

Background of Colonization and Migration in Europe

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Abstract:

This study examines the relationship between the European colonization process and the way people moved from time to time between the 15th and 19th centuries. This research focuses on important things such as how economic needs and changes in world state power influenced many people who moved, thus affecting the population arrangement and colonial government systems in various regions. To conduct this research, the researchers used secondary sources such as journals and books. They also collected data by reviewing various records such as trade records, people movement records, and reports from colonial governments, which are stored in places like VOC archives and British East India Company archives. The analysis methods used include qualitative against quality against content model making and content model making to describe the direction as well as the amount of people movement, using Python program with network graphs. The research results show that important events in the Ottoman Turkey after 1453 encouraged initial sailing activities. By 1900, the number of Europeans who moved to colonial areas had reached more than 2 million people. This built mixed culture societies but also strengthened inequalities between groups. The research conclusion shows that the colonization process triggered two-way human movements that accelerated global world development, but also left roots of modern inequality. Therefore, further research with number-based models is needed to obtain more accurate and predictable historical understanding.

Keywords: european colonization, economic needs, colonial government, European migration

Introduction

European colonization and the phenomenon of mass migration to the continent are two naturally interconnected historical processes that shaped the social, economic, and political development of the world from the Middle Ages to the postmodern era. European colonization did not occur spontaneously; rather, it emerged due to the trade crisis following the Ottoman Sultanate's occupation of Constantinople in 1453 AD. This event disrupted the traditional Silk Road trade routes and prompted the Portuguese and Spanish to develop navigation technologies such as the caravel ship and the astrolabe (Amanan, 2024). These structural factors are summarized in three main motivations: "Gold, Glory, Gospel"—the pursuit of gold and spices that spurred expeditions by Bartolomeus Dias (1488) and Vasco da Gama (1498); the ambition for national glory embodied in the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), drafted by Pope Alexander VI to divide new territories; while the gospel represents the Catholic and Protestant evangelization missions accompanied by the Inquisition in colonized areas (Rosmaida, 2025). In Southeast Asia, this culminated in the establishment of the Dutch VOC in 1602, which captured Malacca in

1641 and implemented the Ethical Policy after 1901 in response to exploitative practices like the Cultuurstelsel (1830–1870), which sent Rp 823 million to the Netherlands while causing 2.2 million deaths from famine in Java (Hidayat et al., 2024).

Theoretically, colonization is a system in which economic benefits from colonized areas are transferred to the colonial central government. This strategy employs governance methods of divide and rule, implements harsh laws, and regulates post-colonial power relations (Loomba, 1998). This research is important because it remains linked to migration: exploitation during the colonial period caused instability in the Global South, resulting in 1.3 million people forced to move to Europe in 2015 alone (UNHCR, 2016).

The phenomenon of migration to Europe is closely linked to the legacy of colonialism, where past exploitation has caused prolonged instability in former colonized regions. Migration is the permanent or semi-permanent relocation from one place to another, influenced by factors such as discomfort at the origin (push) and opportunities at the destination (Everett, 1966). Migration also encompasses cross-administrative boundary movements (Munir, 2000). During the 2015 European migration crisis, over 1.8 million people arrived, mostly from Syria (49%), Afghanistan (21%), and Iraq (7%). They arrived via two main routes: the Eastern Mediterranean route (from Turkey to Greece) and the Central Mediterranean route (from Libya to Italy). During this period, more than 4,000 deaths occurred due to overcrowded boats and smuggling, with costs ranging from USD 1,000 to USD 5,000 per person. The main influencing factors include: (1) Geographical factors—the vast 2.5 million km² Mediterranean Sea serves as a bridge between Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, with the distance from Libya to Lampedusa only about 150 miles; (2) Economic factors—income disparities (Europe reaching USD 18 trillion while Sub-Saharan Africa is much lower).

This research is important for understanding how the legacy of colonialism—such as economic disparities (Frank's dependency theory) and racial segregation in Africa and America—continues to impact the present day in the form of mass migration that challenges modern European identity (Margolang et al., n.d.). Its scope covers various regions once under colonial control, such as Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam), Africa (Berlin Conference of 1884-1885), and America (Jamestown in 1607, and Puritan colonies). Additionally, it encompasses the impacts of migration, such as integration processes in countries like Denmark, the Netherlands, and France since 2001.

