Negative: Humanitarian Visa

By “Coach Vance” Trefethen

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

The affirmative case argues that the EU needs a union-wide humanitarian visa. Some individual EU countries have such a visa, but there currently isn’t one at the EU level. A humanitarian visa would be available at the embassy or consulate of any EU nation in any foreign country. People in poor countries who have some claim of humanitarian suffering could apply for such a visa at the embassy in their home country. There are some problems with this. The biggest one is that it would effectively open up the EU to widespread massive immigration. Just about anyone in a poor country can claim they are suffering some kind of humanitarian problem and should be able to move to Europe. Mass immigration into Europe will harm the immigrants, the European countries, and the home countries the immigrants come from.

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NEG: Humanitarian Visa

INHERENCY

1. Individual countries have humanitarian visas

Individual EU countries can issue humanitarian visas

Darren NEVILLE and Amalia RIGON 2016 (Policy Department C: Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs with the European Parliament) June 2016 POLICY DEPARTMENT FOR CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/556950/IPOL\_BRI(2016)556950\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/556950/IPOL_BRI%282016%29556950_EN.pdf)

Under existing schemes, humanitarian visas are issued at the discretion of individual states. Unlike resettlement, humanitarian visas are requested directly by the third-country national at the consulate of the state where asylum is sought (i.e. outside its territory). The prescreening process can then be conducted extraterritorially before a humanitarian visa is issued, enabling the asylum seeker to reach the state in which he/she will apply for asylum safely and legally. The decision on the substance of the asylum application is then taken on that State’s territory.

Humanitarian visas are authorized under existing law at the individual country level

Ulla Iben Jensen 2014 (with the European Parliament’s DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES) HUMANITARIAN VISAS: OPTION OR OBLIGATION? Sept 2014 [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2014/509986/IPOL\_STU(2014)509986\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2014/509986/IPOL_STU%282014%29509986_EN.pdf)

Article 18, first indent of the Schengen Convention renders possible the issuing of visas to protection seekers by according Member States the freedom to issue long-stay visas (type D) for stays exceeding 90 days. As observed by den Heijer, this provision thus implies that Member States may issue humanitarian or other protection visas to persons in need of international protection in accordance with their national laws (or Union law).

Existing EU legislation allows humanitarian visas

Ulla Iben Jensen 2014 (with the European Parliament’s DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES) HUMANITARIAN VISAS: OPTION OR OBLIGATION? (brackets and ellipses in original) Sept 2014 [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2014/509986/IPOL\_STU(2014)509986\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2014/509986/IPOL_STU%282014%29509986_EN.pdf)

In its Resolution of October 2013 on migratory flows in the Mediterranean, with particular attention to the tragic events off Lampedusa, the European Parliament welcomed the Commission’s intention to establish a task force on the issue of migratory flows in the Mediterranean and insisted that Parliament should be involved in such a task. In addition, the European Parliament emphasised that “[…] EU legislation provides some tools, such as the Visa Code and the Schengen Borders Code, which make it possible to grant humanitarian visas”.

2. Individual member action is better than EU action

Decisions about admitting humanitarian immigrants is (should be) at the individual country level

Prof. J. Martin Ramirez 2020. (Risk and Conflict Management, Nebrija University, Spain ) Long-Lasting Solutions to the Problem of Migration in Europe 26 Apr 2020 <https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10>

The decision on who is welcome and who is not does not belong to the humanitarian people, even less to the people-smugglers, but to each state. Security and protection of the borders is competence of each state member. Without borders there are no states and no one else can supplant a state’s right to manage and protect them, treating migrants humanely but also firmly, swiftly returning those who arrived illegally or whose claims to asylum have failed. Even if the EU lacks competence over it, it does not preclude the convenience of an Europeanization of the migration management, through a joint cooperation for specific purposes, even if it means losing part of the national authority over a very sensitive area of the territory. The political leaders of the EU must improve their coordination and develop common legislation on borders and immigration, creating systematic and controlled arrival and integration programs, focused on the new scenarios, such as the solution of the migratory crisis, with a common, effective, and decisive security policy, finding a balance between the implementation of measures that guarantee the security of the states, while respecting the rights of those migrants who no longer enjoy their protection in their respective countries of origin. The EU not only lacks competence over the management of the flow of refugees, but also lack of homogeneous response, as it is shown by of the Dublin Regulation (EU European Parliament [2013](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10#CR14)), which has resulted an absolute failure, inept to establish a coordinated strategy with minimal effectiveness. The EU foreign policy remains hopelessly underpowered, limited to coaxing national capitals towards agreement and supporting their ad hoc initiatives (The Economist Economist [2019a](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10#CR10), [b](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10#CR11); Niño [2019](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10#CR27)). It is good to remind again that it is not EU to blame but the states not taking actions.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. No harm to staying in Turkey

