Negative Brief: IBM / FIDH

By “Coach Vance” Trefethen

***Resolved: The European Union should substantially reform its immigration policy.***

Case Summary: Transfer Funding from the IBM to the FIDH
IBM is the “Support to integrated border and migration management in Libya” (not a company that makes computers—at least not in this context). A lot of it is aid to the Libyan coast guard to prevent migrants from crossing the Mediterranean to get to Italy.
FIDH is (the French acronym for) the International Federation for Human Rights. It's an NGO (non-governmental organization; i.e., a non-profit charitable group) that advocates for human rights.
Plan is getting rid of the IBM program and donating its funding to FIDH. Since FIDH has nothing to do with EU immigration, this mandate is extra-topical. But if the mandate stays in the round, so much the better for the Negative, because FIDH is a big advocate for abortion rights (they believe abortion is one of the human rights they need to promote). That's what they'll spend the money on that we donate to them if they get an Affirmative ballot.

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BACKGROUND

What the “IBM” project is: Aid to the Libyan coast guard for search and rescue in the Mediterranean

Human Rights Watch 2020 (international human rights advocacy NGO) 28 Apr 2020 EU: Time to review and remedy cooperation policies facilitating abuse of refugees and migrants in Libya <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/28/eu-time-review-and-remedy-cooperation-policies-facilitating-abuse-refugees-and> (brackets added; parentheses in original)

The EU has then concretely implemented this strategy through the funding of specific projects, in particular the project “Support to Integrated border and migration management in Libya” (IBM project), launched in July 2017 and funded by the EUTFA [European Union Trust Fund for Africa] with a total of €91.3m. The project has focused almost entirely on enhancing the operational capacity of Libyan authorities in maritime surveillance: assisting with the supply and maintenance of speedboats; setting up basic facilities to coordinate operations and planning the establishment of fully-fledged operational rooms; and supporting the definition of a Libyan Search and Rescue Region, declared by Libya in December 2017.

EXTRA-TOPICALITY

1. FIDH

What is Extra-Topicality

It happens when the Affirmative plan does some things in the resolution and adds additional things that go beyond the resolution, then claims advantages or benefits from enacting the untopical parts of their plan. For example, if an Affirmative had a plan to reduce a million visas in the EU next year and launch a manned space mission to Mars. The fact that they did one thing that fit the resolution doesn't allow them to also add other things into their plan that are outside the resolution. Visas are topical. Space travel is extra-topical. The test of extra-topicality is: Could we do this mandate without affirming the resolution? In the case of flying to Mars or donating money to FIDH, the answer is clearly yes.

Violation: FIDH goes beyond the resolution

Part of their plan cancels EU funding for a program that reduces migration from Libya to the EU. Fine, the resolution allows that. But then they add an additional step to fund an international human rights organization FIDH. That's a problem because…

FIDH has nothing to do with EU immigration. It includes 117 countries and lots of things not related to immigration

FIDH home web page – undated, but the page is copyrighted 2021. " International Federation for Human Rights" <https://www.fidh.org/en/about-us/What-is-FIDH/>

 FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights) is an international human rights NGO federating 192 organisations from 117 countries. Since 1922, FIDH has been defending all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Consequences: Drop FIDH from the round

Since we shouldn’t have to debate things outside the resolution, all references to FIDH should be dropped from the Plan and from the round. The Affirmative plan should be judged only on the part of it that is topical, without implementing any of the extra-topical FIDH funding. Any advantages linked to FIDH should be dropped from the round and should not be considered when you make your voting decision.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. No moral or legal duty to accept the migrants into the EU

No country is required to grant asylum-seekers entry to their territory

Ionel Zamfir 2015 (with European Parliamentary Research Service) 27 Oct 2015 “Refugee Status Under International Law” <https://epthinktank.eu/2015/10/27/refugee-status-under-international-law/>

Because of their vulnerable situation, asylum-seekers are sometimes forced to enter their country of refuge unlawfully. The Geneva Convention does not stipulate that states are required to grant asylum-seekers entry to their territory.

Claim that anyone has a right to migrate from Africa to Europe by sea is a big exaggeration with lots of inconsistencies

Prof. Achilles Skordas 2020 (Professor of International Law, Univ of Bristol; Senior Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg) May 2020 The Twenty-Day Greek-Turkish Border Crisis and Beyond: Geopolitics of Migration and Asylum Law (Part II) <http://eumigrationlawblog.eu/the-twenty-day-greek-turkish-border-crisis-and-beyond-geopolitics-of-migration-and-asylum-law-part-ii/>

Similar questions might arise with regard to the arguments that those coming from Sub-Saharan Africa have a[right to leave Africa by sea in order to attempt to arrive to Europe](https://academic.oup.com/ejil/article/27/3/591/2197244), that they have an expectation to be rescued and be brought to a (European) safe port, and, finally, not be returned, even if they have no right to protection under EU law and the Geneva Convention, because return would allegedly violate their Art. 3 ECHR rights. I do not exclude that there may be situations that fit into this chain of argument. However, it is often ignored that this construction is so heavily fact-dependent, that it constitutes a possible scenario and not a coherent legal principle. Moreover, many of the arguments in the chain are construed in such a way that the gaps and inconsistencies are dressed in a legal language that hides policy objectives.