Methods

This research employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical historical design, aimed at describing, analyzing, and deeply understanding the comprehensive phenomena behind European colonization and migration to the continent. This design was chosen because the research topic is sequential and causal, allowing for the reconstruction of historical events by comparing various sources to enhance the validity and reliability of the results (Creswell & Poth, 2018). The study adopts a post-positivism paradigm, which accepts that historical data possess a certain objectivity while acknowledging the possibility of researcher bias in interpretation. The research subjects are European colonization events from the 15th to the 20th century, as well as contemporary migration from 2011 to the present. The

main focus is on key actors such as colonizing nations (Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, England, France), organizations like the VOC and UNHCR, and migrant groups from Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, and Nigeria. The research objects include historical documents (such as the Treaty of Tordesillas, VOC archives, and IOM reports), migration statistics (from Eurostat and UNHCR), and academic narratives on structural impacts like economic inequality and xenophobia in Europe.

To collect data, the researcher uses three methods: first, online and offline literature studies from various databases such as Google Scholar, JSTOR, Sinta Kemdikbud, and university repositories (Unpad, UIN SGD); second, content analysis of documents with specific criteria—namely Indonesian or English language, period from 1453 to 2025, and focus on Europe-Nusantara relations; third, observation of secondary visual data such as migration route maps (from ArcGIS UNHCR) and colonial timelines (from TimelineJS).

Results

A. Background of Colonization and Migration in Europe

In the process of territorial expansion, a country will undertake efforts either through warfare or expeditions. Colonization is a process in which a stronger nation or group aims to occupy or control a territory, which is then fully managed by the colonizing nation. Numerous experts have provided definitions of colonization and migration.

a. Andre Gunder Frank

Andre Gunder Frank views colonialism as a process of transferring wealth from dominated territories to the ruling powers, thereby hindering economic progress in the conquered nations. Based on this perspective, it can be interpreted that colonial powers systematically divert resources from colonized countries, severely limiting the potential for local economic growth. Consequently, societies in colonized areas face restrictions in accessing wealth sources and obstacles in implementing national development, as economic control lies in the hands of foreign rulers. This process illustrates how colonization causes colonized nations to lose opportunities for building independent and sustainable economic lives.

b. Rochmadi (1993)

According to Rochmadi, this phenomenon reflects a policy strategy closely tied to colonial administration, territories under foreign control, or parts of an empire. Broadly speaking, in conquered areas, the colonial ruling state gains authority to appoint representative leaders based on rules it establishes itself. In practice, local individuals serving as traditional figures or those opposing colonial dominance are often controlled through the divide et impera method, by fomenting internal conflicts and persuading local rulers to ally with the colonial side, where they typically receive rewards or certain benefits in return. Such a pattern of domination enables colonial regimes to effectively embed influence and expand control over the population in colonized territories.

c. Alan Bullock (1986)

Colonization is a practice that emphasizes the strict and sometimes extreme application of legal systems in territories under foreign control. Typically, colonial powers begin by taking a persuasive approach toward local societies, creating opportunities for them to embed influence more easily and effectively.

d. Collins English Dictionary

Colonization is a strategy or action undertaken by a country or political power to increase influence or domination over economically, socially, or politically more vulnerable groups in foreign territories.

e. Loomba

In her view, colonization is seen as an interaction between human groups manifested through processes of domination and subjugation of others. From all the theoretical statements above, we can conclude that nearly all expert opinions are interconnected and share academic similarities. In essence, colonization or colonialism is an effort or form by a country to expand its territory and power, aiming to control the entire conquered nation—including its economic aspects and wealth—through methods that influence the government and people of the colonized country.