**If the problem is that the refugees are in Turkey and trying to get into Greece, and Greece won’t accept them, here’s a cool idea: Just stay in Turkey!**

Syrian refugees can integrate into Turkey

Alan Makovsky 2019 (senior fellow for National Security and International Policy at the Center for American Progress) 13 March 2019 “Turkey’s Refugee Dilemma” <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/reports/2019/03/13/467183/turkeys-refugee-dilemma/>

While most Turks hope all the Syrians will eventually return to Syria, that prospect looks unrealistic; sizable numbers of Syrians are indeed likely to remain. The issue of their remaining is politically explosive in Turkey, and the Turkish government has been hesitant to acknowledge publicly that it foresees the long-term integration of the refugees into Turkish society. In fact, bowing to public sentiment, Turkish leaders often proclaim that all Syrians will ultimately return to Syria, and they are likely to express this sentiment repeatedly as March 31 nationwide local elections approach. Yet, whether by default or by design, the government seems to have begun gradually implementing a policy of integration, suggesting that, regardless of their public declarations, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and other key leaders realize that many Syrians are in Turkey to stay. Ultimately, Turkish society may view integration as necessary for social harmony and recognize that, if integration is to be successful, it must be pursued as early and thoroughly as possible. Turkey’s future stability may depend on such decisions.

Refugees are well cared for in Turkey

Alan Makovsky 2019 (senior fellow for National Security and International Policy at the Center for American Progress) 13 March 2019 “Turkey’s Refugee Dilemma” <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/reports/2019/03/13/467183/turkeys-refugee-dilemma/>

Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees in the world, and it has spent generously on their behalf. Ankara provides free health care and education to the refugees as well as full services for the hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees who have come through, or still live in, refugee camps sprinkled around the Turkish south.

Turkey welcomes integration of Syrian refugees. Example: public schools

Alan Makovsky 2019 (senior fellow for National Security and International Policy at the Center for American Progress) 13 March 2019 “Turkey’s Refugee Dilemma” <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/reports/2019/03/13/467183/turkeys-refugee-dilemma/>

The Turkish educational system is essential to the integration of the Syrians into Turkish society. In its most remarkably pro-integration decision to date, the Turkish government seems to have made a decision to use this system to the fullest: Soon, all Syrian students will attend Turkish public schools. From the beginning, Turkey welcomed the refugees into Turkish schools, but few attended initially. In September 2014, Turkey opened—or, in some cases, recognized already informally existing—temporary education centers (TEC), which taught a modified Syrian curriculum in Arabic. As of August 2017, there were 404 TECs.The TECs, however, were established on the premise that the refugees would soon return to Syria. Over time, presumably as the Turkish government came to accept that the Syrians would likely remain, the government made the momentous decision to transfer and integrate the Syrians into the Turkish state educational system. This decision seems explicable only as an attempt to facilitate Syrian integration into Turkish society.

