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THE REFUGEE CRISIS AND MIGRATION

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Migration is a real phenomenon that has existed since ancient times and has had a significant influence on human society, economy, and culture. It is also a normal process, relating to the development of human society. Large-scale human migration has been recorded throughout human history [1, p. 5] and is a current worldwide phenomenon that raises a variety of political and humanitarian concerns. Persecution, poverty, and armed conflicts (such as those in Syria and Ukraine) are the root causes of this predicament, forcing people to flee their home countries in quest of safety or a better life.

As millions of people migrate away from their countries of origin, they increase the burden on public finances, domestic policies, and change the economies, societies, and policies in both the sending and receiving countries. A recent World Bank study states that, since 1990, the number of people living abroad has increased from 120 million to over 281 million, or approximately 3.7% of the world's population. The record flows of migrants from 2015 to 2018 (258 million displaced people) have been surpassed in the current period (over 281 million) as a consequence of conflicts in Ukraine, Israel, and Arab countries [2].

According to writers who have researched the subject, migration is a real phenomenon that has fundamentally changed human society, economy, and culture since ancient times. Among them, the most well-known are: Ernest Ravenstein (Laws of Migration), Henry A. Kissinger (Diplomacy, World Order – where migration is analysed through the prism of armed conflict), Everett S. Lee (A Theory of Migration), Douglas S. Massey (Worlds in Motion: International Migration at the end of the Millennium), Saskia Sassen (The Mobility of Labor and Capital), Albert O. Hirschman (The Strategy of Economic Development – which analyses migration from an economic perspective). For the above-mentioned researchers, migration is a real

phenomenon that has existed since antiquity and has significantly altered human society, the economy, and culture. The Viking migration in the 7th and 11th centuries [3, p. 2], the European migration in the New World, the African migration, the Jewish migration, migration during the World Wars, and contemporary migration are the six main waves of migration that have occurred throughout history.

The phenomenon of migration [4, p. 95] has been changing and taking on new forms, with growing and concurrent migration processes taking place in many countries throughout the world. Multicultural societies could emerge as a result of this evolution, and new ideas about citizenship and national identity could be adopted as a result.

Migration analysis is a central issue for today's social, economic, and political environment since assisting migrants in resolving issues arising from this phenomenon and averting future challenges or unanticipated circumstances requires an understanding of the causes and effects of migration.

The analysis of migration needs to be approached from several perspectives, politics, economy and society being the most important ones. In addition, demographic, cultural and other factors should also be taken into account, but the need for a prompt response to the emergence of waves of migrants places the three previously mentioned aspects front and centre.

Since it deals with a complex phenomenon, the theoretical approach to migration involves a variety of disciplines: sociology, economics, anthropology, geography and political science, the most important theoretical dimensions of migration being: economic theory, sociological theory, political theory, anthropological theory and geographical theory. Analysis focusing on explaining human migration aims to describe the reasons, patterns and effects of migration within the framework of the scientific disciplines specified.

These theories address the factors that have a significant impact on the decision to migrate, including the economic, political, and social effects on both the country of destination and on that of origin, the interactions between migrants and natives, and the movement of people and how it affects every facet of society. They also provide the basis for the development of policies and strategies aimed at managing migration, both locally and internationally.

Internal and international organizations (such as the United Nations, FRONTEX agency, International Organization for Migration, etc.) have been established for this reason and are equipped with the resources, manpower, and the means needed to handle the migrant waves. In Romania, the issue is addressed by the General Inspectorate for Immigration, through local offices, in cooperation with the Ministry of Investment and European Projects.

With the expansion of this phenomenon over time, it has been examined from a number of angles, and scholars have developed theories to provide the most thorough explanation for migration. All the authors who analysed the

phenomenon contributed significantly to understanding it and developed theories aimed at explaining it.

The theories developed by researchers who have studied migration are the foundation for all theories that aim to provide a comprehensive explanation for the phenomenon of migration. These include the economic, social, demographic, cultural, political, climatic, and educational hypotheses.

However, the migration process is often the result of a complex combination of factors, and the causal relationship between the different migration hypotheses is not simple and straightforward. Migration hypotheses are interlinked and influence each other. For example, the social factor directly influences the economic factor and the political factor influences the economic, social and cultural factors. The political hypothesis of migration can also influence and be influenced by other hypotheses, as legislation and government policy can play a crucial role in shaping migration flows. Conflict and political instability in one country can drive migration to other regions or countries, and asylum and refugee policy can be a direct consequence of such events.

Over time, numerous models, explanations, and theories [5, p. 4] have been developed for these phenomena. Nevertheless, given that there are multiple causality types and forms that require analysis, reality does not always support the theory.

All types of territorial movement, such as relocating to a new home, place of employment, or nation of origin, are included in the category of international migration. This means a movement from the country of birth to a country internationally referred to as the 'country of destination'. The beginning of the 20th century marks an increase in migration, culminating in the current period characterised by armed conflict and a staggering rise in the number of relocated citizens. Thus, the proportions of migration have increased to the point where they may upset the area's population balance where migrants are moving.

The wave of refugees from Ukraine is one of the most significant migration waves of the modern era. Since March 2022 [6], millions of Ukrainian citizens have been forced to flee the conflict, first seeking safety in neighbouring countries such as Romania, Poland, and the Czech Republic before moving on to other countries in Europe.

The events of 2022, which started with the war in Ukraine, represented the biggest humanitarian crisis in recent years because the EU has not faced such a severe refugee problem since 2015. This migrant crisis has been generated by the fact that a third of Ukraine's citizens were forced to leave their homes and country. In less than half a year, more than 6.5 million Ukrainian citizens have been internally displaced and more than 4.8 million registered as refugees in E.U. states, 90% of them women and children – according to a July 6, 2022 analysis by the European Parliament [7].

Every participating nation gave refugees assistance and passage. According to a statement made by the UN refugee chief on November 2, 2022, the fact

that nearly 14 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes and conflict zones – many of them to other countries – is regarded as "the fastest and largest population displacement in decades". Currently, most asylum seekers are in Poland (approximately 1,469,32 people) and Germany (815,134 refugees) [8].

According to some German politicians, migration is not only a social crisis but also a great opportunity for labour market development and demographic change. However, the most pertinent conclusion on permanent migration today is that this complex and dynamic phenomenon, influenced by a multitude of social, economic, cultural and political factors, is largely driven by the desire to find a safe place to live, better working conditions and the attempt to avoid armed conflict.

While it is true that migration can foster innovation, cultural diversity, and economic growth in host nations, it will also drastically reduce the human resource base in the areas from which people are leaving, posing enormous political, social, and economic challenges for the destination nations. At some point, refugees will always face the local population's resistance to change.

For such reasons, migration is a phenomenon that is greatly influenced by international relations and global change, and dealing with it implies a thorough understanding of all the factors that contribute to it.

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