The causes of migration in a country are inseparable from the impacts of colonialism, where migration also serves as a form of protection for other countries (Lee, 1976). Migration is the permanent or semi-permanent relocation to a new place of residence, regardless of distance, and can occur voluntarily or involuntarily. Munir (2000) states that migration is the movement of population with the intention to settle from one area to another, crossing political or national borders, or administrative boundaries within a country. The migration occurring today is the displacement of a country's population due to expeditions from other colonizing nations, where the native inhabitants of the colonized country seek protection from the colonizing nation. The massive migration phenomenon to Europe, commonly known as the European refugee crisis, arose from the increasing number of individuals seeking asylum and protection from various regions, including South Asia, the Middle East, and the African continent. This large influx of asylum seekers primarily crosses through the Mediterranean and Balkan routes to European countries, posing various social and political challenges. The migration issue gained serious international attention when Europe recorded the arrival of over one million migrants and refugees in a short period, marking an unprecedented escalation of the crisis in the region. The population movement to Europe is driven by a surge of individuals seeking asylum due to dire situations in their home countries. Typically, these arrivals come from nations facing political uncertainty, protracted inter-group conflicts, economic pressures, and involvement in warfare. For example, the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and the Balkans have experienced intensified turmoil that compels their populations to migrate. Europe becomes the primary destination for immigrants not only due to geographical proximity but also because of perceived better economic conditions and relatively high political stability compared to their countries of origin. These factors underpin the wave of migration to Europe, and the following elaboration will delve deeply into the motives driving this displacement.

B. Factors Causing Colonization in Europe

Oceanic exploration marked the initial stage that propelled colonialism. Oceanic exploration refers to efforts to discover new territories through sea voyages, while colonialism is the practice of controlling and exploiting resources in those discovered areas. The 15th century signified the beginning of European oceanic exploration toward the eastern parts of the world. The primary

factor driving Western nations eastward was the desire to obtain spices directly from their sources. According to historians, various reasons triggered European oceanic exploration. One key factor was the conquest of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks, led by Sultan Mehmed II. The city's location was highly strategic, directly connecting two continents—Europe and Asia. Constantinople was the capital of Byzantium and a center of Christianity. Its fall halted trading activities (economic) in ports surrounding the Mediterranean and Black Seas in Europe due to the Muslim army's siege. Europeans could no longer obtain spice supplies from Asian (Eastern) traders. This situation was a harsh blow to European merchants who had previously profited greatly from trade activities in those ports. The economic blockade actually forced European merchants to "think hard" about understanding and obtaining spices directly from their sources.

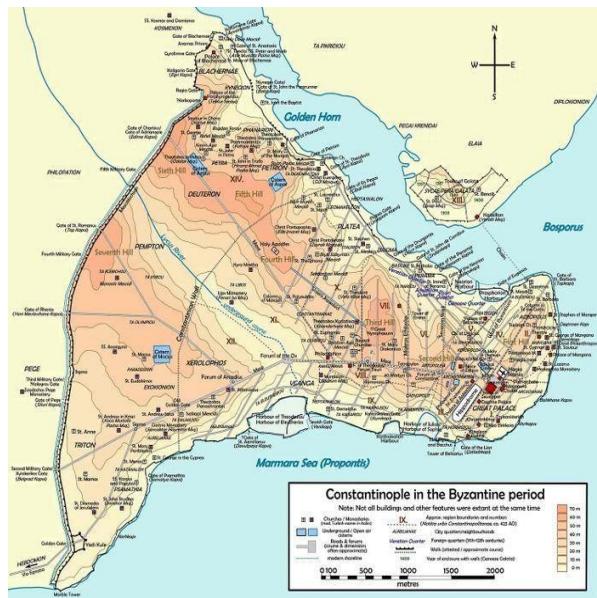


Figure 1. Topographic map of Constantinople during the Byzantine period.

In addition to the fall of Constantinople, several factors drove oceanic exploration, namely:

- Gold:** Wealth was the primary driver behind these explorations. European nations like Portugal, Spain, and England sought new natural resources, especially spices, which were highly valuable in the European market at the time. For instance, the Portuguese conducted expeditions to southern Africa to find new routes to India, while Spain, under Columbus's leadership, sailed westward and discovered the American continent.
- Glory:** National glory and prestige were also key motivations. Countries that successfully expanded their colonial territories were seen as superior and gained higher reputations. In this context, wars and conquests became part of efforts to demonstrate military strength and political superiority. For example, Britain's motto "the sun never sets on the British Empire" reflects their ambition to control vast territories.
- Gospel:** The spread of Christianity was another important factor in these explorations. Spain was particularly active in sending missionaries to convert local

populations to Catholicism. These activities were often accompanied by conquest and exploitation, with Catholic missions established in newly colonized areas.

