

RACISM: A BIG THREAT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EU

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Abstract – The presence of the EU (European Union) is important for the peace and security of the whole world. The EU is not only necessary for the peace and security of the European people, but also all people around the world. In different parts of the world, similar unions are being established and will continue to rise. The EU is in an idol structure for forming any kind of union. The risk of any kind of conflict disappears between the members of a union and also eliminates the risk of the conflict for countries neighbouring the union. In the study, the importance of the EU is emphasized for international peace and security, while the dangers of racism are mentioned as the greatest threat to the future of the EU. The study specifies the potential impacts of racism on the deep unification process in the EU as it damages the unity of destiny, while also underlining the necessity of eradicating racism as soon as possible, not only by the EU authorities, but also by others around the world.

Keywords: racism, discrimination, EU, peace and security, conflict, integration, union

Introduction

Racism can be classified as a dirty word. Racial inequalities exist around the world in socioeconomic, health and other areas, and unfortunately, minorities in all countries consistently report instances of discrimination (Clair and Denis, 2018:12720-12723). In general terms, racism means accepting that some societies consider themselves to be superior compared to other societies. This can be regarded as the greatest inequity that a society can impose on others. This is also unacceptable, because it is not possible for any society to have any form of superiority over others. Although, racist discourses were produced between the 16th and 19th centuries, the 20th century was period of time in which racism was recorded most intensely and multi-directionally. In the countries located at the centre of Europe, and also in many countries located on the continents of Asia, Africa and America, very severe racist events have been reported. Most of these racist events were categorised as genocide.

For example, as a result of the racist actions implemented by the French in Algeria, many Algerians who were demonstrating for independence in Paris were killed on 17 October 1961. These crimes continued and eight more people were killed in February 1962. However, the Algerian people persisted with their efforts to stand up to the French, protesting against the genocide events that occurred in Algeria both during and after the colonial period; and, at the same time, they are in demand of an apologize from the French authorities. In the same context, a policy of social exclusion was implemented in Rwanda in 1994.

(https://tasam.org/tr/TR/Icerik/1400/uluslararasi_insan_haklari_rejimlerinde_irkcilikla_mucadele)

It is also possible to define racism as structural violence and it should be noted that racism has negative effects on individuals' self-concept and life trajectories (Barkley and Drew 2018:257-261). Racism is a significant threat for world peace and security. Racism not only harms the peace and happiness of the countries in which it occurs, but also the whole world. This situation was clearly observed during the era in which Hitler and his supporters held power. Unfortunately, racism is as old as humanity and continues to exist today. In fact, racism is something related to the structure of humanity. For the most part, people want to be associated with a rich country as this is an important factor that allows them to have increased status and prestige. Resultantly, people who live in rich countries want to separate themselves from those living in poor countries. For example, the white people in America were not willing to share their land or wealth with black slaves and because of this, they were not eager to provide freedom to the black slaves.

(<https://onedio.com/haber/tanirlamakta-zorluk-cekenler-icin-13-maddeyle-irkcilik-nedir--720764>)

Economic problems in a country such as a rise in inflation and unemployment, a failure to distribute the national income equally and a rise in crime rates are the important factors that feed racism; this is because under such circumstances, the first group of people to be blamed will be the foreigners living in that country. In other words, the foreigners will be accepted as the source of all the deterioration in the country and they will start to be excluded. In other words, the trend of racism in the society will start to rise. According to racist understanding, cultural differences are not accepted as a form of cultural richness, but are perceived as a threat. This case can also be seen in Turkey with regard to Syrian migrants. Some groups in Turkey tend to blame Syrians for the economic problems and increased crime rates. In racist understanding, there is a belief that the country should only take care of the problems of the domestic people, and there should be no attempts to solve the problems of foreigners living in the country; even if attempts are made, minimal efforts are made to find permanent solutions to their problems. Racist understanding is oblivious to the fact that if the problems of all people in the country are not solved, it will not be possible for the entire country to exist in peace and security. For example, there are three million Syrian migrants in Turkey, some of whom live in tent cities and others are distributed between different cities within the country. In this situation, if the economic and social problems of the Syrian migrants are not solved by Turkish administrators, then this will seriously harm the peace and security in Turkey, because three million people can potentially have a significant impact on the general happiness of Turkey.