Refugees in Turkey are well funded

Alan Makovsky 2019 (senior fellow for National Security and International Policy at the Center for American Progress) 13 March 2019 “Turkey’s Refugee Dilemma” <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/reports/2019/03/13/467183/turkeys-refugee-dilemma/>

Since 2016, Turkey and the refugees have benefited from sizable aid from the European Union, courtesy of a March 2016 EU-Turkey agreement that helps Turkey defray health, education, and other refugee-associated costs. By the terms of that agreement, Turkey agreed to take measures to prevent unauthorized refugee crossings to Greece—that is, to EU territory—and to take back any refugees who illegally made that crossing. In return, the European Union pledged, among other things, to provide 6 billion euros over the following three years in programmatic support for refugees in Turkey.To this point, the European Union has committed 4.2 billion euros to what is officially called “The EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey” and has actually disbursed a little more than 2.1 billion euros.As part of this aid program, the European Union funds two major direct assistance programs for Syrian refugees in Turkey: the Emergency Social Safety Net program, which provides support to needy Syrians and their families—more than 1.5 million people, as of January 2019—and the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education program, which provides funding to families who send their children to school and is paid out on a per-student basis, to parents of 410,000 students, as of January 2019. The latter program is intended to incentivize parents to send their children to Turkish state schools.Both programs are implemented by Turkish agencies, which may contribute to the many Turks’ misperception that Turkey is funding those programs as well. ESSN beneficiaries receive 120 Turkish lira each month, plus an additional quarterly payment of 50 to 250 Turkish lira per household, depending on its size. CCTE payments are made every two months on the following basis: 35 Turkish lira for each boy and 40 Turkish lira for each girl in primary school, as well as 50 Turkish lira for each boy and 60 Turkish lira for each girl in high school.As of September 21, 2017, the United States had contributed $572 million to support Syrian refugees in Turkey since the beginning of the crisis. It had contributed far more for refugee support to Lebanon, $1.6 billion, and Jordan, a little more than $1 billion, both of which Washington deemed needier than Turkey

2. They’re not legitimate refugees

They’re not “refugees,” they’re just looking for better jobs

Michael B. Bougherty 2017. (Senior Writer for National Review) “Listen to Eastern Europe” <https://www.nationalreview.com/2017/06/sanctions-punishing-poland-eastern-europe-are-mistake/>

The Eastern European governments are right to reject the farcical 2015 scheme. First because it is based on so many lies. Western Europe’s policy on “refugees” has been dishonest from beginning to end. The vast majority of people arriving are not fleeing war in Syria or Iraq. They are coming from Chad, Afghanistan, and Eritrea, and they are looking for economic opportunity in Europe.

They’re economic migrants, not refugees. If they were genuine asylum seekers, they would have claimed asylum in the first safe country

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.

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.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Brain drain

Link: Requiring humanitarian visas would open the gates to uncontrolled immigration.

Agence France Press 2020. (French news agency) 7 March 2017 Countries can deny humanitarian visas to refugees: EU top court <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/world/europe/070317/countries-can-deny-humanitarian-visas-to-refugees-eu-top-court.html> (brackets added)

In a surprise judgment, the court [European Court of Justice] ruled against the family from the besieged city of Aleppo who had applied for the humanitarian visas at the Belgian embassy in the Lebanese capital Beirut last October. "Yesss! We won!" Belgium's Immigration Minister Theo Francken tweeted after having argued that an unfavourable ruling would have opened the gates to uncontrolled immigration.

Link: Massive out-migration from poor countries = “brain drain.” Smart, hardworking people exit, making poor countries worse off

Prof. J. Martin Ramirez 2020. (Risk and Conflict Management, Nebrija University, Spain ) Long-Lasting Solutions to the Problem of Migration in Europe 26 Apr 2020 <https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10>

It is thus vital to regulate the arrival of migrants if we want to achieve their real integration in our culture (Espaliú Berdud [2019](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10#CR51)). Here I will try to go forward, pinpointing the terrible damage made by the massive escape of young people from countries that desperately need them in their struggle for development; their great problem is precisely the continuous loss of human capital. Besides of that, who emigrate are not the “poor among the poor”, but people with certain economic means to be able to afford the trip and contacts in the place they are going to.