The Treaty of Tordesillas, conceived in 1493, created a global division, strictly separating the spheres of influence between Spain and Portugal. Portugal gained rights over territories stretching from Brazil to the eastern regions, including the Nusantara (Indonesian archipelago), while Spain controlled the rest of the world. The establishment of this demarcation line became a crucial milestone in organizing European powers' control over territories outside their continent. Columbus's discovery of the American continent further expanded opportunities for European nations, particularly Spain and Portugal, to pursue expansion and exploitation across various parts of the world. These events marked the beginning of a new era in which European colonialism expanded massively and transformed the face of world history.

1. European Colonialism in Southeast Asia

In 1478, Bartolomeus Dias successfully reached the Cape of Good Hope at the southernmost tip of Africa. A few decades later, in 1497, Vasco da Gama's expedition landed in India. After making contact with local societies there, the Portuguese realized that the commodities they brought from Europe could not compete with products long distributed through Asian trade networks, leaving their position in the Indian market very weak. Therefore, the motto "Gold, Glory, Gospel" became crucial for them, as only through warfare and control of producing regions could they dominate Asian trade.

Large numbers of Europeans arrived in Southeast Asia, competing fiercely to control the region and establish colonies. For example, Indonesia was successively colonized by the Portuguese, Dutch, British, and even Japanese. The British also succeeded in controlling Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, and the Philippines, while the Philippines was previously under Spanish rule. An important historical note in Southeast Asian colonialism is that Thailand was the only country never visited or colonized by any foreign power.

The Spanish Kingdom also sought political influence in the Nusantara region, or Southeast Asia. To achieve this, King Philip II sent numerous troops to the Philippines. The Philippines itself was not rich in spices; however, Spain's primary goal was to spread Christianity by converting the local population's beliefs. The second Spanish expedition conquered three recently established Islamic kingdoms in Manila at the time. Missionaries successfully converted most of the Philippine population, except in some southern areas, namely the Sulu Archipelago and Mindanao.

Faced with widespread colonization, Vietnam chose isolationism to avoid foreign arrivals. However, France arrived and attempted to occupy Vietnam. With British assistance, France succeeded in occupying Vietnam. In the struggle for Danang Bay, France emerged victorious, due to its close ties with Vietnam's rulers at the time.



Figure 2. Philippine Rebel Group

The Dutch journey to the Indonesian region left a rich historical legacy worthy of further study. Traversing thousands of miles across the ocean, Dutch sailors finally set foot in the Nusantara archipelago. A significant moment occurred in 1596, when a Dutch trading fleet of four ships first anchored at the port of Banten. The Dutch colonization process unfolded gradually over hundreds of years, lasting nearly three and a half centuries. In subsequent developments around the 18th century, the Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie (VOC) emerged as a dominant economic and political entity on Java, particularly after the fall of the Mataram Sultanate. Despite becoming a major power, the VOC collapsed due to weak governance and intensifying competition with the British. This situation culminated in 1796 when the VOC was officially declared bankrupt and subsequently taken over by the Dutch government through nationalization.



Figure 3. Dutch soldiers and native Indonesians

2. European Colonization in Africa

European exploration and conquest of Africa began in the 15th century, initiated by the Portuguese who captured the city of Ceuta and then occupied several coastal areas such as Cape Bojador, Cape Verde, and Cape Palmas. At its peak, Bartolomeus Dias reached the Cape of Good Hope, followed by Vasco da Gama who continued the journey to India. The Portuguese also built forts along the African coast to protect their trade routes. Spain also controlled African wealth and faced competition with Portugal.

To avoid conflict, the Pope intervened and issued the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494. This treaty divided territories outside Europe between Spain and Portugal, with Spain receiving the western portion (primarily the Americas) and Portugal the eastern portion (including Africa and

Asia). Portugal dominated African trade for nearly 275 years, with their main hub at Elmina Castle on the west coast. In the early 17th century, other European nations began focusing on Africa, gradually reducing Portugal's position. Competition among European powers in Africa ultimately led to the division of colonial boundaries. This official partition was formalized through the Berlin Conference, where African territories were allocated among various European countries, prohibiting other nations from entering those colonial areas.



Figure 4. Native Slavery in Africa

3. European Colonialism in America

The discovery of the South American continent by Christopher Columbus attracted European nations to control its natural resources and mines. Spain and Portugal dominated Central and South America, while England, France, and the Netherlands focused on North America. Colonization faced challenges such as attacks from indigenous populations, harsh weather, and rebellions. Colonial governments studied native cultures to address these obstacles. A major wave of emigration from Europe to North America began in the early 1600s, driven by reasons like escaping political persecution, seeking religious freedom, adventure, and prosperity.

