homelands never to go back. These refugee groups have many women and children. When they leave their country, they destroy all forms of their identification and government-issued papers, this is illegal. The condition for these voyages are very tough and sometimes half of the travelers are dead. The living conditions are very poor in the country. Usually, they carry diseases that are contagious. The refugees usually accept death before taking on the voyage.

The number of refugees is very important for multiculturalism. Because it is very easy to integrate them if their numbers are low. However, if the volume of refugees is high then the problems for the host states begin. Because of so many refugees, the multicultural life of the host country begins to change in a negative way.

Generally, this problem began after the Second World War. This problem grew very fast and to find a solution for it the UN established "The office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".<sup>9</sup>

According to the UNHCR, there are 82.2 million refugees in the world today. So out every one out of every 95 persons is a refugee. This number increases every day without any stops. Every day around 32,000 is made refugees.

Therefore, this is a very important problem for every nation in the world.

The first problem area is the difficulty of counting the refugees. According to UNHCR, all refugees in the World are not accounted for. Only one out of five the total are living in the refugee camps. What about the others? They are illegal visitors to the host country, or they are trying to stay alive by any means necessary.

The other problem is the chaos that ensues after the wars. Because generally, humans become refugees during or after wars. For example, approximately 3 million Ukrainians have become refugees in only 10 days.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/asylum-seekers.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html>

<sup>10</sup> Benoit BREVILLE, "Ukraine, L'Engrenage", *Le Monde Diplomatique*, Avril 2022, pp. 14.

The third problem is the borders are not protected well even if they with surrounded by high technological systems. In addition, because of this reason, every border good or bad is a permeable border for refugees. Because of this reason, it is impossible to turn our backs on the refugees and embarrass them.

Especially for a long-time millions of people from the Middle East, Asia and Africa have been regularly escaping to the West to secure better lives. Because of this, the host countries in the West have had their social lives changed in a negative direction.

Even though the refugees come to the host country without any identification, they very much desire to match their cultures from their original country. In addition, this desire causes problems and damages the multicultural lives of the host country in the medium term.

When we look at Yemen. After 20 years around 5-6 million people were displaced there. Since 2001, 10 million Afghan people have been living in other countries or refugee camps. Because of the civil wars and international terrorism, millions of Africans have been escaping to countries outside of Africa. When we look at the data from the UNHCR, it is revealed that many countries that have been through war are empty now. The people that are living in different countries are not refugees anymore they are a new kind of minority.

When we look at human history, it can easily be seen that refugees have existed in every period. Again, it can be seen that refugees were affected by the demography of the autochthonous people. For example 300 BC ( Before Christ), Alexander the Great had invaded all of Asia. Eventually, so many people were displaced and because of the new civilization appeared "The Civilization of Helene". After the 12th century, this time a new emperor the "Great Mongol" Genghis Khan had invaded all of Asia excluding the Caucasus. With this invasion, many Asians like the Tatars came to the Caucasus.

### **The analysis and conclusion**

These three properties of the refugees are the main ones that disorder the multiculture of the host country. The first one is, that they leave their homeland never to return, the second is the overcrowding the refugees cause, and the third is

wanting to save their heritage and culture without trying to integrate into the new country.

When we look at history, it is easy to find many examples where this problem is unsolvable. For example, the war in 1948 (Arab-Israel war) has important evidence that shows the problem. After this war, 500,000 Palestinians had left their homeland as they passed through Lebanon and Jordan.<sup>11</sup> A part of these refugees stayed at the camps made by the UN and the others started living illegally in the aforementioned countries.<sup>12</sup> After 20 years, the number of Palestinian refugees increased tenfold, and nowadays you can see Palestinian cities in these two countries. Another issue with this, Lebanon and Jordan eventually started losing their identity. Because of the war the tension never finished, this civil war demolished both these states.<sup>13</sup>

The same problem was seen in 2010 in Syria. When the civil war had begun, 10 million Syrians have had to escape to Turkey and nowadays they have been living either legally or illegally. However, it is certain that the Syrians living in Turkey now will be a big problem in the future for the multicultural structure of Turkey.<sup>14</sup>

When we look at the same subject in Europe, we can see the same problem. Many migrants and refugees go to live in the ghettos of these countries, and they do not leave their language or culture.<sup>15</sup>

Eventually, history is showing us what will happen in the near future. It shows us that we need new strategies for multiculturalism. Of course, the governments have to help them but they need to find new strategies effective, and actual multicultural policies have to be saved. Therefore, the measures that we take have to be taken in this direction.