Link: Brain drain from Africa harms Africa 2 ways: 1) lose talented people; 2) increased cost of education spending to replace them

Prof. Brij Maharaj 2013 (prof. of geography at Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) The African Brain Drain: Causes, Costs, and Consequences, Oct 2013 <https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-81-322-1047-4_7>

The trend is for such professionals from developing countries to fill the gaps in the labour market in developed countries. Africa has not been immune to these trends and losing skilled migrants has serious implications for development. The aim of this chapter is to present an overview of the African brain drain in terms of causes, costs, and consequences. More specifically, the chapter reviews the scale and extent of the problem, analyses the factors influencing the African brain drain, briefly examines the impact of remittances, and considers policy options to stem the tide. This has two major impacts on African economies: losing the most talented and skilled personel and increased expenditure on education and training to compensate for those who have left.

Impacts: 1) Mass exodus from Africa does terrible damage to African countries. 2) And it puts the immigrants into a new form of slavery

Prof. J. Martin Ramirez 2020. (Risk and Conflict Management, Nebrija University, Spain ) Long-Lasting Solutions to the Problem of Migration in Europe 26 Apr 2020 <https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10>

Some African prelates within the Catholic Church are calling attention to the most forgotten aspect of this debate: the terrible damage made by a massive escape of young people from countries that desperately need them in their struggle for development. In a book released recently, cardinal Robert Sarah, currently prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, declares his personal position on immigration: “All migrants arriving in Europe are crammed, without work, without dignity. Is this what the Church wants? The Church cannot cooperate in this new form of slavery into which mass immigration has become” (Sarah [2019a](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10#CR36), [b](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10#CR37); Indelicato [2019](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10#CR19)).

Impact: Massive social costs to African countries.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Feldman 2012 (U.S. Army Reserve, is an Africa analyst and the Africa team leader with the Foreign Military Studies Office at Fort Leavenworth) Nov/Dec 2012 MILITARY REVIEW <https://community.apan.org/cfs-file/__key/docpreview-s/00-00-03-09-44/2012_2D00_12_2D00_01-Africas-Brain-Drain_2D00_Its-Impacts-on-Security-and-Stability-_2800_Feldman_2900_.pdf>

AFRICA IS BLEEDING. Much of its lifeblood, composed of well-educated individuals who could help tackle its toughest problems, is flowing away. This hemorrhaging of engineers, doctors, teachers, nurses, businesspersons, scientists, and others with extensive training constitutes Africa’s brain drain. In a continent where relatively few attend elementary school, let alone college, these individuals on whom society has often spent a disproportionate amount of its resources to educate are taking their precious skills elsewhere. The impact has been enormous. Many hospitals and health centers cannot function because the African doctors and nurses have gone to Europe or America. Schools often lack qualified teachers. The list of projects and programs deferred because capable individuals are not available seems endless.

Impact: Long term loss of economic development in poor countries

Prof. Soma Rani Sutradhar 2020 (assistant professor, Department of Economics, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Bangladesh) 31 Jan 2020 “The impact of remittances on economic growth in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka” [International Journal of Economic Policy Studies](https://link.springer.com/journal/42495) <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s42495-020-00034-1>

Remittances provide a way of poverty reduction and economic development when immigrants send remittances to the home country. On the other hand, this type of migration to abroad could damage the development process when the home country loses highly educated and skilled workers which is called brain drain. Thus, losses of human capital may affect economic growth negatively as reflected in the neoclassical growth theory.

2. Subverting human rights in poor countries

Link: Plan results in massive increase in migration to Europe

Cross-apply DA 1 first link card: Requiring humanitarian visas would open the gates to uncontrolled immigration.

Impact: Migrants from Africa get radicalized in Europe and then undermine democracy/human rights with their influence back in Africa

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Feldman 2012 (U.S. Army Reserve, is an Africa analyst and the Africa team leader with the Foreign Military Studies Office at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He has published numerous articles on terrorism, the environment, and health in Africa and serves as a subject matter expert on these topics for various Department of Defense activities) Nov/Dec 2012 MILITARY REVIEW <https://community.apan.org/cfs-file/__key/docpreview-s/00-00-03-09-44/2012_2D00_12_2D00_01-Africas-Brain-Drain_2D00_Its-Impacts-on-Security-and-Stability-_2800_Feldman_2900_.pdf>

Some individuals who left nations that oppressed them for what the Western world would consider extremist religious views found the freedom of Europe and America the perfect place to incubate their radical and sometimes violent beliefs. Free to associate with like-minded individuals and use social media without restrictions, they advocate movements such as the introduction of sharia or attacks on Western-backed governments in their native lands. Ironically, they use the freedom they now enjoy in Europe and America to undermine the possible transition to more democratic and tolerant nations in Africa. Egypt is an excellent example of this situation. Although Mubarak was removed, his regime was replaced by the Muslim Brotherhood, a group that might be less tolerant of the Coptic Christians present in the predominantly Muslim nation.