Many English emigrants, along with some from the Netherlands, Sweden, and Germany, arrived due to poor economic conditions and political oppression in their home countries. Jamestown was England's first colony in North America, established in 1607 with support from King James I. Many early emigrants died due to survival difficulties and their focus on gold prospecting. Puritans seeking to reform the Church of England founded colonies in Massachusetts Bay and surrounding areas, pursuing religious freedom and a new life. The North American colonies were divided into three main regions: New England, Middle Colonies, and Southern Colonies.

The colonial economy was shaped by geographical conditions: North America's less fertile land relied on timber and fur trade, while South America's fertile soil supported tobacco and grain agriculture. Colonial politics consisted of three types of government: Royal (governor appointed by the king), Proprietary (governor appointed by owners who were freemen), and Charter (governor elected by the people). Voting rights were generally limited to freemen—white men who owned property and were church members. Religion played a key role in the colonies, with the southern colonies predominantly Roman Catholic and New England mostly Protestant Baptist. Education remained basic, emphasizing household skills for women and fundamental learning for men, alongside early universities such as Harvard (1636), William and Mary (1693), and Yale (1701). The first newspaper in the English colonies, the Boston News-Letter, appeared in 1704, marking advancements in information dissemination and library regulations.

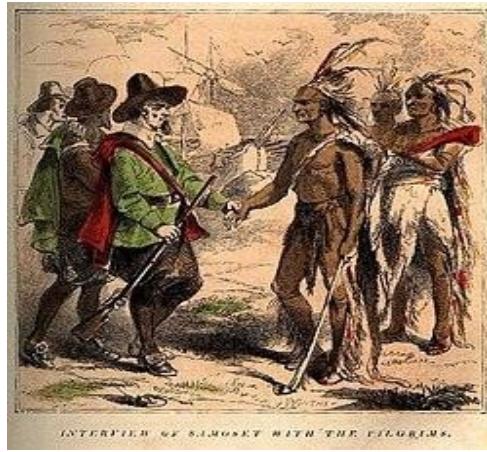


Figure 5. Europeans and Native Americans

C. Migration Factors in Europe

a. Geographical Proximity

Europe and Africa are located close together, separated only by the vast Mediterranean Sea, which serves as a connector between the two continents. This proximity significantly facilitates human movement, particularly for migrant groups heading to Europe. The Mediterranean Sea spans nearly one million square kilometers and lies within the scope of three continents, bordered by Europe to the north, Asia to the east, and Africa to the south. For a long time, this body of water has functioned as a vital hub for trade activities and population mobility. Migrants heading to Europe typically use various routes, such as land paths, air travel, and sea crossings. Land routes often pass from Evros to Greece or from Morocco to Spain, either on foot or via land transportation. For sea routes, migrants utilize boats to cross the Mediterranean via three main corridors. The eastern route heads to Greece or Bulgaria through the Aegean Sea, usually departing from Turkey. The central corridor moves toward Italy, starting from Libya or Tunisia and crossing the Ionian Sea or Tyrrhenian Sea. The western route begins in Morocco or Algeria and ends in Spain, typically passing near the Balearic Islands and the Balearic Sea.

The main route crossing the Mediterranean has long been the primary choice for migrants seeking to reach Europe. This access connects several North African coastal countries, such as Libya and Tunisia, with Italy. The popularity of this crossing surged sharply following the "Arab Spring" upheavals, which had profound impacts on the sociopolitical situations in Tunisia and Libya. The policy reforms that followed these events also led to security instability and weakened national law enforcement, creating opportunities for illegal migrants to use both countries as starting points for journeys to Western Europe. In terms of distance, Tunisia and Libya are relatively close to Lampedusa Island—about 73 miles from Tunisia and around 159 miles from Libya. This geographical proximity allows migrants to cross in less than 24 hours. It is precisely these factors of closeness and relatively short travel time that migrants often prioritize when choosing their departure route to Italy.