2. Blame the smugglers, not the EU

The UN says: Smugglers are responsible for the deaths of migrants, not the EU governments trying to stop them

Prof. Achilles Skordas 2020 (Professor of International Law, Univ of Bristol; Senior Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg) May 2020 The Twenty-Day Greek-Turkish Border Crisis and Beyond: Geopolitics of Migration and Asylum Law (Part II) <http://eumigrationlawblog.eu/the-twenty-day-greek-turkish-border-crisis-and-beyond-geopolitics-of-migration-and-asylum-law-part-ii/> (ellipses in original)

The main question is not, whether a *pro persona* principle should be applied in cases of normative ambiguity, or whether human rights law is at the top of normative hierarchy, but to whom the loss of life in an irregular mass migration movement is to be attributed: to the State actors that attempt to prevent the movement, or to the smugglers who encourage it. The answer to this question will determine the interpretive approach.
Systemic integration is a crucial rule of legal interpretation, whereby the relevant rules of international law are taken into account in treaty interpretation (Art. 31(3)(c) Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties). Among them, the UN Security Council resolutions and practice play a prominent role, because they bind all Member States and prevail over any other treaty obligations (Arts. 25 and 103 UN Charter; see also Skordas, in[Aust/Nolte,](https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-interpretation-of-international-law-by-domestic-courts-9780198738923?cc=de&lang=en&) pp. 309-314). Since resolution 688/1991, the Security Council has created a consolidated practice, according to which mass irregular movements of migrants and refugees constitute[a threat to the peace](https://brill.com/view/book/edcoll/9789004226166/B9789004226166-s012.xml?language=en). Furthermore, resolution[2240/2015](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/806095) determined the existence of a Chapter VII situation as the result of mass and irregular migration from Africa to Europe. The Council made here an authoritative determination, by attributing responsibility for the loss of life and for the drowning of migrants in the Mediterranean as follows:
‘The Security Council, …. affirming the necessity to put an end to the recent proliferation of, and endangerment of lives by, the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya, and, for these specific purposes, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,’ (last paragraph of the preamble).
Therefore, the Council determined that the loss of life is attributable to the actions of the smuggling and trafficking networks and not to the deterring action of EU Member States. Therefore, *smuggling and trafficking are legally the proximate causes for the drowning of migrants and deploy their nefarious effects as long as the paths of irregular mass migration remain open.* According to the preamble of the same resolution, States should also (and obviously) comply with their obligations under international law, including human rights law and international refugee law, but within the context of implementing and enforcing the resolution and putting an end to the ‘big business’ of smuggling and trafficking networks. Closing the illegal migration markets puts practically an end to the smuggling and trafficking business.

3. No EU responsibility to aid foreign job seekers

If they were genuine asylum seekers, they would have claimed asylum in the first safe country, rather than passing through several other countries so they could then go to Europe

NBC News 2019 (journalist Saphora Smith) 2 Feb 2019 “Europe grapples with distinction between refugees and economic migrants” <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/europe-grapples-distinction-between-refugees-economic-migrants-n965161> (brackets added)

“There is more and more emphasis that those who travel to Europe are economic migrants, as if they were real asylum-seekers they would have stayed in the conflict region and claimed asylum” in the first safe country they arrived in, [Univ. of Birmingham migration researcher Nando] Sigona said. According to the United Nations, a refugee is someone who is “unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a [well-founded fear of being persecuted](https://www.unhcr.org/uk/what-is-a-refugee.html)” and has the right to asylum in another country. An economic migrant is generally considered to be someone who leaves their country in search of work or a higher standard of living, not to flee persecution.

They’re coming to Europe looking for better jobs

Jesper Bjarnesen 2015 (Senior Researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute) Sept 2015 “Rethinking the Mediterranean crisis: Advice for policy makers facing a humanitarian catastrophe” <https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/194142/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

It is evident that a considerable number of those arriving as refugees begin their journeys as aspiring labour migrants in Sub-Saharan Africa. Most labour migrants travel from Africa to Europe by air and possess enough resources to settle. Those who cross the sea generally have fewer options, but it is not the poorest or least educated who leave home. A known labour migration strategy consists of a family or a group of families pooling their resources to finance one person, who is selected on the premise that he or she has the best capabilities for succeeding

No moral or legal duty: Job seekers don’t qualify for protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor any who aren’t fleeing specific persecution

Ionel Zamfir 2015 (with European Parliamentary Research Service) 27 Oct 2015 “Refugee Status Under International Law” <https://epthinktank.eu/2015/10/27/refugee-status-under-international-law/>

Refugees are a special class of migrants who under international law deserve specific protection by their host state. According to Article 1 of the 1951 UN Convention, as modified by the 1967 Protocol, a refugee is defined as a person who ‘owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.’ This definition implies that several qualifying conditions apply to be considered a refugee: (1) **presence** **outside home country**; (2) **well-founded fear of persecution** (being at risk of harm is insufficient reason in the absence of discriminatory persecution); (3) **incapacity to enjoy the protection of one’s own state** from the persecution feared. The definition of refugees was actually **intended to exclude** internally displaced persons, economic migrants, victims of natural disasters, and persons fleeing violent conflict but not subject to discrimination amounting to persecution.