In real terms, everyone has the capacity to be racist. In some cases, people may have some racist discourses without realizing. For example, an Asian born in North America who is a native English speaker may be asked the question "where are you from?" This question comes with the secret meaning implying that they are an outsider, even though they were born in the same country. As previously mentioned, people may ask this question without realizing that it includes racist discourse (Kubota 2019:1-22).

According to the old understanding of racism, it was defined as violence, as well as verbal and physical abuse against ethnic groups who were victimised. Also, certain acts were classified as discriminative such as physical attacks, lynching or racial segregation that took place in South Africa; furthermore, genocide as was seen in Germany during the time of the Hitler administration was a representation of the old understanding of racism. However, the contemporary form of racism is more hidden, subtle and insidious; this is the new nature of racism in the modern and cosmopolitan societies such as those in America, Western Europe and Australia (Teo 2000:7-49).

I. Racism In The EU

Because of the continuing wars and internal turmoil, many people are seeking to migrate to the rich countries in the West. Certainly, this is causing economic and political problems for the countries in the West and particularly the wealthier countries in the EU. According to Europeans, their economy will weaken, the crime rates will tend to rise and also their peaceful social structure will be broken as a result of the migrant refugees, which pushes them into racists positions. It is also very important to mention that foreigners living in different parts of the EU and also their family members who have citizenship still may be confronted with racism. It is unfortunate to observe that Turkish Cypriots living in the UK experience racism problems even though they have been living there since the 1960s and their children do not even know where Cyprus is.

<https://www.metropolitiques.eu/Citizen-Outsider-Racism.html>

Many migrant workers have faced similar treatments, including abuses of employment, less civil rights compared to the domestic civilians or more difficulties with using public services. Also, the migrant workers have largely suffered from different degrees of bias, racism and hatred. Even though migrant workers may have good employment experience, they are paid less and are given worse shifts (Holder 2007:13-15).

Migrant workers coming to Northern Ireland from Eastern Europe as well as countries such as the Philippines and India to Northern Ireland are experiencing rising racism; according to the media, Northern Ireland is now considered to be the race hate capital of Europe and Belfast is the most racist city in the world (Holder 2007:13-15).

In the previous Eastern Bloc countries such as Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Hungary, racism is considered to be a problem of capitalist economic systems and it has nothing to do with socialism. However, this point of view is completely false, because in a free market economy, the aim is to increase competition, which resultantly improves international trade and many foreign goods are imported into domestic economies, which is not a preferable situation in the socialist economic systems. In socialist economic systems, foreign trade is only allowed when necessary. This is in a way an attempt to promote nationalist movements that have the inherent threat of racism. In capitalist systems, free trade is supported in an efficient way to increase the welfare of nations, because sharing national resources will improve the source availability of the countries, which is essential for their production efficiency. In free market systems, it is not important where the sources come from as long as they are cheaper. In capitalist systems, the main principle is based on the nature of humans that they want to consume the highest quality products with the most reasonable prices regardless of whether they are produced domestically or internationally. In the free market economic systems, in terms of consumption, there is no concept of nationalism; consumer satisfaction is the primary objective. The existence of free trade between the countries will lead to the improvement of the competitive environment and will inevitably lead to a rise in the quality of the production processes in the countries. From this perspective, it can easily be said that the capitalist system substantially rejects racism in economics. Therefore, it cannot be claimed that capitalism is the reason for racism in the previous Eastern Bloc countries. Recently, in the EU member countries, USA and wealthy Western countries, it is possible to find products that are not produced domestically and come from the African, Asian, or Mediterranean regions (<https://discoversociety.org/2016/06/01/racism-in-post-communist-central-europe/>).