We should not forget that the refugees are human beings that had to leave their country or die. The main causes are death and hunger caused by the war. Because of this, every nation in the world has to help them. However, at the same time, the nations have to save their multicultural social lives. Helping refugees is

---

<sup>11</sup> Philippe REKAEWICZ, "Millions of Palestinian, Refugees in the Middle East", *Le Monde Diplomatique*, February 2000, pp.2.

<sup>12</sup> Alain GRESH, "Defining Palestine", *Le Monde Diplomatique*, February 2011, pp. 7.

<sup>13</sup> Augusta CONCHIGLIA, "Les Trois Combats du HCR", *Le Monde Diplomatique*, Juin 2012, pp. 3.

<sup>14</sup> Ariane BONZON, "Ces Indésirables Réfugiés Syriens", *Le Monde Diplomatique*, Mai 2020, pp. 13.

<sup>15</sup> Jean MATRINGE, "Is Europe Really a Sanctuary?", *Le Monde Diplomatique*, May 2017, pp.23.

necessary and is the mission of humanity. However, the nations also have to find ways to volunteer integration measuring for the refugees.

Today the practices of the European countries are not useful for refugee integrations. Their political purpose seems to disassociate. The migrants and refugees have to live in the ghettos. In this position, it is impossible to integrate. An important question comes up. What and how can we do this? First is dissociating, they can be placed in small groups in cities or villages. We have to assist and have to teach the host people. In addition, governments have to take precautions against discrimination.

### Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author.

### Contact Information

**E-mail:** haktanbirsell@gmail.com

### References and notes:

- Abiola .M, Ndisika.M. (2022) *Internal migration and multi-ethnicity: Sense of belonging of the Nigerian second generation migrants*. International Journal of Humanities and Social Development Research. Volume 6, № 1. pp. 54-77. DOI: 10.30546/2523-4331.2022.6.1.54
- Breville, B. ,(2022) “Ukraine, L’Engrenage”, Le Monde Diplomatique, Avril . pp. 14.
- Bonzon, A.(2020). “Ces Indésirable Réfugiés Syriens”, Le Monde Diplomatique, Mai, pp. 13.

- Conchiglia, A.(2012). *"Les Trois Combats du HCR"*, Le Monde Diplomatique, Juin . pp. 3.
- Gresh, A.(2011). *"Defining Palestine"*, Le Monde Diplomatique, February. pp. 7.
- Matringe, J. (2017). *"Is Europe Really a Sanctuary?"*, Le Monde Diplomatique, May . pp.23.
- Miall, Hugh, *"Minority Rights in Europe"*, Council on Foreign Relations Affairs Press, New York, 1994, (pp. 56-98).
- Rekaewicz, P.(2000). *"Millions of Palestinian, Refugees in the Middle East"*, Le Monde Diplomatique, February . pp.2.
- Yetmen, Norman- STEELE, Hoy C.(1972). *"Majority&Minority"*, Publishes of the University of Kansas.pp. 120-245
- Yinger, S.(1953). *"Racial and Cultural Minorities"*, Harper &Brothers Edition, New York.pp. 324-400.
- Paul Weis, <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/travaux/4ca34be29/refugee-convention-1951-travaux-preparatoires-analysed-commentary-dr-paul.html>.
- <https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>
- <https://www.unhcr.org/history-of-unhcr.html>
- <https://www.coe.int/en/web/minorities/home>
- <https://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html>
- <https://www.unhcr.org/asylum-seekers.html>

**CITE THIS ARTICLE AS:** BIRSEL Haktan. An essay about the concept of the Global Multiculture that has been beginning to change caused by the circulation of illegal refugees. International Journal of Multiculturalism. Volume 3 (1), 2022.pp.63-71. DOI: 10.30546/2523-4331.2022.3.1.63