Most of them are economic migrants (not “refugees”)

**(And no, fleeing Boko Haram doesn’t qualify as “refugee” either. See the last sentence in the card above.)**

Louise Hunt 2019 (journalist) 30 July 2019 “Salvini’s Crackdown on Migrants in Italy Is Creating a Crisis, Not Solving One” <https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/insights/28080/salvini-s-crackdown-on-migrants-in-italy-is-creating-a-crisis-not-solving-one>

Grinding poverty is the main push factor for migration from West Africa, although some people are also fleeing conflicts, such as the fight against Boko Haram, a terrorist group active across the northern regions of Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon.

SOLVENCY

1. No power to make FIDH do anything

The Affirmative's extra-topical mandate to donate money to FIDH should already be dropped from the round. But even if it were to remain, it would still accomplish nothing. The Affirmative team cannot mandate by fiat what FIDH does with any money we donate to them. They're a private charitable NGO that sets their own agenda. The European Union cannot dictate to them what FIDH spends it on.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Abortion in Europe

Link: AFF has no power to dictate what FIDH spends their donated money on

Cross apply Solvency-1 argument.

Link: FIDH uses its funding to advocate for greater abortion rights in Europe

FIDH 2020. (International Federation for Human Rights) 22 April 2020 European governments must ensure safe and timely access to abortion care during the COVID-19 pandemic <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/europe-central-asia/european-governments-must-ensure-safe-and-timely-access-to-abortion>

Particularly grave barriers are arising for women and girls living in European countries where abortion care is illegal or severely restricted, and where as a result they must travel to other countries to access legal care or must obtain abortion medication from outside their own jurisdiction. These issues can also arise in those European countries where individuals are forced to go through burdensome or harmful administrative processes to access abortion care or where they may have difficulty finding doctors in their country willing to provide care. We applaud those governments that have moved swiftly to safeguard access to essential time-sensitive sexual and reproductive health care during this time, in particular through ensuring access to telehealth and early medical abortion from home. We call on all other European governments to follow suit and to follow the guidance of medical and public health experts. We call on the six European countries where abortion is illegal or severely restricted to urgently reform these laws, which place women’s health and lives at risk.

Impact: Think twice before signing an Affirmative ballot

An Affirmative ballot donates money to a group that uses it to advocate for abortion. If you're OK with that, then go ahead and vote Affirmative. If that would bother you, you better vote Negative.

2. Death in the Mediterranean

Link: Libyan coast guard aid dramatically reduces attempts to cross the Mediterranean

Katie Kuschminder 2020 (journalist) 6 Aug 2020 “Once a Destination for Migrants, Post-Gaddafi Libya Has Gone from Transit Route to Containment” <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/once-destination-migrants-post-gaddafi-libya-has-gone-transit-route-containment>

In March 2016, the European Union and Turkey signed a deal that, among other things, returned migrants arriving in Greece to Turkey if they did not apply for asylum or if their claim was rejected. Then in 2017, Italy struck a controversial deal with Libya that included outsourcing the containment of migrant boats to the Libyan coast guard, which returns them to Libyan shores. The effort has been effective at halting migrants. From 2014 through 2017, 625,000 migrants arrived in Italy via the sea, primarily departing from Libya, according to UNHCR, with a peak of 181,000 migrants in 2016. By 2018, in the wake of the Italy-Libya deal, this number had plunged to 23,000 arrivals, and last year just 11,000. Through the first six months of 2020, nearly 7,200 migrants of all origins arrived in Europe via the Central Mediterranean route, which is an increase over the same period in 2019 but a fraction from previous years.

Impact: Boats from Libya = Death in the Mediterranean

UN Support Mission in Libya 2015. The situation of migrants in transit through Libya en route to Europe - Briefing Note 08 May 2015 <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/situation-migrants-transit-through-libya-en-route-europe-briefing-note-08-may-2015>

The deteriorating security situation, coupled with limited access to neighbouring countries by land, has compelled unprecedented numbers of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees to undertake dangerous and frequently deadly journeys across the Mediterranean Sea in unseaworthy boats. At least 3,000 people lost their lives in 2014 in the Mediterranean, mostly after departing from Libyan shores. In 2015, up to 1,800 people are believed to have perished in the Mediterranean en route to Europe .

3. Terrorism in Europe

Link: Coast guard aid is effective at blocking migration from Libya

Cross apply DA 1 first link card.