It can be seen that in the 21st century, there has been a rise in rightist parties in the EU. In general, even though some believe that economic crises in the EU are the reason for the rise of the rightist parties, this cannot be said to be true. In particular, the economic crisis that started in the USA and subsequently spread throughout the world in 2008 was mentioned as a significant reason. However, it was seen that even though Spain was the country that was most impacted by the global economic crisis that occurred in 2008, the rightist parties in Spain still did not come to the forefront. On the other hand, Finland and Austria witnessed the most significant rise in the rightist parties, even though they were not significantly affected by the economic crisis. The EU, which paid high economic and social costs because of the racist movements that emerged in Germany in the past, has aimed to avoid racist concepts as much as possible. In this perspective, the success of the EU cannot be denied; however, as a result of the rise in the amount of migrant workers that came to the EU member countries in the 1960s, the rightist parties were observed to increase in popularity. The migrants coming to the EU began to be blamed for all the economic and political problems that were occurring and as a result, right-wing parties began to emerge. Specifically after the terrorist attack in the USA on 11th of September 2001 and as the terrorists who committed the attack were Muslims, the hatred among EU member countries against foreigners started to rise and Islamophobia became a more significant problem in the EU (Alkan 2015: 275-289). Undoubtedly, this situation was exploited by the extreme rightist parties to increase the hate for foreigners, as this situation was a very good source for them grow their popularity.

If a person is classed as a terrorist, then the religion to which they belong is not important; this is because a terrorist cannot be classified as a human. Therefore, for someone who is not classified as a human, his/her religion is not important. In this manner, aiming to establish any form of relationship between religion and terrorism or even trying to build up a relation is a very dangerous school of thought. The international attacks that have been perpetrated by terrorists coming from Muslim countries represent a good source of votes for extreme rightist parties. However, this situation is increasing the risk that international peace and security will break down. The exploitation of terrorist attacks realized in different parts of the world by the extreme rightist parties to increase their votes may have negative effects on people with psychological health problems and they may choose to commit certain acts or racist movements against foreigners. Here, the main problem is the lack of knowledge about religions. As terrorism, violence and killing are completely forbidden in all religions, then it is completely illogical to associate religion and terrorism. In the EU, the right-wing parties are divided into two groups: the extremist groups and the new populist parties. The extreme rightist parties put forth all their racist discourses without feeling the need to hide. The richest source by which they increase their popularity is the economy. When the level of unemployment rises in an economy, all the attention is focused on the foreign workers who are working in that country due to the fact that in all countries, domestic citizens have the priority when it comes to employment. Therefore, when an economy goes into recession, the perception is that all foreigners should leave the country and for this objective to be realized, different racist activities begin to emerge. Sometimes, this can

lead to violent acts being committed against the foreigners

II. The Vote Changing of The Rightist Parties in The EU

Until today, the EPP (European Public Party), in which centre rightist parties are members, and the Socialist and Democrats Group (S&D), of which the centre-left parties are members, had the majority in the European Parliament. However, this situation changed in the last election.

The centre right, centre left, left parties and conservatives all lost seats in the last European Parliament elections that were held in May 2019. However, the extreme right parties have gained votes, and this may only be a small rise, for the EU as well as for world economics, politics and international peace, it represents a significant threat (bbc.com/turkce/haberler-dunya-48417894-12.09.19). For the time being, this situation can be accepted as a potential danger for the foreigners living in the EU whether they have citizenship or not; however, in the long-run, it represents a threat that could ultimately lead to the total collapse of the EU.

The rise of the extreme right parties could increase the nationalist movements in the EU, which might cause the member countries of the EU to be more willing to be separated from each other. There is no doubt that this situation risks the total collapse of the EU. Brexit has the potential to trigger a rise in votes for rightist parties and in this regard, it is an important formation that increases the effectiveness of the extreme groups. The member countries that have the objective of leaving the EU as a result of Brexit might increase the belief of "If England can do it; why not us?", which could encourage other countries to separate from the EU. If the required preventative actions are not taken by the EU authorities against the extremely negative acts, then this could lead to the total collapse of the EU.

