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**Complex Factors Behind Misguided Policies in
Socioeconomics: From Mass Migration and Persistent
Alienation to Rampant Crime and Economic Malaise**

By Steven H. KIM [†]

Abstract. In a complex and chaotic world, people often gloss over the facts and jump to conclusions. Unfortunately, the hasty approach usually yields deficient and even harmful results. The domains affected range from migration and poverty to alienation and crime. According to the Myth of Boon, for instance, immigrants always benefit the host society. In this light, many people envisage the great migrations of the 19th century from Europe to America. However, the United States at that stage was itself a developing country; moreover the Civil War showed that clashing cultures cannot co-exist. Meanwhile the Myth of Multiculturalism asserts that a mashup of mores is always desirable; but the reality is otherwise. When immigrants in their millions pour into sparsely populated districts, they end up replicating the cultures that caused them to flee their homelands in the first place. The upshot is disruptive and distressing for all parties be they newcomers or incumbents. In addition, the Myth of Virtue declares that migrants of all backgrounds are equally upright. Yet comprehensive studies in Sweden have shown that violent crimes can be traced to immigrants at rates which are at least four times those for natives. From another angle, a drove of migrants is a godsend for criminals. For instance, a terrorist ring struck in France in 2015 and again in Belgium the following year. The perpetrators – who grew up in Belgium, France and Sweden – displayed immigrant backgrounds and included part of the cohort that traveled to the Mideast to receive training from militants then returned to Europe by posing as refugees. Since socioeconomic problems are intertwined rather than independent, a piecemeal approach will not fill the bill. Instead, a coherent grasp of the issues and their tie-ups is a prerequisite for devising a wholesome solution.

Keywords: Socioeconomics, Policy, Migration, Poverty, Alienation, Crime, Society, Culture, Multiculturalism.

JEL. A14, D10, E10, E66, F50, H10, I30, J10, K42, N30, N40, O10, R20.

1. Introduction

In the popular imagination, immigrants of all breeds represent a bountiful resource for any nation. In this light, the United States usually serves as the model of integration: the vitality of the nation since the 19th century is hailed as a triumph of multiculturalism. Based on this bromide, a popular mantra calls for an unlimited number of immigrants.

Upon closer inspection, however, the rationale is chockful of holes. To begin with, even the singular example of the U.S. happens to convey precisely the opposite of the lesson fancied by the sophists. An exemplar lies in the Civil War

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which provides positive proof of the destructive impact of discordant cultures in America. The North and South could not bear to live with a mere two variants of a single theme; namely, the retention or abolition of slavery.

The War was by far the deadliest conflict involving the U.S. According to a long-standing estimate, the death toll amounted to 620,000 soldiers. More recently, however, a detailed probe revealed the most likely count to be 750,000 fatalities (Nasaw, 2012).

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, the population of the United States stood at some 32.4 million (Census, 1975, p. 8). Based on the last two headcounts, the fatalities came out to 2.3% of the entire population. By way of comparison, a representative figure in the early decades of the 21st century was a population of 321 million. In that case, a conflagration on a similar scale would give rise to nearly 7.4 million deaths in the U.S. This cameo highlights the fact that a clash of cultures is not something to be taken lightly even in the case of limited variation within a single nation.

By contrast to received wisdom, a heap of divergent cultures is apt to be a source of dissonance and disintegration rather than harmony and synergy. To the extent that the U.S. is vibrant, the vigor springs from the replacement of discordant cultures with harmonious mores. An example involves a custom of charity and tolerance in lieu of chauvinism and exploitation.

From a larger stance, the plenitude of conflict and warfare round the world springs mostly or entirely from the mashup of incompatible customs. A showcase lies in the disparity of cultures in the Middle East along with the ceaseless hail of violence and misery over the course of the millennia.

Looking in the opposite direction, we turn now to a fruitful model of cultural cohesion. On this score, the U.S. once again serves as a paragon of integration into a common culture. Over the course of the centuries, one generation of immigrants after another came from Europe, Asia and elsewhere then took up the American way of life in earnest. In the process of integration, the newcomers abandoned most or all of the musty customs of their ancestors in favor of the hearty values of their adopted country.

In addition to positive models of integration into a vibrant society, the U.S. also provides negative cases of mass migration and lasting segregation. In this light, it makes no difference whether the outlanders happen to hail from Mexico, Pakistan or anywhere else. The runaways who pour into the country in droves end up closeting themselves in insular communities where they replicate the very cultures that they were trying to escape at the outset. As a result, the newcomers flounder in quags of their own making and face a dearth of opportunities in areas ranging from job prospects and financial rewards to social integration and personal advancement.

The largest bloc of migrants takes the form of Mexicans, who represent roughly half of all illegal aliens in the U.S. Trapped in their parochial communities, the outlanders in general are unable to break free of the rut and join the mainstream of society. Many an embittered soul then turns to a life of crime including membership in violent gangs comprised of multiple generations of Mexicans. In these ways, even the exceptional case of the U.S. belies the glib claims of the tub-thumpers regarding the merits of a multicultural society. The predicament is similar for the touted virtues of mass migration into Europe or any other progressive culture.

By contrast to the jingles of the proponents, migration in droves into a modern society is the road to aggravation and misery for the mass of newcomers as well as incumbents. Even in the oft-cited case of the U.S., the vigor of the nation springs from the homogeneity of a core set of healthy values rather than the heterogeneity

of discordant customs. That is, the nation is vibrant despite the multiplicity of cultures rather than because of it.

On the bright side, the U.S. is rightly known as a beacon of creativity and innovation in areas ranging from science and technology to business and lifestyle. By contrast to received wisdom, however, the dynamism springs from a common set of genial customs rather than a mottled hash of clashing mores.

2. Fundamental Myth of Migration

Given the complexity of the world around us, along with the overload of information in a digital culture, we often fail to see the forest for the trees. In trying to cope with the deluge of baffling facts and disjointed data, we respond by taking shortcuts and grasping at straws that have scant bearing on the underlying reality.

A case in point is the fundamental myth of migration. The shibboleth asserts that an influx of transplants, regardless of their background or disposition, serves to fortify the receptive nation.

Myth of Boon. Immigrants *always* benefit the host country by enriching the culture and boosting the economy.

A bit of reflection, however, should make it clear that a sweeping statement of this kind embodies a heap of misconceptions and ignores a slew of exceptions.

To be fair, the mistake is easy to make. In looking to the past for sources of inspiration, a lot of folks round the world conjure up visions of the great migrations of the 19th century from Europe and Asia to America. Sadly, though, the situation today differs greatly from the conditions of that bygone era. At the heart of the fuddle, most people today forget that the United States was itself a developing country at the time. For this reason, millions of immigrants who possessed scant skills could still get to work at once by joining the bulk of the incumbents in their manual roles ranging from plowing fields and tending horses to loading crates and sewing clothes.

To take up a numeric example, consider the state of the world in 1870. At the time, the gross domestic product of the U.S. came out to \$2,445 per person reckoned in terms of the international dollar in 1990. By contrast to the States, several countries in Europe had started out earlier on the road to industrialization and had become richer than their American counterpart. For instance, the GDP per capita in the United Kingdom in 1870 was \$3,190. Another sample lay in the Netherlands, which boasted \$2,757 per person (Maddison, 2007). On the whole, millions of European migrants came from cultures which were comparable to the American one, and in some cases even richer than the U.S. For this reason, there was no problem of huge gaps in skills or customs between the newcomers and incumbents.

By contrast, the transplants from China and other parts of Asia found themselves at a big disadvantage. For one thing, many of the newcomers had been lured to America with false promises of lucrative jobs then pressed into service as virtual slaves as they toiled in mines, laid down railroads, and performed other debilitating tasks. Moreover there were gaping gulfs in cultural norms and skill sets between the newcomers and the incumbents. We need not even dwell here on the barriers of racism in an America that was itself a callow culture at the time. As a result, the Orientals of that era – unlike the Europeans – had to huddle together in enclaves of their own and could not join the mainstream of society.