Terrorists infiltrate from Libya to get into Europe posing as refugees

Todd Bensman 2019 (senior national security fellow, Center for Immigration Studies) 6 Nov 2019 “What Terrorist Migration Over European Borders Can Teach About American Border Security” <https://cis.org/Report/Terrorist-Migration-Over-European-Borders>

Ben Nasr Mehdi, a 38-year-old Tunisian explosives expert, was arrested in 2008 and sentenced to seven years in prison after he was found to be the head of an al-Qaeda terrorist cell. He was then extradited to Tunisia. In October 2015, he returned to Europe on a migrant boat from Libya and arrived on Italy's Lampedusa island. He used an alias to claim asylum and work as a brick-layer, but his true identity was discovered with a fingerprint check.

Bad guys infiltrating into Europe through Libya (and other places) put them at high risk

Todd Bensman 2019 (senior national security fellow, Center for Immigration Studies) 6 Nov 2019 “What Terrorist Migration Over European Borders Can Teach About American Border Security” https://cis.org/Report/Terrorist-Migration-Over-European-Borders

Europe's baseline asylum, security vetting, and refugee systems collapsed under the onslaught of refugees and migrants who often arrived without identity documents, enabling dozens of successful clandestine jihadist entries. But even prior to the crisis, Europe had not oriented its collective attention toward illegal immigration as counterterrorism because border infiltration had not emerged as a terror-travel tactic. In short, it had not happened yet. In contrast, federal legislation after 9/11 did require the United States homeland security enterprise to preemptively recognize border infiltration as a vulnerability and to orient some programs to attenuate it. The degree of effectiveness may well have hinged on that difference in security preparedness and in migration flow volumes. Whereas most of the 2.5 million migrants who entered Europe during the crisis hailed from countries of the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, only an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 migrants from the same regions annually reach the U.S. southern border. For example, the Department of Homeland Security stated that in 2018 a fractional 3,000 of the 467,000 illegal immigrants apprehended at the southern border were categorized in government parlance as "special interest aliens" (SIAs) based on citizenship in countries where terrorist groups operate. High SIA migration from Muslim-majority countries to an unprepared Europe resulted in terror attacks while low migration to a more prepared United States has resulted in no terror attacks on U.S. soil to date. One reason for lower volumes of SIA migrants at the U.S. border is that distances to reach it are far greater and more cost prohibitive than for them to reach European entry points at Greece, Italy, Spain, and Hungary. Transportation and smuggling fees to staging points in Turkey, Libya, and Morocco, by boat over three main Mediterranean Sea routes, and then internally inside Europe were relatively affordable to the masses.

Impact: Death and destruction in Europe

Todd Bensman 2019 (senior national security fellow, Center for Immigration Studies) 6 Nov 2019 “What Terrorist Migration Over European Borders Can Teach About American Border Security” <https://cis.org/Report/Terrorist-Migration-Over-European-Borders>

In the European theater, the dearth of government preparedness for terrorist border infiltrations led to high casualties and severe, wide-ranging negative societal impacts. In contrast, no migrant who crossed the U.S. southern border had conducted a terror attack after September 2001 except for one Somali who crossed the Mexico-California border in 2011 and went on to allegedly commit a 2017 vehicle-ramming attack while carrying an ISIS flag in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

4. Bad precedent for future peace-building operations

Link: Italy did the Libya deal to promote the UN’s objective of helping rebuild Libya after its government broke down. Condemning it would deter future outside efforts to restore peace after (or in order to stop) civil war

**Analysis: Blaming Italy for people suffering in Libya is like blaming the police officer for the suffering at the scene to which he was called where multiple gunshot victims need help. Italy was called to the scene of a civil war and asked to help. Blaming them for the suffering they found upon their arrival will make it unlikely any future country will want to help in similar circumstances.**

Prof. Achilles Skordas 2018 (Professor of International Law, [University of Copenhagen](http://www.ku.dk/english/)) 30 Jan 2018 “A ‘blind spot’ in the migration debate? International responsibility of the EU and its Member States for cooperating with the Libyan coastguard and militias” <https://eumigrationlawblog.eu/a-blind-spot-in-the-migration-debate-international-responsibility-of-the-eu-and-its-member-states-for-cooperating-with-the-libyan-coastguard-and-militias/>

The main purpose of the cooperation of the EU and the MS with Libya is to manage the migration flows, which is a legitimate objective. The collapse of Libyan statehood has been one of the main factors that facilitated the exodus of migrants towards Europe and it is reasonable that the Union would try to re-establish the capacity of Libya to exercise effective control over its land and maritime borders. This objective was also consistent with the policies of the United Nations for the restoration of peace in Libya after the 2011 war. In fact, an expansive interpretation of Article 16 of the ILC Articles establishing the international responsibility of third States for aiding or assisting the perpetrator would make international cooperation risky (see Georg Nolte/Helmut Philip Aust, Equivocal Helpers – Complicit States, Mixed Messages and International Law, ICLQ 58 (2009), 1-30). In particular, it would complicate post-conflict peace-building, because it would deter States from getting involved in the process of restoration of peace during the fractious, troubled and uncertain period of transition, where international support is necessary more than ever.

