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## **INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS MIGRANTS IN THE EU**

**Introduction.** The unprecedented intensification of terrorist acts and the current problem of the migration process have provoked intense debate among politicians, numerous analysts and scholars as to whether migration is linked to international terrorism. The influx of more than 1.9 million asylum seekers, refugees and migrants to Europe, especially after the war in Syria, has not only shaken the economy but also linked two phenomena – migration and terrorism.

Practice has shown that some political leaders in Europe are increasingly linking the risk of terrorism with migration and deviating from the official EU course in favor of their own national interests, for example, Poland, Italy and Hungary. Most countries have sharply changed their policies towards security, introducing strict control over migrants, given that terrorist groups can use illegal displacement for their own criminal purposes.

**Review of recent publications.** Migration and terrorism are very popular topics to study nowadays. Among them I would like to mention foreign articles by such scholars as A. Drecher, M. Helling, D. Meyerrix, M. R. Francisco and others. I would like to pay special attention to the Global Terrorist Index, Eurobarometer, IOM, which have provided in-depth reports on the state of migration and terrorism, as well as the statistics.

**Objective of the paper** is to analyze the impact of international terrorism on the treatment of migrants in the European Union.

**Result of the research.** One of the most troubling issues in Europe today is that politicians are considering relocating large numbers of refugees from the Middle East. In some countries, security screening and border closure is a serious obstacle to their relocation. In addition, the growing number of overly cautious European leaders is hampering the efforts of these desperate men, women and children to seek possible asylum. As some politicians have said, migrants and asylum seekers pose a serious threat to Europe's security. The Prime Minister of Slovakia, Robert Fico, predicted that the current flow of migrants includes people associated with terrorist groups [6]; Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni claimed there was a "significant risk" of terrorists entering immigration routes [1]. In 2015, EU member states received 1.9 million new applications for asylum – almost half a million of them from Syrians and another half a million from Afghans, Iraqis, Pakistanis and Nigerians [4: 59]. The names of these countries of origin already suggest a causal link with terrorism, due to the differences in religious views. However, there is a different opinion to consider. Some scholars argue that refugee flows, which today consist mainly of young Muslim

men, are deliberately used by a kind of "Trojan horse" that is part of the terrorist group" of Muslims in the West. Not only some right-wing xenophobic conspiracy theorists think so; even NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Philip Breedlove adheres to this position [7].

At the present stage of investigating the problem, there is the prospect of radicalization of displaced persons, which is of growing concern to the European population. The phenomenon is particularly relevant, for example, in camps set up to house displaced persons, as they can create space for terrorist networks to conduct operations and attack governments or civilians. In addition, highly radicalized refugees can join the ranks of ideal volunteers for a terrorist group, as they are more vulnerable than the indigenous people, tend to come from a harsh environment and have fewer opportunities for personal advancement [3]. This applies not only to displaced Syrians and Iraqis, but also to transiting migrants from around the world.

**Conclusion.** The formation of mostly negative attitudes towards migrants among the general audiences is due to their involvement in terrorist groups. Europeans fear the consequences of the refugees radicalization, asylum seekers and migrants, and therefore treat them with fear and prejudice. The citizens of Europe have developed a particularly negative attitude towards Muslims due to the countless terrorist acts committed by the representatives of this religion, which have spread around the world.

Therefore, without effectively counteracting the problem, migrants can create conditions conducive to the radicalization of terrorist movements and the formation of ingrained hostility to displaced persons. And effective counteraction should consist exclusively in cooperating between all members of the European Union without any exception, without cases of unilateral decisions towards own national interests, after all, the global problem demands global involvement of European countries in the struggle against it. After all, by helping refugees, asylum seekers in social and economic well-being, the countries protect itself in advance from potential radicalized migrants and biased negative opinions about them by the indigenous population.

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## **RELIGIOUS FACTOR OF ANTI-MIGRANT ATTITUDES IN GERMANY**

**Introduction.** At the present stage, the problems of Germany's migration policy are mostly caused by Muslim refugees from North Africa and the Middle East. This, in turn, causes religious conflicts in Christian Germany. This factor creates a negative image of a *migrant* in the German society.

The migration policy pursued by the government headed by A. Merkel, in the context of the refugee crisis, is subject to significant criticism from the opposition parties, which are supported by a fairly large number of the German population. Both in Germany and in European countries, nationalist and right-wing populist parties are gaining more and more popularity, in their rhetoric we can see manifestations of xenophobia, racism, etc. Such phenomena can seriously undermine the authority of the state or certain states in the international arena, because they call into question the main pillars of the liberal and democratic world order. One of the main factors in these contradictions is religion, namely Islam. It is one of the most “triggered” topics in the society nowadays. That is no matter how paradoxical it may seem, but in a state that is secular, in which citizens almost do not pay attention to confessional affiliation, one of the most dangerous things that can lead to a serious conflict is the *religion*, where belonging to Islam can cause serious bias against the person.

**Review of recent publications.** When characterizing the state of this issue having been investigated, it is worth mentioning that modern immigration to Germany, namely the problems associated with it, including religious ones, are the subject of research by both foreign and domestic scholars: K.J. Bade, R. Honcharenko, A. V. Kalinina, L. Kostiuk, D. Mitchal, V. Ments, A. Sukhova, M. Frost, A. S. Yakush and others.