To bring up a different factor, the U.S. at that stage could afford to accept millions of migrants from Europe thanks in good measure to the wide open spaces to the west. The newcomers streaming into the country could spread out across the landscape, clear the ground, and till the soil. In this way, many a newcomer could

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earn a livelihood at once by dint of their own efforts in sundry roles as farmers and ranchers as well as adjunct functions such as carpenters and blacksmiths, traders and barmaids.

From a different angle, none of the incomers expected to sit on their haunches and let the government take care of them from the moment they arrived to the day they died. Even in the modern era, the U.S. government does not provide such lavish perks for able-bodied folks, be they new arrivals or native-born citizens.

On the other hand, the situation in certain countries today differs entirely. As an example, the refugees pouring into Germany and Sweden by the millions receive from the government everything they need to survive, and a lot more besides. The entitlements for the transplants run the gamut from food and housing to healthcare and education. The paternalistic policy of course poses a huge burden for the host countries. In the absence of wholesale changes in policy, the toll for the welfare states will amount to trillions of euros along with the bankruptcy of the stricken regimes within a generation or so.

Despite the thunderclouds looming on the horizon, myriads of blithe observers have been oblivious of the threats. According to one school of thought, for instance, a government that issues bonds in its own currency can take on debt and endure any amount of budget deficits (Harvey, 2016). As an example, the U.S. by this rationale could issue as much debt as it wants in terms of the greenback; and likewise for Germany in peddling bonds denominated in euros.

If only life were that simple. Sadly, the reality differs vastly from the illusion. Admittedly, a sovereign state could print up any amount of money out of thin air and redeem any volume of bonds in its own currency. By running the mint with abandon, such a government would never have to go bankrupt in a formal sense.

But that way lies ruin just the same. In actuality, the real economy can produce only a bounded amount of goods and services at any juncture. For this reason, a regime that prints up money and spends it freely ends up commandeering vast amounts of resources for its own warped schemes. As a result, the individuals and enterprises in the private sector are forced to scramble for the scraps that remain in areas ranging from food and shelter to fuel and clothing. The upshot is a firestorm of inflation like that which destroyed the German economy during the 1920s; and likewise for a rabble of berserk countries in Africa and South America throughout the second half of the 20th century.

For this and other reasons, there are limits to the levels of public deficit along with the waste of resources that a nation can withstand even when the regime issues debt in its own currency. Much as we might wish otherwise, the inconvenient facts of life do not go away simply because money is printed out of sheer nothingness.

Despite the sacrifices made by the host countries, though, the mass of moochers in the welfare states of Europe were in no hurry to repay the kindness of their benefactors. On the contrary, the incomers as a group far surpassed the natives in their penchant for idleness and discourtesy, delinquency and criminality. Examples of the latter ran the gamut from theft and embezzlement to rape and murder, not to mention flagrant acts of terrorism.

On one hand, the dogmatists who paid scant attention to the problems of migration shrugged off the antics of the outlanders as isolated cases of misconduct. On the other hand, a swelling trove of hard facts and detailed studies presented a clear picture of the vexers as widespread traits rather than occasional flukes.

To recap, the mass migrations of the modern era differ greatly from the odysseys of bygone ages. In this light, the crucial aspects span the rainbow from the expectations and behaviors of the newcomers to the policies and consequences for the incumbents.

3. Hash of Multiple Cultures

For a prudent society, the uptake of multiculturalism does not mean that a horde of outlanders has the license to trample the laws of the land and to impose its will upon the natives. That kind of wrackful behavior goes by other names ranging from subversion, insurgency and treason to terrorism, warfare and invasion.

First of all, the incumbents have the right to retain their customs rather than kowtow to the latecomers. This prerogative holds sway from a legal stance as well as a moral slant. For a second thing, the mass of political fugitives and economic refugees are actually running away from their own repellent societies caught in bogs of violence, poverty, or both. From a pragmatic stance as well as an ethical pose, then, the incomers ought to embrace the benign culture of the incumbents rather than the other way round. That is, the citizens of the host societies have the right as well as the obligation to maintain their existing way of life. Put another way, the fitting role of the hosts is to uplift the migrants rather than sink to their level.

Looking at the big picture, a showcase of delusion lies in the notion that a multiplicity of cultures always enriches the society. According to this credo, a diversity of mores expands the mind, bolsters the spirit, and fosters creative output. In this context, a difference of cultures could stem from a long-standing separation of communities as in the case of a couple of tribes kept apart since ancient times by a mountain range lying between the two. Or the disparity could spring from recent events, as in the likes of mass migration from a developing country to an advanced economy.

Myth of Multiculturalism. A jumble of cultures is beneficial and desirable regardless of the consequences for any group in particular or the society in general.

Once again, the U.S. serves as the poster child of multiculturalism. The nation has been peopled by immigrants from all corners of the world and has long served as a model of creativity and vitality. Ergo, the secret sauce has to lie in the mixup of cultures.

As it happens, though, the reality differs completely from the illusion. In the case of mass immigration in particular, the boons for the host society turn out to be scanty or nonexistent while the banes are diverse and copious. The outcomes of the negative kind span the spectrum from social discord and pervasive fear to rampant crime and economic malaise.

On the bright side, a diversity of viewpoints and customs can at times combine in a benign way whose positive effect is not only additive but synergistic. An example involves a designer with a pensive mindset who joins hands with a marketer from an outgoing culture in order to craft a novel product and launch a vanguard venture. In that case, the duo of go-getters could well achieve heights of success that neither of them could attain on their own.

In line with this example, *multiculturalism of the right kind* involves the embrace of people from motley backgrounds who are willing to respect each other and make a concerted effort to work together to their mutual advantage. In the process, each party has to abide by the rules of the larger society in which they live. Unfortunately, the ground rules of social interaction and human decency seem to lie beyond the ken of the demagogues and politicians who clamor for the intake of illegal aliens by the millions.

In brief, multiculturalism of the wrong kind is contentious and disruptive, wrackful and undesirable, for all the parties involved be they newcomers or incumbents. For instance, the hasty intake of fractious migrants by the millions

results in lasting problems of discord, hostility and misery for the transplants and their descendants as well as the natives of the host country.

The destructive effects show up clearly in the vast swaths of alienation and lawlessness that mar the landscapes of Western countries. The immigrants and their offspring huddle together in ghettos of their own making while committing all manner of crimes in far greater numbers than the natives. All too often, the misfits flounder in the grip of indolence and poverty, or even lash out and seek to destroy the very societies that at one point or other offered the outlanders the gift of sanctuary along with the opportunity to fashion a decent life for themselves.

4. Fractured Nations of the West

In the wake of mass migration, the incomers cannot help but replicate the dysfunctional cultures back home that they were trying to escape in the first place. The deadweight of provincial attitudes and unhealthy customs then keeps the transplants from fulfilling their potential in the host country.

Sad to say, but grubby behavior is the norm rather than the exception in the stultifying cultures of the world. The shabby customs of this kind run the gamut from rank corruption and flagrant nepotism to rampant chiseling and pervasive mistrust. The tawdry state of affairs is a larger version of the prisoner's dilemma in which an atmosphere of distrust prevents the participants from working together to their mutual advantage.

From a larger stance, suppose that a handful of people were to abide by the letter as well as the spirit of an accord. Thanks to the forthright behavior, all the players would end up with better payoffs compared to the short-sighted bent in which each trickster tries to pursue only their own interest at the expense of the others.

The actions and outcomes of the players differ wholesale in a collaborative setting. In a healthy milieu, each party acts as if the other participants will abide by the joint accord – unless and until proven otherwise. In line with this scenario, a culture of trust throughout the population is a vital form of social capital. In fact, it seems fair to say that the virtual resource is the main factor that differentiates the nations of the world lying at disparate levels of economic development.

To be precise, social capital refers to the ensemble of personal networks along with the panoply of shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate cooperation amongst the actors. The benign customs of the society include a code of conduct – whether in explicit or implicit form – coupled with a communal spirit that promotes trust and enables people to work smoothly to their mutual advantage.

On a cautionary note, though, a crusty set of rules and constraints can easily hamper a community instead. For instance, a group of immigrants may form a tight network of internal bonds along with heavy reliance on relatives and other people of the same ethnicity. In that case, the bondage of close ties within the group prevents the members from reaching out to other folks beyond their narrow circle. In other words, the inward-looking group fails to forge strong links with the external community and thus prevents itself from participating in full measure in the life of the society at large.