3. Masking disadvantage. More immigration distracts us from solving the root causes of the problems

Link: Plan results in massive increase in migration to Europe

Cross-apply DA 1 first link card: Requiring humanitarian visas would open the gates to uncontrolled immigration.

Link: Increased immigration doesn’t solve. It just distracts us from solving the root causes in poor countries

Prof. J. Martin Ramirez 2020. (Risk and Conflict Management, Nebrija University, Spain ) Long-Lasting Solutions to the Problem of Migration in Europe 26 Apr 2020 <https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10>

I have critized elsewhere (Ramirez [2019](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10#CR34)) the saving buenist attitude of a migrationist maximalism that wants to open the doors, the ports, the windows and throw all the walls, in favor of a Weberian realism (the ethics of convictions versus the ethics of reason) (Leguina [2019](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10#CR21)): even if we would welcome forty or fifty million Africans a year, Africa will continue to have the same population. It would be good if they start helping Africans in their own countries and avoiding as much as possible the reasons why they want to emigrate (Ramirez [2016](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-43253-9_10#CR33)). We want the potential migrants to have a better future in their countries. As Ousman Umar repeats like a mantra, “the solution is in the country of origin, not in the destination.

Impact: Turn the harms

If the plan distracts us from solving problems that motivate people to migrate for “humanitarian” reasons, then those problems get worse and human suffering increases.

DISADVANTAGES 4 through 7 – Weakening / Fracturing the European Union

Big links to everything

Link: The reason the EU doesn’t have Humanitarian Visas now is that they considered it, but it was too politically controversial

Erika Colombo 2019 (PhD student in European Union law at the University of Milan) Dec 2019 “The Global Compact on Refugees: which future for a comprehensive instrument in response to people’s displacement?” <https://www.ismu.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/The-Global-Compact-on-Refugees_Colombo-E.pdf>

Moreover, while the European Parliament promoted the presentation of a legislative proposal even on an EU humanitarian visa, the Commission did not support the idea, considering it not “politically feasible” and not respectful of the principle of territorial enforceability of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

Link: EU-wide humanitarian visa would force EU member states to accept immigrants against their will

Robert-Jan Bartunek and Gabriela Baczynska 2017 (journalists with Reuters news service) EU court says member states don't have to issue humanitarian visas 7 Mar 2017 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-belgium-court/eu-court-says-member-states-dont-have-to-issue-humanitarian-visas-idUSKBN16E0Z2>

“Member States are not required, under EU law, to grant a humanitarian visa to persons who wish to enter their territory with a view to applying for asylum, but they remain free to do so on the basis of their national law,” the court said. While EU member states can now issue such visas if they choose, an EU-wide legal obligation to do so would have paved the way for many new applications they would then have been unable to reject.

Link: Numerous members of the EU will not accept any plan that has them taking more migrants

Voice of America News 2020 (journalist Jamie Dettmer; US government-funded news agency) 23 Sept 2020 “EU Migration Proposal Draws Ire of Central European States” <https://www.voanews.com/europe/eu-migration-proposal-draws-ire-central-european-states>

Numerous attempts to overhaul EU migration policy in the past have failed, largely because of resistance from a handful of member states mainly in central Europe to any compulsory distribution of asylum-seekers. EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson told reporters this week that she’s ready for tough resistance from Hungary, Poland and several rich northern European nations, but hopes to overcome opposition by providing the EU's 27 countries with “flexible options” for how to participate.
**[END QUOTE]
[THEY GO ON TO REPORT LATER IN THE SAME CONTEXT QUOTE:]**Hungarian leader Viktor Orban made clear this week that he has no intention of compromising and accepting relocated asylum-seekers. He doubled down on his disapproval in a combative essay for Magyar Nemzet, a right-wing Hungarian newspaper, in which he said there’s an impasse between conservative central and eastern Europe and the liberal western European states, one he can’t see can be overcome. “Loopy liberals see no reason to fear even a flood of immigration,” he wrote. He added: “Central European countries have chosen a different future, free of immigration and migration.”