The surge in migrant movements across the Mediterranean has contributed to a sharp rise in deaths in the region. Migrants, seeking to evade increasingly tightened border controls, opt for more dangerous routes and undertake unauthorized journeys. This phenomenon has driven many to use human smuggling services to cross the Central Mediterranean. Such practices

create a migration pattern fraught with risks, leaving migrants vulnerable to exploitation, deception, and life-threatening dangers. The Central Mediterranean route itself is recorded as the deadliest corridor, with the highest number of fatalities. Smuggling services typically charge at least USD 1,000 per person, but this fee does not guarantee safety or comfort during the voyage. The boats used are often unseaworthy, overcrowded beyond capacity, and lack safety equipment like life jackets, while passengers frequently have no knowledge of how to operate the vessels. As a result, migrants rely solely on wind direction and sea currents, greatly increasing the risk of maritime accidents. All these factors directly contribute to the rising death toll among migrants along the Central Mediterranean route.

b. Economic Factors

The wave of migration to Europe is significantly influenced by protracted conflicts ravaging several Middle Eastern countries. However, this escalation is not the sole trigger for migration to the continent. Various other drivers also shape individuals' or groups' decisions to relocate there. Economic stimulus emerges as a crucial motive behind migration, particularly for communities from West Africa such as Gambia and Nigeria. Financial instability, limited job opportunities, and high poverty rates in these countries push many to seek a more prosperous life in Europe. Europe itself is known as the region with the world's highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP), recorded at USD 16.417 trillion in 2015 (Bank, 2018).

From these conditions, Europe has become the primary dreamed-of destination for most migrants, where they hope to find better life opportunities. Europe is often portrayed as the "Continent of Hope" due to its prosperity, security, quality of life, and relatively accessible location for people from crisis-affected regions. Advanced European countries, such as Germany, emerge as top destinations for asylum seekers and migrant workers. Data from 2015 shows that Germany hosted approximately 1,543,800 foreign arrivals (Commission, 2017), affirming its status as a leading destination in contemporary migration flows to the continent.

According to L. Bartolini (2017), in 2016, the Central Mediterranean route became the primary migration path for populations from several Horn of Africa countries, with Nigeria accounting for the highest proportion at 18%, followed by Eritrea at 14%. Gambia ranked third with 9%, while Guinea contributed around 8% of total migrants. Other countries like Senegal and Bangladesh each accounted for 6%, Sudan and Mali around 5% each, Côte d'Ivoire approximately 4%, and other African nations cumulatively 21%. Migrants from non-African countries made up about 3%, and Pakistan only 1%. Fundamentally, these countries are mostly developing nations, so the drive to migrate is largely due to economic pressures in their home countries, serving as the primary push factor for these migrants.

c. Political Instability in the Country of Origin

According to IOM findings, most migrants decide to leave their homelands due to armed conflicts or violence. On the Central Mediterranean route, 52% of migrants reported migrating due to persecution or violence; 35% cited economic factors as the main driver, while 21% pointed to war and clashes as their primary reason for displacement. Meanwhile, on the Eastern Mediterranean route, the patterns differ slightly: 58% left due to conflict or war, 48% were driven by economic hardship, and 18% cited limited access in their home countries as the trigger (L. Bartolini, 2017).

In 2015, migration flows to Europe were primarily driven by individuals from the Middle East, particularly Syria, which accounted for 50.2% of total migrants, followed by Afghanistan at 20.2%, and Iraq at 7.1%, as recorded in UNHCR data (2016). This migration surge was closely linked to regional conflicts that erupted a decade earlier and were exacerbated by the domino effects of the Arab Spring wave. The Arab Spring itself consisted of a series of revolutionary movements, mass demonstrations, and large-scale protests that erupted starting in 2011. These movements aimed to achieve democratic governance in countries long characterized by authoritarianism. However, democratization efforts faced major challenges, especially in nations with deeply rooted Islamic traditions where democracy is often seen as incompatible with the Islamic values upheld by society.

During the Arab Spring period, societies played an active role in pushing for the downfall of authoritarian regimes. Hopes grew among the people that replacing repressive governments with a new order would pave the way for democracy. The emergence of this revolutionary movement stemmed from accumulated frustration with oppressive rule, where restrictions on civil rights led to stagnation in key sectors like education, economy, social life, and politics. To advocate for transformation, various strategies were employed, from mass protests and direct confrontations with regime-supporting forces to leveraging digital platforms for broader citizen mobilization. The consequence of these change efforts was disrupted public order and the emergence of uncertain political dynamics in the affected countries.