Moreover, the narrow mindset is often conveyed from one generation to the next. In that case, the secluded group turns into a tribe of “eternal outsiders” who are excluded from the wider society (Keeley, 2007, p. 104). One consequent of the seclusion is a self-made shackle on cultural adjustment as well as economic advancement. A second, and related, fallout is a sense of exclusion along with the fester of alienation and resentment against the natal population. From time to time,

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the simmer of discontent boils over into a splutter of radicalization to the point of express violence including terrorist activity and mass murder.

Looking at the big picture, the panoply of shared beliefs plays a fundamental role in the development of any society in diverse ways ranging from democratic institutions to economic structures (World Values, 2015). An example of divergence within and between cultures lies in a difference of rights, whether *de jure* or *de facto*, according to a person's gender. From a pragmatic stance, a society that restricts the opportunities available to women will have to make do with only half of the nation's pool of brainpower.

On the other hand, the driving forces of knowledge and ingenuity lie at the heart of economic growth and national income in the modern era. If the culture at large prevents the womenfolk from participating in the workforce in a meaningful way, then the economy can operate at only a fraction of its productive capacity. In that case, the backward custom will by itself ensure that the society cannot fulfill its potential.

4.1. Snare of Alienation and Crime

In dealing with the challenges of migration, a host of myths trip up the newcomers and incumbents alike. According to a primal fable, living in a given country will by itself imbue an immigrant with the social skills needed to integrate fully into the society at large.

Unhappily, though, the reality differs entirely from the delusion. To wit, an inrush of migrants in droves condemns the newcomers to a life of isolation from the native population. In that case, the throng of outsiders have scant opportunity to acquire the social skills needed to flourish within the host country. For this reason, a government that admits migrants in droves does not do anyone any favors in a material way.

To bring up a different but related issue, a popular mantra asserts that immigrants of all breeds are as virtuous and law-abiding as the natives, no more and no less.

Myth of Virtue. Migrants of all backgrounds are as upright and conscientious as the natives.

Unfortunately, this shibboleth belies the dictates of common sense as well as hard facts. More precisely, an overwhelming body of evidence has shown that the hoary fable strays far from the reality. As an example, comprehensive studies in Sweden have revealed that violent crimes such as rape and murder can be traced to immigrants at rates which are at least four times as high as the corresponding figures for the natives (Martens & Holmberg, 2005).

From another angle, dashing off to a remote country is a standard ploy for evading the law. For instance, a predator might flee their native country when they face the imminent threat of getting caught, or otherwise venture abroad in search of fresh prey. A renowned example lay in the cohort of Nazis who fled to South America in order to escape retribution from the Allied nations for the atrocities they committed in the throes of the Second World War.

Meanwhile a showcase in the modern era involves a couple of countries in Asia. According to the authorities in South Korea, local criminals have a way of bolting to Vietnam after committing their dastardly deeds despite the rigorous check of passports for all travelers going out of the country as well as those coming in (Kim, 2015). In particular, anyone who wants to leave Korea is checked against a central database in order to assess their right to leave the jurisdiction. The dodgers, however, have a way of slipping through the barriers even in the face of stringent controls upon departing Korea as well as entering Vietnam.

As a countermeasure against the fugitives, the governments of both countries set up targeted bureaus within their jurisdictions. For instance, Vietnam established a

Korean Desk in its police agency in order to handle cases involving Korean nationals in their roles as perpetrators or victims. And likewise for a special bureau in Korea whose mission was to tackle cases involving Vietnamese parties.

Looking at the big picture, neither of these countries found itself in a state of civil war or raging anarchy. Yet both states were hard-pressed to catch the outlaws who crossed their borders with impunity. What, then, can we infer about the movements of felons, madmen and other misfits going in and out of war-torn countries such as those in the Mideast or Africa? It should be clear that a drove of refugees from any country is apt to contain a plethora of unsavory characters who belong in prison cells or insane asylums rather than refugee camps, let alone civil societies.

4.2. *Mire of Mental Illness*

A standard practice in the armed forces is to screen the applicants and weed out the candidates marked by questionable levels of mental equilibrium. Moreover, the individuals who do pass the tests and enroll in the training program are steeled against the rigors of warfare through an extensive regimen of psychic indoctrination, virtual simulation, and tangible exercises over the course of months or even years in some cases. Despite the safeguards of prior screening and prolonged preparation, however, many a soldier comes back from a stint in a war zone suffering from a heap of mental disorders and emotional problems.

By comparison, what can we say about the throng of civilians who face the horrors of warfare without any form of mental conditioning or emotional preparation in advance? Even in the relative safety of a nation at peace, an individual who is assaulted or kidnapped for just a few hours or days may well suffer from the traumatic experience for decades afterward.

Given this background, what should we infer about the myriads of souls in a war zone who have been living in constant fear of maiming and torture, rape and murder, for months or years? Many of the people who underwent the ghastly experience – whether they endured the assaults in person, watched from a distance, or merely faced nightmares of such atrocities – are bound to grapple with a slew of mental snags and emotional snares.

From a different angle, consider the corps of Muslims who travel to the Middle East by the thousands in order to fight alongside the Islamic State and other militant groups. The transplants then return to their countries of citizenship, often ready to engage in criminal activities including terrorist strikes. By interviewing such returnees, the intelligence agencies of Europe have estimated that some 20% of the belligerents had already been diagnosed with mental illnesses even before they left for the Mideast (Eichenwald, 2016).

It seems reasonable to presume that the prevalence of psychosis is comparable in other groups of people who willingly take up arms and participate in violent sprees by way of pillage and rape, murder and terror. Such crimes are par for the course in war-torn countries racked by civil strife in guises ranging from occasional outcrops of random lynching to systematic programs of ethnic cleansing.

As we noted earlier, the people exposed to wanton violence or even the threat of such often suffer from a clutch of mental and emotional problems for many years or even their entire lives. That much is true in a slew of contexts ranging from haphazard abduction in a peaceable society to comprehensive genocide in a war zone.

Given this backdrop, the foregoing tally of psychopathy amongst the rebels who dashed off to join the militant groups in the Mideast has to be a severe underestimate of the actual state of affairs after they return from the war zone. Moreover, the belligerents who sought out danger of their own accord were prepared to some degree for the travails to come. But the same cannot be said of

the millions of innocents who were thrust into a whirlwind of violence in their homelands through no intent or desire of their own.

In that case, we may infer a couple of things. Firstly, it seems reasonable to reckon that the estimate of 20% for the incidence of psychiatric disorders among the belligerents prior to their departure for the Mideast has been a gross understatement of the corresponding rate after the survivors return from their harrowing experience: a relentless regimen of inculcation in extremism, rancor and violence by the radicals in tandem with the ensuing acts of brutality. An example of the latter lies in the murder of innocent civilians by the militants or the cutdown of fellow insurgents during firefights.

Moreover, the mass of non-combatants who were never prepped in advance for the rigors of warfare are apt to suffer even more from the atrocities they faced in person, heard from other victims, or observed from a distance. As a result, the incidence of mental and emotional problems amongst the refugees is apt to be far greater than the sober estimate of 20% amongst the self-selected fighters before they left for a war zone of their own volition.

In this grim environment, a sweeping premise that migrants of all breeds are stable and well-adjusted flouts the reality and represents a dereliction of duty by the policymakers of the host countries. Instead, the sensible tack for any government lies in the opposite direction; namely, an express recognition that every drove of vagrants is bound to harbor a multitude of criminals and psychotics regardless of their claims about being sane and upright folks who are simply fleeing a cyclone of violence in their homelands.

5. Tidal Wave of Migrants

As a baseline for comparison, the U.S. population has for generations been growing at a measured pace of around 1% per annum. In line with this trend, the headcount was rising by some 3.2 million people a year by the middle of the 2010s. Part of the upgrowth came from the influx of immigrants in general – including the relatives of recent recipients of residence permits – along with a stream of fresh refugees in particular.