Link: Example. A government may refrain from assisting those using force to prevent genocide if the use of force isn’t “authorized” by international law, and they could be accused of being “complicit” in that use of force

Prof. GEORG NOLTE and HELMUT PHILIPP AUST 2009. (Professor of Law, Humboldt University Berlin; Member of the International Law Commission. Doctoral Candidate and Research Fellow, University of Munich) International and Comparative Law Quarterly, January 2009 <http://nolte.rewi.hu-berlin.de/doc/il/ws0910/ILNolte_Aust_ICLQ.pdf>

Similar considerations may apply in situations in which only one of two peremptory norms can arguably be satisfied: In the face of genocide, for example, a State may choose to side with those who are using force to prevent and stop the genocide. Should the assisting State refrain from doing so in order not to incur the risk of being held complicit in a violation of Article 2, para 4 of the Charter?

Impact: Millions of lives at risk without outside intervention. Good example is… Libya!

Prof. Robert A. Pape 2012 (professor of political science, Univ of Chicago) “When Duty Calls: A Pragmatic Standard of Humanitarian Intervention
Vol 37 No. 1 - Summer 2012 INTERNATIONAL SECURITY <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23280404>



BIG LINKS TO DISADVANTAGES 5-8 of European Union fracture

Link: Libya coast guard aid is effective at reducing migrants to Italy

 Cross-apply DA2 first link card.

Link & Brink: Italy is in crisis from migrants arriving across the Mediterranean

Andrew R. Arthur 2017 (Resident Fellow in Law and Policy for the Center for Immigration Studies; former Assistant General Counsel to the US Immigration & Naturalization Service) 22 Nov 2017 “Continued Migrant Fallout in Europe” <https://cis.org/Arthur/Continued-Migrant-Fallout-Europe> (brackets in original)

Italy is dealing with issues resulting from the migrant crisis of its own. On November 19, 2017, the Wall Street Journal [reported](https://www.wsj.com/articles/italy-labors-to-integrate-refugees-in-weak-economy-1510958768?shareToken=st4f065172d242425289145d5a07fa0e78&reflink=article_email_share):
*Italy is facing a daunting challenge integrating refugees, even as the pace of seaborne arrivals on its shores shows signs of slowing. Since 2012, 150,000 people have won refugee status in Italy, and another 155,000 asylum applications are pending. Other European countries, such as Germany and Sweden, are wrestling with the same task. But Italy is doing so with a chronically weak economy, high unemployment and a state bureaucracy that often fails to provide a social safety net even for native-born Italians. And many refugees lack marketable skills, officials and aid groups say."It is a challenge that makes your hands shake," said Domenico Manzione, an undersecretary at Italy's Interior Ministry who is in charge of immigration.*That article [states](https://www.wsj.com/articles/italy-labors-to-integrate-refugees-in-weak-economy-1510958768?shareToken=st4f065172d242425289145d5a07fa0e78&reflink=article_email_share) that, although the government has approved Italy's "first-ever plan for integrating refugees in late September," setting out "general priorities such as providing Italian lessons, work training and housing to people who obtain the right to live and work in the country," the plan itself lacks a mechanism for meeting these goals. Part of the problem, [according](https://www.wsj.com/articles/italy-labors-to-integrate-refugees-in-weak-economy-1510958768?shareToken=st4f065172d242425289145d5a07fa0e78&reflink=article_email_share) to the Journal, is that Italy, a country that received few immigrants "until the early 1990s" was overwhelmed by "hundreds of thousands of migrants [who] have arrived in the country in recent years, most of them traveling by boat across the Mediterranean Sea."

Link: The wave of migrants into Italy are unskilled, unemployable men from Africa . Libyan navy is key to stopping them

Andrew R. Arthur 2017 (Resident Fellow in Law and Policy for the Center for Immigration Studies; former Assistant General Counsel to the US Immigration & Naturalization Service) 22 Nov 2017 “Continued Migrant Fallout in Europe” <https://cis.org/Arthur/Continued-Migrant-Fallout-Europe> (brackets in original)

Another issue is that more recent entrants to Italy lack the skills and connections that enabled earlier immigrants to integrate more easily. As the Journal [explains](https://www.wsj.com/articles/italy-labors-to-integrate-refugees-in-weak-economy-1510958768?shareToken=st4f065172d242425289145d5a07fa0e78&reflink=article_email_share):
Previous waves of migrants to Italy included many individuals — often women — with education and work experience that allowed them to find employment relatively quickly. Those people, many of them from North Africa and Eastern Europe, relied on networks within their national and ethnic groups to find housing, jobs and support, with minimal intervention by the state, aid groups and government officials say. By contrast, only about 16% of migrants in recent years have a high school degree, and 10% are illiterate, according to a 2016 survey by the International Organization for Migration, a United Nations agency. About 80% are African men, and a similar percentage are under 30.
The demographics of this group present a particular integration challenge to a country that, [according to the CIA](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/it.html), had a high overall unemployment rate in 2016 of 11.7 percent, and a youth unemployment rate of 37.1 percent. The recent decrease in migrants entering Italy, who come primarily seeking entry to that country via Libya, is credited to "tougher actions against smugglers operating in the Mediterranean," [according](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/11/number-of-migrants-arriving-in-italy-from-libya-falls-by-half-in-july) to an August 2017 article in the Guardian:
The fall in numbers making the crossing is likely to be the result of a more aggressive turnaround policy by the Libyan navy and coastguard, backed by improved boats and equipment — funded by the European Union — and Italian-led training.

