



The New Promised Land

Long before the ghost of new wave of starving immigrants from the ex-communist countries started hunting Europe, it had become the new Promised Land to many people of the LDCs. Arabs, Turks, Black Africans, South Asians, Chinese, Filipinos, Latin Americans and others can be found in virtually all major European cities, in increasing numbers. Exactly how many millions these immigrants are, is hard to say. Many of them have arrived illegally workers. Others are not regarded as immigrants, as they come from colonies or former colonies. The flow has kept growing. Western European opinion is becoming increasingly concerned. And this not only because immigrants are often seen as competitors for scarce jobs and social services, but also because many of them seem unwilling to fully assimilate to European values and patterns of behaviour.

R. Leveau
Islamic Veil and
National Flag

This is particularly true for Muslim immigrants from the Mediterranean basin and South Asia. As the Rushdie case and the "Islamic veil" affair have shown in 1989, the Muslims settled in Europe are not ready—at least at this stage—to abandon the habits of Islamic societies and to sever their ties with foreign religious authorities. The promptness with which they responded to Khomeini's appeals, and the determined way in which they asserted their own cultural identity during the "veil" affair, were interpreted by many as threats to the secular principles on which most European societies are founded. Suddenly, Muslim immigrants have appeared "unmeltable," and the modern Nation-State in jeopardy.

The problem is twofold. How can Muslim immigrants integrate in European societies without giving up being themselves? And conversely, how can the European countries integrate the Muslims without putting into question the principles on which those

societies are based? After the demise of Communism, a new "spectre" looms large in Europe: that of endemic confrontation between incompatible ethnic and religious communities.

H. Entzinger
**The Lure of
Integration**

Clearly, Europe is looking for a way to deal with this problem. Far European countries have implemented a variety of often conflicting policies toward immigrant workers. The immigrants' legal status varies greatly from one country to another. And not every country is equally committed to integrating its immigrants. Different historical traditions do weigh in this matter, and hinder the adoption of a common strategy. The different policies of the three major countries of immigration, Germany, Britain and France, clearly prove this point.

R. Kastoryano
**Immigrés and
Gastarbeiter**

France's and Germany's policies have been at the two extremes of the spectrum. France has adopted a sort of "assimilating neglect" toward its immigrants, while Germany, with its "gastarbeiter" policy, has tried to discourage the definitive settlement of foreign workers. Yet, if one looks at the Turkish communities of Paris and Berlin, it becomes clear that both countries' approaches have been, at least in part, unsuccessful. Germany has been obliged to implicitly admit the permanent nature of Turkish immigration, while France has had to take measures which reveal, for the first time, that not all immigrants are bound to be fully assimilated.

D. Joly
**Her Majesty's
Minorities**

Britain confronts us with yet another approach to integration. Unlike in the continental countries, here most immigrants (as citizens of the New Commonwealth) are British passport holders, entitled to both political and civil rights. Even though they have suffered poverty and discrimination in the slums of the inner cities, they have also been able to partake in the local political system more than immigrants in any other European country. Moreover, under the influence of US and Canadian models, Britain has put into place policies specifically aimed at fighting racial prejudice and at promoting the specific interests of the immigrants. This experience may prove of great value to other countries in the years to come.

G. P. Tapinos
**The Unstoppable
Immigrant**

While devising policies to deal with immigration, Europeans should not deceive themselves: the social and economic forces that fuel immigration are very strong. Neither repressive measures in the host countries nor development programmes intended to promote growth in the countries of origin will stem the flow. A new thinking is needed in Europe to face the problems that lie ahead.

(r. g.)