On one hand, the U.S. government eschews a rigid quota on the number of incoming asylees. On the flip side, though, the regime does not go out of its way to attract refugees. For instance, the state refrains from pampering any residents be they refugees in particular, immigrants in general, or even native-born citizens. For the most part, the denizens have to look after themselves rather than live on handouts from the government. The dearth of freebies goes a long way toward explaining the modest number of refugees in relation to the size of the pre-existing population.

Even so, the asylees who are accepted into the country end up as permanent residents before long. In this way, the refugees form part of the incoming stream of migrants as a whole. At the dawn of the millennium, the number of immigrants to the U.S. hovered around 1 million per year. For instance, a cohort of 990,553 people obtained legal permanent residence in 2013 ([Homeland, 2014](#)). In the same year, the total population of the U.S. was a tad over 316 million ([Census, 2016](#)). Based on the latter two headcounts, the intake of immigrants came out on average to 3.2 persons per thousand inhabitants.

In 2013, Uncle Sam accepted applications from 84,400 refugees ([High, 2015](#)). As a result, the number of asylees processed as a fraction of the existing population amounted to 0.27 per mil. Based on the foregoing tallies, we can get some idea of the proportion of refugees in particular to immigrants in general. The ratio in question came out to 0.0852. That is, the asylees accounted for some 8.5% of the

total influx of immigrants. Put another way, the inflow of refugees – despite an upsurge in numbers during the early 2010s – amounted to just one-twelfth or so of the overall stream of immigrants gaining permanent residency in the U.S.

As we have seen, Uncle Sam maintains firm control of the type and number of individuals that it admits. And only a small troupe of refugees, after thorough screening, are included in that select group. In this respect, at least, the U.S. government is no fool. Sadly, though, the same cannot be said for the welfare states of Europe.

5.1. Showcase of Germany and Sweden

To spotlight the problems of mass migration, we turn to the hubbub in Europe in the springtime of the 21st century. Among the rich countries of the world, Germany accepted the largest number of migrants – in terms of absolute figures – in line with its policy of welcoming all refugees who entered the country by any means whether legal or not. As an example, the open-door scheme resulted in a stampede numbering more than a million migrants in 2015 alone.

Another exemplar lay in Sweden, which accepted an inrush of refugees at a stupendous rate. More precisely, the Scandinavian country led the rich nations of the world in terms of new arrivals as a fraction of the existing population. By the end of 2015, a torrent of migrants were flooding into the country at a rate of 10,000 people per week. In one of the major offices dealing with the foreigners, for instance, the number of staffers had to be expanded from 30 to 130 workers within two years in order to handle the upsurge. But even this ramp-up was inadequate to the task at hand. The staff members often toiled until 11 p.m. during the workweek and had to slave away on weekends as well. To cope with the tsunami of refugees, the Swedish army also had to swoop in and take over some of the workload in processing the paperwork and caring for the newcomers (Kingsley, 2015).

The inrush of a myriad refugees each week amounted to a rate in excess of half a million per year. To get a handle on the scale of the onslaught, we note that the entire population of Sweden in late 2015 was a mite over 9.8 million (Statistics, 2016). In that case, the upsurge amounted to a yearly rate in excess of 5% for the nation as a whole.

Moreover, the bulging figures did not even include the legions of newcomers who entered the country armed with legal credentials. An example of the latter lay in the relatives of recent immigrants, including asylees, who had just received their residence permits. Another sample concerned an expat working for a global company. A third instance involved an entrepreneur who managed to convince the Swedish authorities in advance of their ability to run a profitable business on their own, including a track record of a couple of years of successful operation in the prior country of residence.

Over the previous year, Sweden's population in toto had grown by a tad over 1%, which was roughly the same as the pace for the U.S. The headcount expanded despite the fact that the birth rate within the natal population in each of these countries was insufficient to maintain a stable population. In other words, the increase in headcount for the newcomers and their offspring surpassed the net gain in population whether in terms of absolute numbers or relative figures.

From a different angle, the overall growth in population of around 1% for Sweden surpassed the corresponding rate for Britain which in previous decades had a custom of racking up the biggest numbers in Europe. For instance, the population of the United Kingdom was a little under 61 million in 2006 but reached nearly 65 million by 2015. Based on these headcounts, the overall rate of growth over the span of nine years was a mite over 6.8% in total. Put another way, the compound rate of growth came out to some 0.74% per year on average.

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The latter figure was unusually large among the nations of Europe. As a backdrop, we note that the 28 countries which comprised the European Union in 2015 harbored a population of a little more than 508 million. By comparison, the pertinent figure back in 2006 was a jot over 496 million (Eurostat, 2015). Based on these numbers, the cumulative increase for the EU came out to 2.4% over the entire stretch, or a compound rate of growth of some 0.27% per annum. Simply put, Europe as a whole was hardly growing at all.

On the other hand, the story differed entirely for a few countries as in the case of Sweden. Unfortunately, a hike in population of 5% or more in short order is bound to throw a boulder into the fine-tuned meshwork of an advanced economy. The smashup would ensue even in the case of a stingy government such as the U.S. which does not shower incoming asylees with mounds of freebies, let alone a welfare state like Sweden or Germany which pampers the newcomers to excess.

As we have seen, the migrants were pouring into the Scandinavian country at a rate in excess of half a million per year. Granted, the rate of influx would vary from one year to the next, or even from day to day. Even so, the small nation was slated to admit more than a million refugees within a matter of years. In relative terms, an inrush of 1 million asylees would swell the pre-existing population by 10 percent.

To provide a bit of perspective, we note that the next wave of 1 million transplants would outnumber the extant population of Stockholm, the biggest city in Sweden and the fastest-growing metropolis in Europe at the time. Even at the turn of the millennium, the town was already bursting at the seams thanks to the crush of immigration. The panoply of infrastructure creaking under the weight of out-of-control migration led to diverse problems ranging from acute shortages of housing and dizzy rises in the cost of accommodation to excessive crowding on public transports and protracted waits for medical treatments.

Every refugee accepted by the free-spending state posed a hulking burden over the short term as well as the long range. To bring up a small example of the bulging cost, Sweden in 2015 had to scrounge up additional funds amounting to 4 billion euros in order to finance the initial phase of accommodating the newcomers. As a result, meeting the immediate needs of the refugees by itself entailed a tab of 7 billion euros for the small nation in 2016 alone (Businessweek, 2015).

To add to the drubbing, Sweden was doomed to suffer a lot more over the long haul. Every refugee welcomed into the country received a windfall for life in a host of ways ranging from living stipends and paid accommodation to free healthcare and priceless education. The latter benefit took the form of zero tuition at all levels of instruction in addition to cash stipends for students including those enrolled in college programs and graduate studies. In the absence of radical changes, Sweden was on track to go bankrupt within a few decades.

By the autumn of 2015, a swelling throng of Swedes felt the need to curb the tidal wave of migrants. Even then, however, the government was loath to take any serious action. As a sop to the concerned citizens, the regime did impose border checks in November 2015 on all travelers coming into Sweden. But the scheme turned out to be a mere charade. When a police officer came upon a refugee, the foreigner was escorted aside and advised to apply for asylum in a formal fashion. While the paperwork was being processed, the applicant was furnished with a raft of freebies ranging from food and shelter to clothing and healthcare. Once the application was approved, the outlander received even better benefits such as permanent housing and cash stipends.

Despite the generous policies of the welfare state, however, the outlanders in Europe made scant effort to integrate into their newfound societies. One consequence was an upswell of lawlessness by the immigrants and their descendants in areas ranging from rape and murder to rioting and terrorism.

5.2. *Raging Migrants of France*

A showcase of warring cultures lay in a series of clashes between the outlanders and the police within the city of Paris as well as the suburbs known as the *banlieues*. In fact, the disaffected souls often described themselves as soldiers in a “long war” against France in particular and Europe in general.

By the dawn of the millennium, France came to host the largest Muslim population in Europe. Among these were more than 5 million people from North Africa, Middle East, and West Africa stretching from Mali to Senegal. The transplants were heavily represented in northern Paris as in the case of the Barbès district. The latter enclave happened to be multicultural, but the hodgepodge did not mean that the atmosphere was congenial or tranquil, cosmopolitan or harmonious.