III. The Importance of The EU For The World

The EU is not only an important organization for the European Continent, but is also very important for the whole world. As a block that realizes one third of the global production and trade, all the developments that occur within the EU will affect all countries around the world. For example, as in the case of Brexit, all countries around the world are focused on the impacts that Brexit has created as well as the potential future impacts in terms of economic and political dimensions. Also, in the case of Cyprus, in the absence of a political solution, only half of the island (Southern Part) is a member of the EU, which is one of the topics under discussion. Recently, there have been three money anchors in international economics: the euro, dollar and yen. The euro has assumed a stable position in the world markets beside the dollar within only a short time (Ozdeser 2015:467-482).

The EU has presented a very good message about establishing international peace and security. The world should learn from this message. The member countries of the EU, which were previously at war with each other, have eradicated the possibility of conflict by combining their economic and political gains. The economic and political gains between the countries are significantly important factors for eliminating the possibility of war.

For increasing the degree of integration, the EU has decided it is necessary to adopt a single currency. Currently, 19 out of the 29 EU member countries are using the single currency and this number will certainly continue to rise. Even though there is a belief that countries that do not have their own currency lose their sovereignty, monetary unification could still be established by the industrialized rich countries and they could exchange their domestic currencies with the euro. This action of the EU members seriously damaged the extreme rightist groups, who are harming the peace of the world through their nationalist beliefs. It is possible that in the future, we will no longer be able to refer to Italian Pizza or spaghetti and instead, we will say EU pizza or EU spaghetti. Furthermore, it clearly states on the passports of the citizens of EU member countries that they are EU citizens. This creates a supranational position for the people living in the EU member countries.

Instead of seeing themselves as a part of a country, people living in the EU see themselves as a part of a huge formation and continuing this position will undoubtedly prevent the rise of extreme nationalist movements. Furthermore, it seems that as long as the integration process continues to deepen economically and politically, the preventative effect of the EU against the extreme movements will be more effective.

Another important aspect of the EU for global economics and politics is that the borders of the EU are not certain; the enlargement process of the EU is ongoing and it is not clear what the total number of member countries will ultimately be; in other words, it could be said that the EU is a dynamic process. This shows that the EU will continue to significantly affect world politics and economics in the future.

The current situation of the EU as well as its future situation could influence similar economic and political integration formations in the other parts of the world. For the time being, in different parts of the world such as Africa, Asia, the Middle-East, America, Mexico and other countries, economic and political integration processes exist; ECOWAS, which was founded as an integration formation in Africa, works on a monetary integration process similar to the EU. Even if, under the current conditions, the formation of a monetary union for the member countries of ECOWAS similar to the one in the EU is out of the question; (Mati, Civcir, Ozdeser 2019:89-482), working to achieve this goal, or in other words, the intention and willingness to further the integration process, will minimize the risk of conflict that could occur between the member countries of ECOWAS. Consequently, this would maintain peace in the region and reduce the risk of conflict, which would have positive impacts in terms of peace and harmony in the countries located in the region, which would subsequently make a significant contribution to ensuring peace around the world. Therefore, the EU not only represents an important anchor target that prevents the possibility of conflict for the Europe Continent and its environment, but also for the other regions of the world. Due to this fact, it could be said that the rise of extreme rightists in the EU is not only a very important factor to be taken into consideration in regard to the peace and security of the people living in Europe, but also for everyone around the world.

It is very important to emphasize the example of Turkey, which was officially made an EU candidate on 1st of January 1999 and also signed the Customs Union Agreement with the EU in 1995 that was implemented on 1st of January 1996. All these developments indicate to the world that Turkey has the real intention to become a full member of the EU. Even though the process of Turkey becoming an EU member has been challenging and the relationship has become strained, Turkey has still persisted. As Turkey has aimed to become a member of the EU since the 1960s, then it is clear that its ultimate goal has to be full membership. This situation has minimized the risk of that Turkey will enter into any form of conflict with the EU or with any member. The majority of the population in Turkey is Muslim. Turkey became an EU candidate country in January 1999, which shattered the malicious opinions that claimed that the EU is a Christian Club. In other words, it prevented the malicious people aiming to create a conflict culture.