The atmosphere of insecurity, tension, and inhumane treatment in several Middle Eastern regions has posed serious threats to local populations' safety. Given such a pressing and dangerous environment, it is understandable that a massive exodus occurred, with residents choosing to flee their countries in search of protection and security. Even those not yet directly affected by conflict violence felt compelled to act due to the growing awareness of potential widespread threats. Deciding to relocate is no easy matter, as most escapees must traverse high-risk routes, often entrusting their fates to human smuggling networks to reach their desired destinations. Europe emerged as the primary destination for these asylum seekers—not only due to its geographically accessible position from the Middle East but also because of perceptions of economic stability and better life opportunities in the region.

D. The Impact of Colonialism and Migration on European Societies

1. Impact of Colonialism

Colonization is the domination or conquest of a specific territory, where the colonizers seize or exploit natural resources, labor, and the potential of that territory from the colonized country. Colonialism left quite significant impacts on the colonized countries in various fields such as economics, social, culture, etc. Colonialization carried out over years or even centuries caused fundamental changes to the original social structure. Here are some impacts of European colonialism on the colonized countries :

a. Economic Impact

In general, colonialism brought an economy system of excessive extraction and monopoly, which was unsustainable. This caused colonized societies to become poor, dependent on colonizers, and experience ongoing economic inequality. In various cases, such as in Indonesia and other countries, one main goal of Dutch colonialism was to profit from Indonesia. They

exploited goods like spices, agricultural products, and minerals. The economic policies used often strangled local workers, unfairly extracted natural resources, and created vast economic disparities between natives and the colonial government.

This exploitation reached its peak through the implementation of the forced cultivation system or *cultuurstelsel* in the 19th century, where local farmers were required to plant export crops on part of their land. This policy not only added to the people's economic burden but also reduced local food production, ultimately causing famine and suffering in various areas. Dependency theory, proposed by Andre Gunder Frank, provides an apt analytical framework. Frank explains that former colonies tend to remain trapped in an unbalanced global economic system. In this system, the economic growth of advanced countries is supported by the exploitation and backwardness of developing countries. The case of Indonesia exemplifies Frank's argument, where current local economic limitations cannot be separated from the colonial structural legacy that was never truly reformed or eliminated after independence.



Figure 6. Dutch Forced Cultivation System

b. Social Field

Colonial governments, aimed at maintaining social control over society, often implemented policies based on racial differences that separated natives from colonial settlers. This led to social inequalities, unfair treatment based on race, and suffering among certain groups in society. For example, in Africa, white people held high social status, while black native Africans were treated poorly, even enslaved and sold abroad.

The slave trade began in 1441 when Antao Goncalves bought ten slaves from Africa and brought them to Portugal. During American colonialism, thousands of slaves were transported from Africa to America to assist and support work. The slaves performed heavy labor to bolster enterprises. After entering Africa, the Portuguese sought gold-producing areas on the continent and began exploring accommodations, as the slave trade in Africa had been known since Roman times for household work and agricultural needs, especially sugar production. At that time, European nations increasingly expanded the slave trade in Africa, leading to broader colonization of the continent. The surrounding areas experienced depopulation due to many workers dying. This occurred because of unhealthy working conditions, such as food shortages and poor healthcare. This problem worsened due to diseases caused by unhealthy living and working conditions. Besides causing many deaths, coercion also often led to family separations. Social stability was disrupted as adult men recruited by force had to leave their families, leaving women and children in uncertain conditions. Under harsh colonial practices, the social life of Central African societies, previously governed by conventions and strong family bonds, was

destroyed. European countries like Britain, France, Belgium, and Germany divided Africa at the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885 for their own economic gain and political power.



Figure 7. Children made into slaves in Africa

c. Cultural Field

Colonization also attempted to dominate local culture and identity in Indonesia, usually by replacing native traditions, languages, and cultural practices. This led to cultural erosion, discrimination against local languages and religions, and the imposition of the colonizers' culture. This instead strengthened feelings of inferiority among local communities. Like in America, before the arrival of Europeans, America had many indigenous groups with diverse cultures, trading methods, and social orders, such as the Indian tribes, Maya and Aztec tribes, Guarani tribe, Awa tribe, etc. Colonization forced indigenous people to leave their ancestral lands and be displaced by European immigrants. This event changed how people lived, farmed, and traded in America, forming a new economic system and altering local social structures. The environmental impact of European colonization was also enormous. The introduction of 112 new species from Europe disrupted America's natural ecosystem, with invasive species threatening local species' survival.