Link: Italian politics is firmly anti-immigration

Louise Hunt 2019 (journalist) 30 July 2019 “Salvini’s Crackdown on Migrants in Italy Is Creating a Crisis, Not Solving One” <https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/insights/28080/salvini-s-crackdown-on-migrants-in-italy-is-creating-a-crisis-not-solving-one>

Sadly, other mainstream political parties at the national level have not proposed an alternative to the anti-immigration policies pushed by Salvini and the League. In the past, Italy has responded to high levels of irregular migration through amnesty programs. But today, regularization would come at a huge political cost in terms of public support, and other political parties are reticent to stick their necks out in favor of pro-immigrant policies. Other alternatives, such as greater collaboration with the EU or forging bilateral agreements with other EU countries, also appear unlikely given the political climate and lack of available resources.

Link & Brink: Anti-immigration Italian politicians are gaining popularity, and want to rethink membership in the EU

John Follain and Alessandra Migliaccio 2020 (journalists) 21 April 2020 “Something Has Snapped in Italy’s Stormy Relationship With Europe” <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-21/something-has-snapped-in-italy-s-stormy-relationship-with-europe>

Conte governs at the head of an unstable coalition led by the anti-establishment Five Star Movement and the establishment Democratic Party that only came together last year to keep out their mutual foe, Matteo Salvini of the right-wing populist League. The League is the most popular party in Italy, now leading the Democrats by about eight percentage points and Salvini is waiting for another chance to seize power. In the past, he has toyed with the idea of ditching the euro. But as he rose to national prominence he read the mood of the country and went out of his way to play that down. Not any more. “This isn’t a ‘union,’” Salvini said on March 27. “This is a nest of snakes and jackals.” Then he set out his pitch to Italians. “First we defeat the virus, then we have a rethink about Europe,” he said. “If it helps, we say goodbye. Without even a thank you.”

Brink: Italy could be the key to EU breakup – worse than Brexit

John Follain and Alessandra Migliaccio 2020 (journalists) 21 April 2020 “Something Has Snapped in Italy’s Stormy Relationship With Europe” <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-21/something-has-snapped-in-italy-s-stormy-relationship-with-europe>

The foundations for the European Union were laid six decades ago in Rome and some officials in the Eternal City are starting to think they might just be seeing the beginning of its breakup. After Boris Johnson and the Brexiteers laid to rest the carefully cultivated myth of the EU’s irreversibility, europhiles argued that Britain was a special case, an island nation that could never fully commit to the continent. It’s different when Italy turns against you.

Brink: EU integration can’t survive without blocking the Mediterranean sea route or letting them drown

**[Analysis: Thank heavens the Libyan navy is there, paid by the EU, to rescue the ones who would be drowning]**

Niall Ferguson 2018 (**Milbank Family senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford) 18 June 2018 “**Immigrant overload, not Brexit, heralds the end of the European Union” <https://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/2151244/immigrant-overload-not-brexit-heralds-end-european-union>

Finally, Europe's southern border is almost impossible to defend against flotillas of migrants, unless Europe's leaders are prepared to let many people drown. Politically, the migration problem looks fatal to that loose alliance between moderate social democrats and moderate conservatives/Christian democrats on which the past 70 years of European integration has been based.

5. Reduced world stability from fracturing the EU

Link: EU stability promotes US ability to maintain global security and stability

Meagan Araki, Annie Chang, Troy Lindell, Alison Wendler 2017. (members of the “Challenges to European Unity Task Force” at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, Univ. of Washington) March 2017 CHALLENGES TO EUROPEAN UNITY: OPTIONS FOR U.S. POLICYMAKERS <https://jsis.washington.edu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Task-Force-J-Report-2017_Lorenz.pdf>

Policies that encourage the unity between EU member states should be strongly supported. It is significant that the United States demonstrate support in this ongoing migration crisis, as it will help relieve the pressures member states are experiencing, as well as help mend existing tensions. The cohesion, stability, and cooperation of European Union serve a key interests of the United States. With these aspects, a more unified European Union can strengthen its position as a global actor, as well as strengthen its existing relations with the United States. This can further United States’ objectives of security and stability throughout the international community.