The Barbès precinct was an unruly borderland that separated the banlieues – the dreary suburbs lying on the outskirts of the city – from the cheery environs of central Paris. The train station there was a popular hotspot for the youths from the badlands to hang out. For these folks, the city of Paris was both near and far: the metropolis lay just a few short steps away, but the life of the urbanite was as “inaccessible and far away as America” in terms of jobs, housing and lifestyle (Hussey, 2014). As a result, the locality was a hotbed of hostility where the immigrant culture clashed with the mainstream society.

An exemplar cropped up in November 2005, when the violence in the suburbs even threatened to bring down the French government. The catalyst was a tussle between immigrant youths and police officers in the Parisian banlieue of Clichy-sous-Bois. As the fighting between the police and the banlieusards heated up, riots broke out in major cities across the country. The uprising led to the widespread use of the term “French intifada” by the media as well as the rioters themselves to describe the guerrilla war against the police in and around the cities of France.

The bedlam began after two men were electrocuted while trying to escape the police by running through a power station. This incident was followed by nearly a week of rioting every night including the torching of thousands of cars. When the violence spread to other towns and cities round the country, the French President declared a state of national emergency. During the crisis the ruffians set fire to more than 9,000 vehicles, dozens of public buildings, and a plethora of businesses (Chrisafis, 2015).

The emergency measures endowed the police with special powers of arrest in addition to imposing curfews and conducting house-to-house searches. The repressive tactics of the government further inflamed the outlanders. One consequence was a series of blackouts across the country as rioting mobs wreaked havoc on power stations. Another move of the insurgents was to firebomb churches for the simple reason that they were not mosques.

The wreckers ran amok for two weeks before the mayhem began to subside. On the other hand, the firm response of the government during the crisis sowed the seeds of further discontent over the years to come. The violence had been fueled in part by the aggressive actions of the police coupled with the response of the Minister of the Interior who declared “zero tolerance” and vowed that he would clean the streets of the riff-raff. The belligerent tone, which was described as “clearly the language of war”, further enraged the disaffected souls in the banlieues (Hussey, 2014).

The riots that swept across France resulted in a number of unsavory lessons. For starters, the youths of the banlieues could flout the law and throw the government into disarray. Moreover the outlanders could battle the police at their leisure and win the fight to boot.

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In the wake of the traumatic incidents, the unrest in the banlieues continued to flare up from time to time. As a countermove, the French government enacted special measures and provided emergency aid to the seething districts for many years to come. Sadly, though, the largesse had scant impact on the plight of the dwellers (Chrisafis, 2015).

An example in this vein was a residential complex in the district of Grigny, located to the south of Paris. The precinct had been built as an architectural utopia in the 1970s, but a generation or two of habitation by the outlanders was all that was required to transform the once-gleaming wonderland into a shabby tenement. The complex turned into a model of discord and inequality where roughly half of the 13,000 residents lived below the poverty line. Meanwhile half the children quit school at an early age without obtaining a diploma. Moreover the ghetto was a haven for drug dealers and a no-go zone for police officers. In the lawless lands of the banlieues, even the public facilities provided by the government did not escape the wrath of the residents. As an example, the post office had to be closed down in 2014 in the aftermath of repeated break-ins.

One form of beneficence from the government was a massive program of refurbishment within the housing complex (Chrisafis, 2015). Unfortunately, the initiative merely treated the symptoms without curing the disease. Looking at the big picture, a community can scarcely make any progress toward stability and safety, civility and betterment, in an environment where police officers are assaulted at will and public buildings are ransacked for sport. The dissolute culture of entitlement and self-pity, exploitation and aggression, has to change if there is to be a lasting improvement in living conditions.

Another mode of hostility took the form of mass murder through terrorist action. For instance, a blitz of coordinated attacks in Paris in November 2015 left 130 people dead and dozens injured. In the wake of the carnage, the Islamic State declared that it lay behind the salvo of bombings and shootings.

One of the organizers behind the Paris attacks was Salah Abdeslam, a 26-year-old French national born in Belgium. After four months on the run, the perpetrator was arrested only a few minutes' walk from his home in Brussels (British, 2016). The outlaw's brother, Brahim, had been one of the attackers who blew himself up in the Paris incident. Given this background, the police should have kept a close watch on the suspect's old stomping grounds. Yet it took the authorities four months to discover that the fugitive was hiding in plain sight with the help of his family and friends. Such a lackadaisical approach to law enforcement in Europe gave the terrorists plenty of room to maneuver. In the larger scheme of things, the curio was not that crime of all kinds was so rampant in the blighted countries, but that it was no more pervasive than it actually was.

5.3. Networks of Terrorism

In addition to the specters on the economic front, the entire continent is vulnerable to the upsurge of crime along with its outreach to nearby countries. A showcase involves the overlapping networks of terrorism.

In this light, an example lay in Osama Krayem, a Swedish national who was arrested by the police in April 2016 for his role behind the suicide bombings in Belgium the previous month. The twin blasts at the Brussels airport and an underground station killed 32 people and injured hundreds of others.

Krayem was born in 1988 in Hama, Syria then moved with his parents and settled in the Swedish city of Malmo (Botelho, 2016). An irony lay in the fact that Krayem in his youth was featured in a documentary in 2005 touting the value of sports in helping immigrants integrate into the local community (Alexander, 2016). Unfortunately, a placid facade masked a shaky psyche below the surface: the troubled youth came to develop a fondness for petty crime and recreational drugs.

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In June 2014, the outlander vanished without warning from his adopted town. The renegade soon showed up in Syria where he posed for a photograph posted on Facebook while wearing a uniform and clutching a Kalashnikov assault rifle with a flag of the Islamic State appearing in the background. In September the same year, Krayem turned up on the Greek island of Leros while posing as a migrant and using false documents to register under the alias of Naim Al-Hamed. The next month he was picked up in the German city of Ulm in a car rented by Salah Abdeslam, one of the coordinators in the terror attacks in Paris in November 2015. As we noted earlier, Abdeslam himself was arrested in Brussels in March 2016 after a manhunt lasting four months following his participation in the strikes in France the previous autumn.

According to Magnus Ranstorp at the Swedish National Defence College, Osama Krayem was the product of a “now classic cocktail of social marginalisation” along with ideological radicalisation and criminal activity. The expert on radical Islamist movements also pointed out that Krayem was merely one example of the proven connection between the radicals in Sweden and Belgium ([Branchereau, 2016](#)). From a larger stance, the events leading up to the attack in Brussels also cast a spotlight on the hookups between Swedish operatives and French terrorists along with their activities in Germany.

In line with this cameo, the continent as a whole finds itself in a single boat. For this reason, the mass of Europeans cannot simply unload their problems onto Germany, Sweden, or any other country and expect the pariahs to bear the consequences on their own. Rather, the entire continent reaps the wages of recrimination and disunity as shown by the outbreaks of terrorism at the dawn of the millennium.

To sum up, a tsunami of migration into an advanced society is a recipe for disaster for the host country as well as its neighbors. The precise outcome will of course depend on a host of factors ranging from the condition of the besieged nation and the provisions made for the outlanders to the size of the incoming multitude and the culture that drives their comportment. Despite the differences in detail, however, no reasonable amount of tweaking will alter the punch line: mass migration to the tune of millions at a stroke ends up disrupting the host society in a slew of ways. The wrackful effects range from the upthrow of alienation and the meltdown of public services to the upsurge of crime and the breakdown of civil society. The upshot is an outpour of grief and misery for the new arrivals as well as the natal population for generations to come.

5.4. Fury of Permanent Outsiders

As we saw above, the U.S. in the millennium takes a guarded approach to immigration in general and asylum in particular. However, even the restrained policy has been unable to do a satisfactory job of avoiding problems with the immigrants and their offspring.

An example cropped up with a killing spree in San Bernardino, California in December 2015. The strike was carried out by a married couple: the husband was Syed Rizwan Farook, an American-born U.S. citizen of Pakistani descent while his wife Tashfeen Malik was a Pakistani-born legal resident of the U.S. The couple stormed a party hosted by the health department of San Bernardino County for the sake of the staff members with whom Farook worked. Armed with handguns as well as rifles, the attackers shot dead 14 people and wounded 22 others. Both of the assailants then died in a shootout with the police ([CBS/AP, 2016](#)).