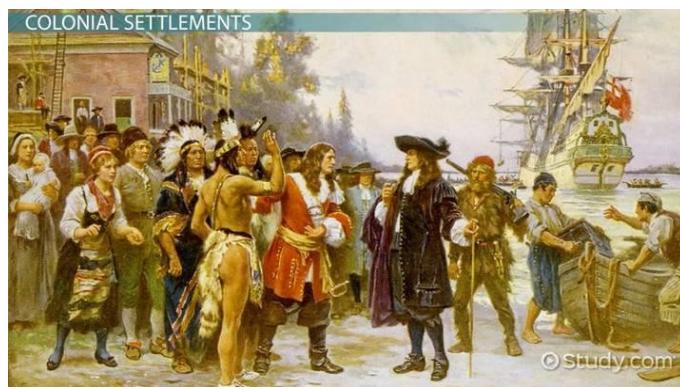


Figure 8. Native Americans and European Settlers

In addition, large-scale use of natural resources, such as mining and hunting, caused ongoing environmental damage. The establishment of European colonies in America introduced religion, language, and European values to the area, leading to the decline of native cultures and the imposition of new government and legal systems. Colonialism often obstructed the religious

freedom of natives by forcing the religion brought by colonials or banning traditional religious practices. This could result in discrimination against non-colonial religious practices, bias against those adhering to certain faiths, or even hostility toward those opposing the colonial religion. Colonial governments generally sought to control and transform local culture to align with their own. This led to the loss of local culture, detachment from language and traditions, and prejudice against groups still preserving their cultural identity.

E. Impact of Migration on Society in Europe

Public debates in Europe are often colored by concerns about the influence of newcomers on national cultural structures and identity. At the start of this millennium—specifically in 2001 in Denmark and the Netherlands, and the following year in France—various groups opposing immigrants challenged their role in preserving local societal characteristics. This issue sparked demands to strengthen the integration process of newcomers into core communities across European countries. Accordingly, this chapter will also highlight various dynamics related to migration and the construction of national identity in Europe.

In the 1990s, this era saw significant differences in countries of origin, destinations, directions, reasons, and group structures of migrants. One key aspect was the removal of barriers to travel between European countries, while migration into the European Union became increasingly restricted. Consequently, intra-EU population movements and migration to the EU began to be discussed differently and often contradictorily. The end of this third phase may have occurred due to the economic crisis, which has so far impacted people movements in Europe more profoundly. Peripheral countries were severely affected by the crisis, and the trend of people leaving countries like Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain has increased. However, the presence of people arriving from outside Europe was less affected. This may be because many from outside Europe found alternative entry routes, including illegal ones. Additionally, European countries remain interested in highly skilled individuals as part of global competition for top talent. Therefore, migration to Europe—which seemed to halt with "migration control" after the 1970s oil crisis or during the Cold War—will likely transform rather than completely stop in the future. People movements in Europe during this time cannot exclude migration from outside the EU.

Conclusion

European colonialism and mass migration to Europe represent interconnected historical processes that shaped global development from the 15th century to the present. Driven by the motives of "Gold, Glory, Gospel," powers like Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands (VOC), and England conquered Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Philippines), Africa (Berlin 1884-1885), and America through voyages (Dias 1488, da Gama 1498, Columbus), the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), and exploitation of spices, gold, and slaves. Impacts include economic inequality (*cultuurstelsel*, Frank's theory), racial hierarchies-slavery, erosion of native cultures-religions, and environmental damage. The 2015 migration crisis (>1 million from Syria 50%, Afghanistan) was fueled by colonial legacies, Arab Spring (2011), conflicts (52% push), economics (35-48%), via deadly Mediterranean routes (thousands dead). Europe as the "Continent of Hope" (USD

16T GDP 2015) faces integration-identity challenges (2001-2002 protests), with adaptive post-Schengen migration not fully halting.

Suggestion

This research demonstrates that European colonialism left lasting economic, social, and cultural inequalities in colonized nations. These legacies drive mass migration to Europe via dangerous routes like the Mediterranean. The 2015 refugee crisis challenges integration and national identity in European countries. Inclusive integration policies and aid for migrants' home countries are needed to address these issues. International collaboration can reduce the root causes of long-standing colonial problems.

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