Impact: World peace & prosperity at risk without US influence. US hegemony is key to global peace & prosperity

Capt. M. V. Prato 2009 (United States Marine Corps, Command and Staff College, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Marine Corps University) “The Need for American Hegemony” Feb 2009 <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a508040.pdf>

The world witnessed a vast shift in the polarity of geopolitics after the Cold War. The United States became the world’s greatest hegemon with an unequalled ability to globally project cultural, political, economic, and military power in a manner not seen since the days of the Roman Empire. Coined the “unipolar moment” by syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer, the disparity of power between the U.S. and all other nations allows the U.S. to influence the world for the mutual benefit of all responsible states. Unfortunately, the United States is increasingly forced to act unilaterally as a result of both foreign and domestic resentment to U.S. dominance and the rise of liberal internationalism. The United States must exercise benevolent global hegemony, unilaterally if necessary, to ensure its security and maintain global peace and prosperity.

6. Populism and Authoritarian Government

Link: AFF plan weakens / fractures the EU

Cross apply the BIG LINKS from Italy fracturing the EU.

Link: Fear, anxiety and skepticism about the EU leads to the rise of populist authoritarian figures

Meagan Araki, Annie Chang, Troy Lindell, Alison Wendler 2017. (members of the “Challenges to European Unity Task Force” at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, Univ. of Washington) March 2017 CHALLENGES TO EUROPEAN UNITY: OPTIONS FOR U.S. POLICYMAKERS <https://jsis.washington.edu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Task-Force-J-Report-2017_Lorenz.pdf>

Additionally, the complications surrounding EU accession and instability in Turkey and the Balkans present unique challenges to the dynamic of the EU. These real and perceived threats have induced fear and anxiety into the European public. As these security threats have worsened with little to no progress made, Euroscepticism has grown and enabled the populist movement. By capitalizing on this sentiment, populist parties have gained increasing support throughout Europe. Populists promise to take back power from the corrupt and inefficient political elite, and give it back to the general public. Europeans have increasingly turned to strongman figures who value strength and security over tolerance and unity.

Brink & Example: Hungary now has authoritarian government, putting EU at high risk right now

Philippe Dam 2020 (master’s degree in international administration; Human Rights Watch’s advocacy director for Europe and Central Asia) 1 Apr 2020 “Hungary’s Authoritarian Takeover Puts European Union at Risk” <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/01/hungarys-authoritarian-takeover-puts-european-union-risk>

On Monday, under the pretext of addressing the COVID-19 public health emergency, [Hungary's](https://www.hrw.org/europe/central-asia/hungary) parliament gave [green light to the Orban-led government](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/23/hungarys-orban-uses-pandemic-seize-unlimited-power) to rule with unlimited power for an indefinite time. Prime Minister Viktor Orban can now suspend any existing law and implement others by decree, without parliamentary or judicial scrutiny. Elections have been suspended. The law allows for new criminal penalties of five years in prison for publishing vaguely defined “false” or “distorted” facts – another blow to media freedom in the country. With this law, Hungary becomes the first country in the European Union to virtually abolish all democratic checks-and-balances. How has it come to this? In the past [10 years](https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/05/16/wrong-direction-rights/assessing-impact-hungarys-new-constitution-and-laws), the government has spared no efforts to [curb judicial independence](https://www.hrw.org/europe/central-asia/hungary), restrict [civil society](https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/07/17/hungary-determined-silence-any-critics-left-standing) activities, and gain near full [control over the media](https://www.euronews.com/2019/06/12/don-t-be-fooled-hungary-s-government-remains-a-threat-to-european-values-view). Having repeatedly failed to appreciate the gravity of the situation, EU institutions risk making the same mistake again.

Link & Impact: Weak EU leads to rise of dictatorship and loss of freedom for millions more

Kenneth Roth 2020 (executive director of Human Rights Watch, one of the world's leading international human rights organizations; former federal prosecutor in New York; graduate of Yale Law School) 27 Apr 2020 “Stopping the Authoritarian Rot in Europe” [https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/27/stopping-authoritarian-rot-europe#](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/27/stopping-authoritarian-rot-europe)

Rot tends to spread when it encounters no resistance. Dictator wannabes prey upon weakness. EU and member state leaders now need to ask themselves: is the EU only a trading bloc or also a club of democracies? The answer to that question used to be obvious. Sadly, it no longer is. Ten million EU citizens now live under authoritarian rule. How many millions more will have to suffer the loss of their freedoms before Europe’s leaders draw the line?

7. Economic recession (from weakening / fracturing the EU)

Link: AFF plan weakens / fractures the EU with greater division

Cross-apply the BIG LINKS from Italy fracturing the EU.

Link: EU unity is necessary for beneficial trade deals

Julian Bonte-Friedheim 2020 (head writer at The Perspective) “IS THE EU BETTER OFF DIVIDED OR TOGETHER?” (month not given in the published article) <https://www.theperspective.com/debates/businessandtechnology/is-the-eu-better-off-divided-or-together/>

Better trade deals can be negotiated from within the EU. For any European nation, negotiating trade deals with other countries is much more advantageous as part of the EU rather than as an independent economy. As one of the world’s [biggest economic unions](https://www.thebalance.com/world-s-largest-economy-3306044), the EU has a lot more leverage when brokering a deal with China or India. Being able to offer (or withhold) access to its many consumers is a strong bargaining tool. Additionally, there is [free trading](https://www.ft.com/content/1688d0e4-15ef-11e6-b197-a4af20d5575e) between members of the EU, as it is a customs union. Individual countries, while able to create their own terms, are unlikely to reach deals as beneficial as the EU does on its own.