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the attackers were “homegrown violent extremists” who had been radicalized and inspired by terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State. The pair of perpetrators had been talking to each other about jihad and martyrdom even before they were engaged to be

married. The shooters reportedly spent at least a year preparing for the attack, including target practice and making arrangements in advance for the care of their child as well as Farook's mother (Karlamangla et al., 2015).

In the wake of the incident, the FBI arrested a long-time friend of Farook named Enrique Marquez Jr.: a U.S. citizen and lifelong resident of California. Farook met Marquez around a decade earlier when they were neighbors in the city of Riverside near Los Angeles. The pair of plotters had drawn up plans for a couple of terrorist attacks in 2011 and 2012. One scheme involved bombing the cafeteria or the library at Riverside Community College. Meanwhile a second plot concerned a strike during the rush hour on the 91 Freeway, a major thoroughfare of the greater Los Angeles area.

To these ends, Marquez bought a couple of rifles along with explosive materials. On the other hand, the strikes planned for 2011 and 2012 were never implemented. Instead, the guns and explosives were put to work during the attack in San Bernadino a few years later. The smokeless powder obtained by Marquez was used in making pipe bombs which were emplaced in the conference room where the shooting spree occurred; but the explosives failed to detonate.

According to the FBI, the incident in San Bernadino entailed the worst death toll due to a terrorist attack on U.S. soil since the carnage of September 2001 (Hamilton, 2016; Nelson, 2015). Unfortunately, the grisly record would be topped just half a year later. In June 2016, an immigrant carried an assault rifle and a pistol into a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. When the shooting stopped, the mayhem amounted to 50 dead including the gunman plus at least 53 wounded. The assault was the deadliest incident of mass shooting in the United States and the worst act of terror in the country since 2001.

The gunman, Omar Mateen, was born in New York in 1986 to parents who had immigrated from Afghanistan. In 2009 the native-born outsider married a woman who had originally come from Uzbekistan. After four months together, however, the wife could no longer tolerate her abusive husband and decided to walk out. After the separation, the two parties lived in different parts of the country – as a result of which the divorce proceedings were drawn-out until the marriage was finally dissolved in 2011.

In the run-up to the attack on the nightclub, Mateen lived in Fort Pierce, a town located a couple of hours' drive to the southeast of Orlando. The FBI had been aware of the misfit for years. In fact, the Bureau conducted interviews in 2013 and 2014 after Mateen expressed sympathy for a suicide bomber; but the suspect was not deemed to be a threat to security at the time (Ellis et al., 2016).

Prior to the shooting spree, the attacker had a “chilling history that included talking about killing people, beating his former wife and voicing hatred of minorities, gays and Jews” (Alvarez et al., 2016). During the standoff before he was shot and killed by the police, Mateen proclaimed his allegiance to the Islamic State, the terrorist group that operated in Syria, Iraq and Libya. As shown by his declaration, the gunman might have been born and raised in America but his heart and mind lay a world apart. In fact, he was more foreign and alien than the bulk of sane and peaceable folks across the planet.

5.5. Willful Breaches of the Law

The need for a cautious approach to migration applies even in cases where the incomers bear heaps of documents that seem to support their claims. For there is no sure way to confirm the authenticity of the paperwork forged in the chaos of a war-torn country. In a failed state, the shattered remnants of local authority have scant knowledge of the true state of affairs. In that case, the likelihood of a foreign agency being able to confirm the facts for real is negligible to none. Given this backdrop, a stampede of migrants is a godsend for legions of criminals, lunatics

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and other misfits who want to start afresh. The sociopaths of this ilk span the rainbow from muggers and troglodytes to rapists and terrorists.

To bring up a different point, a besieged country should not consider an illegal migrant who evades the border patrols and sneaks into the country to be innocent until proven otherwise. On the contrary, a gate-crasher is ipso facto guilty of illicit entry into a sovereign nation whose citizens have an inalienable right to protect their borders against intruders.

To invoke a third and related point, any decision to enter a country by illegal means is a premeditated breach of the law rather than an accidental fluke. In fact, the mass of migrants spend months or years in advance in contemplating the journey while assessing alternate routes, saving up money, and rounding up provisions up to and including the purchase of false documents.

Once the scheme is set in motion, the connivers prosecute their plans over the course of weeks, months or years while tweaking their agenda on the fly in order to adapt to the latest conditions along the way. An example in this vein is the procurement of transportation services or surveillance information from smugglers who specialize in human cargo. A case in point is the schedule of border patrols, the location of motion detectors, or other security measures. The lawbreakers of this sort are precisely the type of people that a self-respecting nation would want to keep out completely rather than admit en masse.

Unfortunately, the politicians of Europe opted instead to let in the outlaws by the millions into the continent. Then the selfsame jokers wondered out loud why there was so much crime afoot in areas ranging from mugging and burglary to rape and terrorism.

In the larger scheme of things, the proper place for a refugee at the outset is a refugee camp. Having reached the sanctuary, many a genuine exile will be content to live there indefinitely in the hope of returning to their homeland after the rage of violence and anarchy dies down in due course. Meanwhile other runaways who wish to move on and settle in a different country altogether may apply for asylum and wait for the paperwork to be processed in an orderly fashion by some government or other that is willing and able to do a decent job of assimilating the transplants into the host society (Kim, 2016).

In dealing with migrants, then, the proper stance is to consider every gate-crasher as the lawbreaker that they in fact are. This policy is especially apt in the case of a migrant who professes to come from a failed state for which there is little or no way for any agency, whether domestic or foreign, to authenticate the documentation ranging from the place of birth to the absence of a criminal record.

In these and other ways, the reality differs entirely from the myth of equally respectable cultures. In fact, the differences in morality are in general obvious and copious. As an example, a refined society does not sanction brutal customs such as cutting off the hands of a thief, or condemning an adulterer to death. By the same token, a progressive community does not persecute people for adhering to divergent religions, or commit acts of genocide on the basis of ethnicity.

Despite the gulf in morals and customs, the mass of private citizens as well as public officials usually act as if the disparities were superficial and immaterial. For instance, the welter of caustic traits in a stunted culture are illustrated by the seedy customs that prevail in the government bureaucracy. An showcase involves the widespread practice of public officials for tormenting hapless citizens and demanding bribes – whether to leave them alone on one hand, or to issue approvals for pointless items of paperwork on the other. Another exemplar is an entrenched clique that keeps the nation as a whole in a perpetual state of poverty through a glut of corruption which repels the legions of foreigners who travel the globe in an

endless search of opportunities to put their bounty of knowledge and capital to good use.

5.6. Systematic Bilking of Rich Countries

In the modern era, the bulk of migrants to Europe have been economic hustlers rather than political exiles. In 2016 the Dutch politician Frans Timmermans, in his role as the first vice president of the European Commission, explained the scope of the problem: according to official data by Frontex – the public agency in charge of protecting the borders of the EU – some 60% of all asylum seekers were impostors rather than actual refugees fleeing war or persecution (Holehouse, 2016).

The flimflam was showcased by myriads of economic fugitives who came from stable countries such as Morocco or Tunisia rather than war-torn lands as in Syria or Iraq. Given their origins, the bulk of the migrants had no right to asylum. Yet many of the impostors made their way to Turkey in order to insinuate themselves amongst the droves of exiles from the Mideast who were gunning for Europe.

Despite the chicanery, however, the EU could hardly muster the willpower required to deport the hordes of phonies who failed to qualify for asylum. Between September and December 2015, for instance, a mere 683 migrants were sent home by all the nations of Europe. Among the ejected were 153 fraudsters booted from Italy and none from Greece despite the roles of these countries as primary points of entry for the vagrants. The token group of exposed fraudsters were sent back to Kosovo, Albania, Pakistan and Nigeria (Holehouse, 2016). The sham of the deportation program was spotlighted by the fact that Nigeria – like the other sources of mass migration – got back only a trifling fraction of the runaways; moreover it was the only country in Africa to which the impostors were returned despite the plethora of vagabonds from assorted parts of the continent.