Brink: Any further discussion of EU immigration reform will disintegrate the EU

Bodo Weber 2020 (senior associate of the [Democratization Policy Council](http://www.democratizationpolicy.org/), based in Berlin) 9 March 2020 “Threat to EU on Greece-Turkey border is EU-made” <https://euobserver.com/opinion/147672>

The current narrative's complete avoidance of core questions is astounding. Reasoned, rational discussion seems to now be a collective pan-European taboo. EU leaders evidently fear that just by opening up such discussion, the Union would disintegrate. In September 2015, when some of the Visegrád countries declared they would not implement the EU's legally-binding relocation scheme, the Union collapsed as a legal entity in the area of asylum and migration.

4. Reduced world stability from fracturing the EU

Example: Disagreement over immigration policy was a major reason Britain left the EU

Max Boot 2016 (leading military historian and foreign policy analyst. Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow in National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York) July 2016 “Brexit: Isolationism or Atlanticism?” <https://www.hoover.org/sites/default/files/issues/resources/strategika_issue_33_web.pdf>

Britons might never have voted to leave the European Union had it not been for the refugee crisis that hit Europe as a result of the Syrian civil war. Even though Britain has accepted only some 5,000 Syrian refugees, German premier Angela Merkel agreed to take in 800,000, thus fueling fears across the continent of an influx of possible terrorists. Those fears were exploited by elements of the “Leave” campaign, principally Nigel Farage and the UK Independence Party, and no doubt contributed crucial momentum to the final outcome.

Brink: EU faces an uncertain future with multiple crises threatening unity and increasing division

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>

Today, Europe faces an uncertain future. The migration crisis, rise in terrorism, economic downturn, mounting external pressures and a responsive populist movement, have threatened the basis of European stability. The major influx of refugees into Europe has placed immense pressure on the EU’s infrastructure and capacity to integrate refugees into the European identity. Europe has experienced a growing number of terrorist attacks, leading to nationalist and xenophobic policies. Additionally, Russia’s encroachment into Eastern Europe has strained Russia and Europe’s relationship. The Euro crisis has furthered the divide between the core and peripheral EU countries, revealing the inequality between European citizens and growing stagnant employment and growth opportunities.

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.

5. Populism and Authoritarian Government

Link: AFF plan weakens / fractures the EU

Cross apply all the BIG LINK evidence.

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?

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

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

Cross-apply the BIG LINK.

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.

Brink: Cracks already being seen in EU unity, and even partial non-cooperation will eventually bleed it to death

Hans Vollaard 2020 ( Lecturer in Dutch and European Politics at Utrecht University, the Netherlands.) “One down, many to go? European disintegration after Brexit” 23 March 2020 <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/brexit/2020/03/23/one-down-many-to-go-european-disintegration-after-brexit/>

Even though there may not be other instances of European disintegration like Brexit, dissatisfaction may lead to other forms of disintegration. Not by countries leaving the EU entirely, but only partially. These partial exits involve member states not complying with the EU rules, for instance with respect to public finances in the Eurozone (Italy), or the Schengen rules, many member states have introduced “temporary” national border surveillance since the migration crisis of 2015. Another partial exit is the desire to pay less money to ‘Brussels’, such as expressed by the so-called Hanseatic group of EU member states led by the Netherlands. Disintegration can also occur involuntarily, when one member state wants to exclude another member state, such as the calls to push Greece out of the euro or the Schengen area. These partial forms of disintegration undermine the functioning of the EU. Its rules are less respected, and it gets fewer resources to function properly. In such a scenario, the EU would gradually ‘bleed to death’.

Impact: Devastating economic impact. Financial 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.

7. Russia gains influence

Link: AFF divides / weakens the EU

Cross-apply the BIG LINK.

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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