The presence of the EU is a symbolic torch for global peace and security. The longevity of this torch will play a very important role in shaping peace and security around the world. It would not be wrong to say that the role that the EU plays in this regard is as influential as the United Nations.

IV. The Impact of Racism On The Monetary Integration Process In The EU

Commonality of Destiny vs nationalism is one of the required conditions for realizing the Optimum Currency Area. The people should accept the conditions of living together if they want to form a monetary union. This means that people in an optimum currency area should accept to be part of the whole. They should understand that they have to move together, even though they are coming from different nations.

Racist movements in the EU are certainly harming the monetary integration process and at the same time, if it is thought that monetary integration is an indispensable element for economic integration of the entire EU, then racism represents a significant risk for the foundation of economic and political integration within the EU. Under conditions of growing racism, there is no possibility that people will feel that they are part of the whole or move together in the same direction.

Another important condition of the Optimum Currency Area is that countries that are forming monetary integration have to help each other when they experience asymmetric shocks. In such situations, it will only be possible for countries to help each other if they join their destinies and see themselves as a unified people. Racism is the key obstacle that prevents the common movements of the countries to help each other when experiencing shocks (Baldwin and Wyplosz 2004:340).

V. Conclusion and Recommendations

As a consequence of Nazi Ideology and Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, in addition to all other racist movements in Germany during the Second World War, millions of people died and Europe collapsed both socially and economically. Resultantly, significant amounts of compensation were paid and it should not be forgotten that the EU was established immediately after the war. Due to this historical reality, all efforts must be urgently made to prevent the rise of extreme right parties in the EU member countries, because the negative effects of the rise of these parties will not only open the door for the collapse of the EU, but they are also a significant threat to international peace and security.

According to the given statistics on 3th of October 2019 there were a total of 3,671,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey, and this figure has risen by 5,494 within a year. This is a significant number for Turkey. On the other hand, the risk still continues and this number may rise much more if the conflicts in Syria cannot be stopped. This not only represents a significant threat for Turkey, but also for international peace. Turkey is not a rich industrialized country, but is a developing country. The large amount of Syrian refugees in Turkey leads to huge expenses, which could give rise to serious economic problems for the budget of Turkey and at the same time, it is a significant threat to the society (multeciler.org.tr/turkiyedeki-suriyeli-sayisi). Turkey has demanded financial support from the EU for these Syrian refugees, but has thus far been unsuccessful in this regard. At the Southeast European Cooperation Process Summit, which was held on 8-9 August in Bosnia-Herzegovina, President Erdoğan mentioned that there had been recent serious movement of refugees in the area and Turkey was confronted with significant refugee pressure. According to the United Nations statistics, Turkey paid more than 37 billion dollars for these refugees. Turkey has reduced the irregular refugee movements to the EU by about 99%, which is very important for the security and the stability of the EU. Unfortunately, Turkey has not seen the same sensitivity from the EU or EU member countries in terms of supporting these refugees, as promises that were made to Turkey have not been kept (cnnturk.com/turkiye/cumhurbaskani-erdogandan-abye-multeci-tepkisi).

According to a recent announcement by the Turkish president, the expenses for the refugees can be handled up to a certain threshold, but after this threshold is exceeded, it may give permission to refugees to move to the EU member countries. This will have drastic effects on the societal peace of these EU member countries. There is no doubt that this will also exacerbate the racist movements that are gaining ground within EU countries. It is also possible to see similar effects in Turkey. In some parts of Turkey, Syrian refugees are not allowed to enter to some of the public entertainment places that are controlled by the municipality authorities. If it is considered that the EU is combined of 28 industrialized countries, then it should not be a surprise that similar impacts or even worse could be observed in the EU.