On a positive note, though, the bulk of the governments within the EU were opposed to the vast numbers of refugees that the mandarins in Brussels wanted to force upon each of the member states. An example of the widespread balking showed up in Poland, the biggest country in Eastern Europe, whose leadership pointed out that a quota on the minimal intake of refugees would merely serve to encourage more incomers.

The folly of the Eurocrats was also expounded by Robert Fico, the prime minister of Slovakia, who declared that the EU was committing “ritual suicide” by accepting so many refugees all at once. For one thing, the financial burden of caring for vast numbers of asylees would cripple the economies of the host countries. For a second thing, a besieged nation would confront the infeasible task of integrating the multitudes into the host country (Holehouse, 2016).

With a bit of reflection, it should be clear that the actual plight of the European nations was even worse than the bleak picture presented above. The onrush of migrants, be they genuine refugees or shameless posers, had to include hordes of misfits who should have been rejected rather than accepted by the host countries. The unsavory characters of this ilk ran the gamut from ruffians and rapists to loonies and terrorists.

According to the laws of the European Union, every refugee was required to apply for asylum in the first country of arrival on the continent. But of course the vast majority of incomers flouted this injunction by first making their way to Southern Europe then traveling farther north until they reached richer countries such as Germany and Sweden before filing their applications. In that case, we may reasonably assume that snagging a cornucopia of financial benefits was a prime objective rather than merely escaping any form of violence back in the old country.

This cameo highlights the fact that the mass of migrants took systematic steps from the outset to evade the border guards, dupe the migration agencies, and fleece the target countries long before they came into direct contact with their marks. In

these and other ways, the droves of transplants carried to their newfound homes the inbred culture of predation and exploitation which was part and parcel of life in their ancestral lands.

In short, the plethora of problems caused by mass migration into modern countries were spotlighted by the plight of Germany and Sweden. Sadly, the dire straits of the Teutonic countries resulted from the willful policies of witless governments rather the accidental blows of mindless providence. As a result, the problems were legion. An example lay in a permanent addiction to welfare payments by droves of newcomers who refused to work at the jobs – consistent with their scanty skills – which were offered to them. Another sample lay in the custom of idle youths for roaming the streets in gangs or religious radicals for committing acts of terror (Kim, 2016).

Sadly, there is no credible scenario in which pushovers like Germany and Sweden can accept refugees en masse and keep them in fine fettle till kingdom come. Rather, the most likely outcome by far is a breakdown of the economy in particular and the society in general. An example in this vein is an upswell of antagonism and distress, extremism and violence, that sweeps up the newcomers and knocks down the incumbents. In these ways, a heedless policy of mass immigration poses a willful path to a dreadful quality of life for the entire society.

Unfortunately, the mass of migrants from the straggling cultures of the world lack the skills needed to function properly in an informatic economy. For this reason, large swaths of unskilled transplants numbering in the millions pose severe problems ranging from the deadweight of welfare payments to the rampage of criminal activities. To add to the drubbing, the teardown of civility will be of secondary import at most in a shattered economy. Rather, the mass of folks will have their hands full trying to make ends meet while they dodge the predations of criminals on a daily basis.

6. A Sustainable Stance on Asylum

By definition, a political refugee is a fugitive fleeing violence and/or persecution in their homeland. In that case, the humane response of the global community is to provide a sanctuary where the escaper can live in peace without fear of losing their life or limb.

As we saw earlier, however, a stampede of refugees is bound to include plenty of undesirable characters ranging from murderers to lunatics. For this reason, it makes no sense to admit refugees en masse into a civil society where the misfits will simply run amok and torment fellow immigrants as well as the native population.

By contrast, maintaining an adequate level of law and order will be immensely easier and cheaper within the confines of a refugee camp in a developing country as opposed to the corresponding toll in a mature economy. The precise matchup of costs and benefits will of course depend on the country in question as well as the lineup of facilities within the sanctuary. As a representative figure, however, it seems fair to say that a dozen or more people could likely be maintained with a modicum of comfort and safety in a refugee camp compared to the setup for a wealthy country along with the hefty costs entailed.

From a different angle, the residents of a refugee camp could enjoy not only the necessities of life but a smorgasbord of amenities as well. The goodies in the latter category run the gamut from nutritious meals and sporting facilities to job training and language classes.

Moreover, an influx of foreign aid for the construction and operation of a refugee camp will provide a raft of jobs for the citizens of the country that hosts the

facility. In addition, some of the refugees could undergo programs of training and assume a number of roles within the sanctuary. The positions of this kind run the gamut from nurse and guard to clerk and teacher.

To this end, the beginnings of a promising policy showed up in a belated move by the European Union. After years of flailing around in response to the tsunami of migrants from the Mideast and elsewhere, the EU signed a deal in late 2015 to provide Turkey with €3 billion at once in order to help the latter in coping with the millions of refugees within its borders. In return, the recipient agreed to care for the migrants rather than let them travel freely onward to Europe.

From a larger stance, the European Commission in March 2016 decided to spend €700 million over three years in order to help the refugees massing on its southern borders. Of this amount, €300 million would be disbursed in 2016 and an additional €200 million per annum over the following two years (Rankin, 2016).

Along with the financial aid, the EU pledged to round up the illegal migrants who had entered Greece but did not wish to apply for asylum in that country. The trespassers of this stripe would be deported to refugee camps in Turkey. As a recompense, however, the EU would accept one asylum seeker residing in Turkey for each migrant deported to the latter country. By this means, the inflow of refugees into Europe would be orderly and manageable rather than chaotic and unruly.

From a different angle, the deportation of illegal migrants who were caught sneaking into Greece would dampen the enthusiasm of subsequent vagrants for crossing the seas in rickety boats. Under the newfound policy, a trespasser who was apprehended would simply end up at a refugee camp in Turkey. For this reason, the mass of runaways would prefer to head directly to Turkey by land rather than assume the risk of drowning in the Mediterranean Sea.

Even so, the deportation policy would by no means deter everyone from sneaking into Greece, Italy or any other country in Europe. An example involves a migrant who can afford to hire a smuggler and travel in style on a yacht. This type of interloper could, for instance, take a leisurely cruise around the thousands of islands in the Aegean Sea until they slipped past the porous cordon formed by the coast guard. Next the infiltrator would sail to a port or a resort within the borders of Greece, then take a ferry to the European mainland.

Once a foreigner slips into one country within the EU, they could in general travel freely throughout the mainland. As a backdrop, the Schengen zone – which covers nearly every country within the European Union – is meant to be a borderless region as far as passport controls are concerned. To bring up an example, the fugitives who arrive on the shores of Greece or Italy could travel to other countries such as Austria, France and Germany without ever seeing a border guard or being asked to show a passport. And likewise for farther travel on to Denmark, Sweden or Norway.

On the bright side, Turkey is not the only country in a troubled region that is willing and able to accept a multitude of refugees. In particular, a group of five countries near Syria by themselves took in 3.9 million refugees during the 2010s (Sunde, 2015).

Given this backdrop, the stampede of migrants at the dawn of the millennium was pretty much a self-made crisis in Europe. The swamped countries had plenty of means to tone down the inrush of trespassers by working together with the accommodating nations located in the Mideast as well as other parts of the world in order to provide safe and hale sanctuaries to the benefit of all parties.

Looking at the big picture, the vast resources frittered away in bumbling attempts to help migrants could be far better spent by tackling the roots of the problem rather than dabbling with the symptoms. For this purpose, a coherent

program of intervention across the globe could enrich many more lives and improve the fortunes of billions of people on a permanent basis rather than help out just a few million souls here and there in a transient way while making things worse for far more folks in the besieged countries.

As we have seen, the main culprit behind persistent poverty round the world lies in a corrosive culture of corruption and exploitation. In that case, the cogent course is to cure the disease rather than toy with the symptoms. An example in this vein involves a program of foreign aid which is tied to the implementation of reforms by the recipient states. The healthy changes of this kind run the gamut from accountability in government and transparency in budgeting to the cutdown of bureaucracy and prosecution of lawbreakers.