Impact: Devastating economic impact and recession

Mauro Guillen 2016 (holder of the Zandman Endowed Professorship in International Management at the Wharton School. He served as Director of the Lauder Institute of Management & International Studies between 2007 and 2019. PhD in sociology from Yale University and a Doctorate in political economy from the University of Oviedo in Spain.) 13 June 2016 “On the Brink: How a Brexit Could Fracture a Fragile Europe” <https://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/on-the-brink-how-brexit-could-fracture-a-fragile-europe/>

The European Union is the largest economy in the world. It’s not as rich as the U.S., but it is bigger in terms of gross domestic product if you combine those 28 countries. If there is a crisis of confidence that undermines consumer spending and business confidence, then you are going to get into maybe even a third recession. That would be devastating for Europe itself, but it would be really bad for everybody else in the world that has business with Europe, including the United States. Exporters to Europe and American companies that have investments in Europe are going to suffer. Companies such as GE or GM or Boeing, 20% to 30% of their business is in Europe, so it could have a large impact.

Past precedent: Brexit caused serious economic damage

Kimberly Amadeo 2020 (over 20 years of senior-level corporate experience in economic analysis and business strategy. She is a U.S. Economy expert for The Balance and president of WorldMoneyWatch, which produces publications about the global economy) “Brexit Consequences for the U.K., the EU, and the United States” last updated 14 Mar 2020 <https://www.thebalance.com/brexit-consequences-4062999>

The day after the Brexit vote, the currency markets were in turmoil. The [euro fell 2% to $1.11](https://www.thebalance.com/what-is-the-euro-to-dollar-conversion-its-history-3306091).﻿ The pound fell 8% to $1.36.﻿ Both increased the [value of the dollar](https://www.thebalance.com/value-of-us-dollar-3306268). That strength is not good for U.S. [stock markets](https://www.thebalance.com/what-is-the-stock-market-how-it-works-3305893). It makes American shares more expensive for foreign investors. A weak pound also makes U.S. exports to the U.K. more expensive. The United States has an $18.9 billion trade surplus with the U.K. In 2018, it exported $141 billion while importing $122 billion.﻿ Brexit could turn this surplus into a deficit if a weak pound makes U.K. imports more competitive. Brexit dampens business growth for companies that operate in Europe. U.S. companies invested $758 billion in the U.K. in 2018.﻿ Most of this was the finance sector with some manufacturing. These companies use the U.K. as the gateway to free trade with the EU nations. U.K. businesses invested $561 billion in the United States. Brexit puts at risk jobs in both countries. In addition, there were 716,000 U.K. immigrants in the United States and 215,000 U.S. immigrants in the U.K. in 2019.

8. Russia gains influence

Link: AFF divides / weakens the EU

Cross-apply the BIG LINKS from Italy fracturing the EU.

Link: Russia uses EU division to advance its agenda and gain influence to accomplish bad things

Ian Kearns 2018 (co-founder, former director and board member of the European Leadership Network, a pan-European group of senior political, military and diplomatic leaders. Former specialist advisor to the Joint House of Commons/House of Lords Committee on National Security Strategy. Former deputy chair and director of secretariat to former NATO Secretary General George Robertson) Collapse: Europe After The European Union (no month given in the published article) <https://books.google.com/books?id=ZVBSDwAAQBAJ&pg=PT223&lpg=PT223&dq=EU+immigration+reform+hopeless&source=bl&ots=79cHvPH2qu&sig=ACfU3U3diw6xbMj9V9bRAyJPoyV-5N1epA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjswYPI-ZrqAhWyneAKHfCQBCE4ChDoATAAegQIChAB#v=onepage&q=EU%20immigration%20reform%20hopeless&f=false>



Impact: Russian influence damages democracy, promotes authoritarian rule

Geir Hagen Karlsen 2019 (Lieutenant Colonel and Lecturer, Norwegian Defence University College) 8 Feb 2019 “Divide and rule: ten lessons about Russian political influence activities in Europe” <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-019-0227-8>

Russia is an authoritarian and corrupt state that regards the EU and, more specifically, NATO, as a challenge, a competitor and a threat. Its influence activities are malicious, undermining alliances and creating distrust, weakening what Moscow sees as their opponents and thus ensuring the survival of this authoritarian regime. Their interference is worrisome at several levels. First, Russia is undermining core democratic processes, like elections, and trust in the political system and its institutions. Second, their disinformation and manipulation of media and social media is directly undermining the political discourse, essential to democracy. Third, this is further exacerbated by their malicious attacks on individuals, like the Finnish journalist Jessika Aro, who has been tracked and harassed systematically after exposing Russian trolling of social media (Aro, [2015](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-019-0227-8#ref-CR3)). However, the overall Russian approach is simple, divide and rule.

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