The EU is an economic bloc economy that realizes one third of world production and trade and can therefore play a more dynamic role in financially supporting to Turkey with regard to the refugee problem, thus preventing the threat of possible Syrian refugee movements towards the EU. Moreover, the EU can be more influential in international politics in order to find a resolution to the Syrian conflict in a short time before more refugees move to Turkey.

Any kind of political or economic conflict taking place in one part of the world has the potential to harm people in other parts of the world as well. This situation can also be observed within countries; a problem that occurs in one country will certainly affect negatively the people in other cities. Hence, the developed industrialized countries do not have the luxury to be insensitive about the conflicts taking place in Syria. Normally, people in all countries are wary of accepting foreigners into their countries, and if these foreigners are refugees, then it is more likely that they will be rejected. People cannot necessarily be blamed for this situation, because that is the nature of humanity; no administrative power can force its people to accept refugees, but as a way of showing social responsibility, the governments can organize persuading organizations to reduce the negative perspectives people have towards refugees and increase their levels of empathy. The persuading programs or organizations can be supported by the media or by the teachers at the schools as well as through open public conferences. The people should be made aware that being refugee is not a choice, but a matter of life and death.

In societies, workshops can be held against racism. It is also very important that these workshops should be designed appropriately. All the people attending the workshop should understand what racism is and should be

opposed to it. Also it should be mentioned that the reason for organizing the workshops is not to assign blame. Workshops should be organized in an environment that it is safe and non-defensive for both participants and workshop leaders (Show and Wicker 1981:9-14).

Teaching the concepts of race and racism within educational institutions can potentially be complex, because in the classes where these subjects will be studied, the attending students, particularly migrants or the minorities who have suffered from racism, may express their hurt or anger, which could lead to conflict within the classroom (Shrin, 2008:415-428). Therefore, it is of significant importance that highly qualified lecturers are employed in all educational institutions if competent education is to be given about race and racism to reduce the negative impacts of racism on the society.

As Turkey is a country that has a long border with Syria, it can play a key role in stemming the flow of Syrian refugees. Also, as required by Turkey, a secure corridor can be created in the northern part of Syria for the refugees in which they can be financially supported from an international perspective until the Syrian conflict is ended, which will prevent the refugee problem from reaching a certain level that the world cannot resolve.

Significantly, there is a significant need for more actions to be taken to reduce racist activities in the 21st century. Instead of some weak legal regulations for eliminating discriminative formations, institutional changes are required. For example, in England, the anti-racist actions in higher education institutions are not realized effectively and in real terms. This can also be observed in other countries of the world such as Canada, USA, Brazil and South Africa. The anti-racist programs in higher education institutions should be applied in a more dynamic structure (Tate and Bagguleys 2016:289-299).

If it is not possible for England, which has important impacts on global economics and politics, to implement efficient anti-racist policies in its higher education institutions and the authorities in this country are helpless in this regard, then there is no doubt that the anti-racist policies in the other institutions in England will be significantly weaker in this regard. If this is the case in England, then the situation is undoubtedly much more desperate in the other less developed countries of the world.

The youth in the countries should be educated in all educational institutions, including primary and high schools. The starting point of anti-racist education should even include pre-school institutions. If it is believed that the youth of a country represent the future, then a generation raised with anti-racist policies will be significantly influential in eliminating negative discrimination within the country.

As a result of dynamic developments in the globalization process, the factors of production have become more mobile. One such factor is labour and the structure of the societies continues to change; in other words, the cultures in most countries, particularly in the rich developed countries where the labour movements are high, are becoming increasingly diversified. In this manner, the educational system is also becoming more complex. For example, counsellor education should be designed in a way that allows it to adapt to new and diversified social and cultural environments. Undoubtedly, the application of creative teaching techniques will be much more productive compared to traditional methods of teaching racism in multicultural counselling courses. By moving from this point of view, it is possible to say that new technical processes must be applied in the teaching of courses on racism in all educational institutions (Locke and Kiselica 1999: 80-86).

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