7. Curing Poverty in a Modern Country

On the bright side, the taxpayers of a given nation may be willing to support a program of handouts for all citizens within the country. A minimal grant provided by the government to each household is also known as a program of *guaranteed income* (GI) or *universal basic income* (UBI). Under this type of policy, each person or household would receive enough money to cover their essential needs at the official level of the poverty line or somewhat higher.

Such a program could be not only feasible but beneficial to the society as a whole for a number of reasons. According to one study, for instance, no cuts need to be made to vital programs such as health, education and legal aid. Rather, the only real requirement is to streamline the bureaucracy including the stamp-out of redundancies in public programs. To top it off, the taxes on personal income need not be increased; on the contrary, the tax burden may well decrease instead.

One benefit would be an upgrade to the quality of healthcare as well as better access to education for the population at large. In other words, a trenchant program of minimal income will raise the standard of living for millions of citizens as well as improve the quality of public services (Pereira, 2015).

On one hand, the scope of poverty in a rich country varies from one year to the next. As a representative figure, though, the number of people below the poverty line in the modern era comes out to one out of every seven people. In 2014, for instance, the official rate of poverty in the U.S. was 14.8 percent. In absolute numbers, 46.7 million people lived in poverty in one of the richest countries in the world (DeNavas-Walt & Proctor, 2015, p.12).

Many of the needy folks were born and raised in America, yet they could not earn a decent living for themselves. In that case, how much hope of success is there for an illegal migrant with paltry skills who comes from a vastly different culture? To think that the mass of transplants could earn a decent wage for them selves, let alone contribute to the economy at large, is sheer fantasy.

In a dynamic economy such as the U.S., millions of people fall in and out of the trenches of poverty every year. Although the individuals come and go, the size of the cohort does not vary a great deal as time goes by. On a positive note, though, there is no good reason for large numbers of people in a wealthy country to wallow in poverty. Instead, the society as a whole can take active steps to wipe out the scourge for good.

To take up a concrete example, Canada has served as a model for a number of studies along these lines. Based on the population of the country in 2006, for instance, a grant of \$15,000 per year meted out to all individuals aged 18 and over would entail a tab of \$392 billion for the government. By way of comparison, the gross domestic product for Canada at the time was \$1.45 trillion.

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In scrounging up the money required, a restructuring of redundant and/or ineffective programs in the public sector would result in cost savings of \$342 billion per year. Moreover additional revenues for the public treasury would come from the closure of loopholes in tax regulations coupled with the stoppage of leakages due to the tricks of holding companies in tax havens located round the world. These savings would together add up to \$382 billion per year. Yet other sources of funding include the taxation of profits on speculation in financial markets or undeveloped land (Pereira, 2015).

By these means, a revamp of government programs and regulations would free up more than enough money to support a program of universal income. Given the prospects in store, a lack of support by the general public along with a dearth of gumption by elected officials are the only real reasons for the persistence of poverty in the wealthy nations of the world.

On one hand, the taxpayers of a given country could and should support an enlightened program of minimal income for their fellow citizens. On the other hand, such a feat is far from feasible when it comes to a similar agenda for the planet as a whole. For one thing, the bulk of sovereign states round the world have a custom of sticking to their guns regardless of the consequences, including a refusal to throw off the chains that keep them in a perpetual state of poverty. For this reason, getting the hidebound regimes to change their stripes will be no mean task.

Regrettably, a program of universal income is impractical even in the case of a massive number of illegal immigrants into a rich country. In saying this, we of course do not mean that taking a callous approach to the paupers of the world is the right way to go. Rather, the main point is that a sensible society has to take a pragmatic approach grounded on the facts of life rather than respond willy-nilly to the rantings of the latest haranguers to come down the pike.

To begin with, a program of universal income for boundless numbers of immigrants would be infeasible from an economic stance. Looking at the big picture, the combined headcount of the Western nations comprises roughly one-tenth or so of the global population. For this reason, the entire planet would turn out to be universally poor rather than uniformly rich under a worldwide program of minimal income even if the mature economies could survive an onslaught of billions of paupers from the developing regions of the world.

The delicate networks of production and distribution in an advanced economy would go kaput at once under the sudden crush of billions of newcomers. In that case, the sane way forward is to uplift the destitute rather than sink to their level. In this light, the bugbear of corruption – along with its sidekicks of predation and exploitation – will continue to ensure that the torrent of foreign aid is siphoned off by a small clique of operators or otherwise misused in sundry ways. A plain example involves a juicy contract for a worthless project awarded by a bureaucrat to a businessman in exchange for a kickback. In this mucky environment, the proper course for the donor nations is to help the poor countries in revamping the culture of graft which keeps the mass of folks in a ceaseless state of poverty.

8. Conclusion

At the dawn of the millennium, a raft of social and economic issues have come to capture the floodlight in the mass media and public discourse. The burning issues of the day run the gamut from global poverty and mass migration to persistent alienation and cross-border crime. An example involves a gush of refugees pouring into Europe or a spate of terrorist attacks in America.

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To compound the muddle, the gaggle of problems are intertwined rather than independent. Given the complexity of the issues, the stumpers have often spawned more noise and heat than thought and sense. An example lay in the spew of patchy data and misleading facts churned out by the mass media. Another sample involved the cacophony of facile slogans and strident calls by sanctimonious souls ranging from deluded activists to opportunistic politicians. A third instance concerned the sputter of knee-jerk reactions by flustered policymakers and misguided mandarins who ended up exacerbating the problems rather than resolving the quandaries.

Amid the bluster, the rift between the reality and illusion stymied otherwise sensible folks. To compound the jam, the mass of public officials and private citizens hankered after quick solutions, some of which came to treat only the symptoms of the malady while others simply worsened the disease. Without a solid grip on the slippery issues, however, hardly any scheme was likely to offer substantive relief let alone cure the ailments for good.

As a step in the right direction, this paper has examined a medley of false assumptions that give rise to a host of misleading mantras and ill-fated schemes. In stoking the confusion, the fundamental muff lies in the Myth of Boon which gives birth to a litter of secondary outgrowths. An example of the latter involves the dogma of variegation which portrays an abundance of heterogeneity as a healthy and desirable trait in any culture. As we have seen, however, a heap of divergent customs is neither good nor bad in itself. On the upside, a modicum of controlled diversity handled with finesse can foster an outpour of innovation and creativity at the level of the individual as well as the society (Kim, 1990). On the other hand, a jumble of incompatible mores is apt to produce wrackful results ranging from the breakdown of civil society to the outbreak of internecine warfare.

Another bromide lies in the tacit premise that immigrants of all breeds share the same set of core values as the natives of the host country. This deceit has prompted a raft of governments into pursuing policies which they believed would help the newcomers in turning into worthy members of their adopted societies. Sadly, though, the gulf between the cultures of the newcomers and the incumbents caused the slipshod schemes to backfire: the perverse results aggravated the divisions and exacerbated the problems at hand. A showcase of the latter lay in the hostile reactions of the outlanders to the bungling initiatives of the policymakers.

Another corollary of the Myth of Boon lies in the oft-repeated claim that the mass of newcomers, regardless of their backgrounds, are as upright and principled as the natives of the host country. Unfortunately, an overwhelming body of evidence has shown that the hoary fable strays far from the reality.

To sum up, this paper has examined a primal set of myths behind a potpourri of stumpers ranging from migration and integration to alienation and terrorism. The misconceptions have long fuddled the mass of private citizens as well as public officials. Looking at the big picture, the passel of socioeconomic problems are interlinked rather than isolated. For this reason, a piecemeal approach will not resolve any of the specters in particular, and even less the whole lot in general. If the long-lived nettlers are to be uprooted wholesale, they need to be tackled in an coherent fashion.

To this end, the initial step is to sort out the grains of fact from the mounds of fluff that surround the needlers. The next task is to take the nuggets and construct a sturdy model of each of the crucial issues along with the salient tie-ups amongst the modules. A solid grasp of the multiplex factors along with their linkages then serves as a groundwork for thrashing out a wholesome set of solutions that are practical and effective as well as efficient and appealing for the mass of folks in rich and poor countries alike.

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