

*Kryzys migracyjny – destrukcja czy szansa?
Społeczne i pastoralne aspekty*

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History of migration on German territories – social, political or economic issues?

1. Preface

In this document a short description of the migration, that took place on the German territories, is presented. Due to the length of this work, it is not possible to cover all information in detail. The author's aim while arranging the text was to name all significant events and try to short describe them, not only qualitatively, but also qualitatively, when possible, in order to achieve some overview of the subject. Information available in the presented document covers only a small part of the whole knowledge of this topic, which sometimes could not be sufficient as a summary of the well written monography. Therefore, the Reader interested in the deepening of Her/His knowledge is pleased to look for further information in dedicated literature.

2. Scope of the work and definitions

Before the main part of the work takes place, the definitions of the crucial terms should be presented. Under the term *migration* the author understand the move of people in order to permanent life on the new area, but no strict time borders are determined. The term *German territories* could be different understood because of the complex history of the central Europe, where a huge number of states existed and the term *German* is also relatively new in the history of Europe. In this work the areas belonging already (2018) to the Federal Republic of Germany as well as belonging or controlled by the states that could be treated as the ancestors of FRG are taken into account. Because the main aim was to describe the migration in this part of Europe, the author did not pay a lot of attention to precisely determine the territories, which changed over the time, but the unity and continuity of the area should be maintained.

3. Migration Period

The first relatively well-documented events of the shift of meaningful numbers of people was Migration Period (around 2nd to 5th century), when many German Tribes, were moving to the West, being pushed by Huns. In this time people without advanced technology and military tactics caused the collapse of the West Roman Empire, which controlled south parts of the modern German state. Many tribe-states were established for next several centuries.

4. Holy Roman Empire Era

After the coronation of Charles the Great by Pope Leo III in year 800, the Holy Roman Empire was established. This date opened the history of the huge numbers of states, which were subordinate to the Emperor. Moreover, there were connected with themselves by feudal connection. The population was quite stable by many centuries and the culture evolved independently in every country. In the 13th century the German eastward expansion occurred. The new cities were located on the territories east from the Oder river and in the Prussia region. The Teutonic Order State, founded 1226, organized crusades to convert tribes living in Prussia to Christianity and tried to do so with stronger Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The expansion of German culture and nation took place up to 15th century.



Fig. 1. Invasion of the Roman Empire 100-500 CE

5. Luther's revolt

The great stroke for European civilization was given by the revolution started by Martin Luther in 1517 (95 Theses). It was the time of public burning of papers (1520, Leo X' Bull *Exurge Domine*) as well as promotion of antisemitism (1543, Luther's *On the Jews and their lies*). The objection of Luther against the Catholic Church was used by local rulers. As a result, the uprisings of peasantry took place.

During the loss of stability in the Holy Roman Empire, a lot of Church's goods were robbed and destroyed, what ended up in an economical depression and increased number of beggar on the streets – charitable actions of church were obstructed due to thefts and murders of clergy. The separation of church and state was broken and some rulers named themselves as heads of new states churches. Such disturbances were supported by the Ottoman Empire. Problems in Europe allowed them to conquer Balkan area and stay just before Vienna, where they were strongly defeated in 1683.

Direct results of Luther revolt were the following wars in the HRE, which started during his life: the Knight's Revolt (1522), the German Peasants' War (1524-1525), the Münster Rebellion (1534-1535), the Schmalkaldic War (1546-1547). Moreover, the Wars of Kappel (1529-1531), the Anabaptist riot in Amsterdam (1535) and the Bigod's Rebellion (1537) took place over the Europe. After Luther's death in 1546, the next wars started in HRE: the Cologne War (1583-1588), the Strasbourg Bishops' War (1592-1604), the War of Jülich Succession (1609-1610), the 30 Years War (1618-1648).

Apart from that, the French Wars of Religion (1562-1598), the Eighty Years War in Low Countries (1568-1648), the Huguenot Rebellion (1621-1629), the Wars of Three Kingdoms (1639-1651), the Savoyard Waldenstein Wars (1655-1690) and the First War of Villmergen (1656) took place on the religious background in Europe.

This extremely belligerent period, if compared with the previous centuries led to economic regress and demographic problems because on many deaths in battles as well as caused by plagues in the armies. Massive migration was observed after the Peace of Augsburg (1555) when the rule *Cuius regio, eius religio* was accepted. The monoreligious cities states were created and people had to move to the country of the same religion or to convert. The religious intolerance took place.

6. Napoleon Era

Wars caused by the Napoleon on the beginning of 19th century in the Europe, especially in the Central Europe, ended up in an abdication of Francis II and dissolution of HRE in 1806. In the same year the Rhine Confederation was established, while west parts of HRE were annexed/incorporated to the France. In this time massive armies marched through the central Europe many times, many soldiers died, especially during the Russian Campaign in 1812. It was the last time since the Migration period, when larger groups of people moved by the long distance only for military reasons.

7. 1848 Revolutions

During the Spring of Nations in 1848, also on German territories some revolutions took place. The result of persecution after the rebellion was a massive emigration of German residents. For example, approx. 80,000 people left Grand Duchy of Baden (5.7% of population). For the whole region, which later created the German Empire, approx. 1,200,000 people (2.6% of population) emigrated.

8. Prussian Era – German Empire

After the victorious war with France, in 1871 the German Empire was established. It was the period of time, in which many people emigrated from the country. Between 1887 and 1906 nearly 1,100,000 people moved out, approx. 90% of them to the North America. German Colonial Empire needed very few people, mostly for administration reasons. A significant movement to settle these areas was not observed. The population, however, increased, what was typical during the industrial revolution. The interesting institution established by the Prussian government was the Prussian Settlement Commission. It operated in years 1886 to 1918 in the Greater Poland, Kuyavia and West Masuria region thank to money donated by the government. Its main aim was the purchase of land from Poles (mostly Catholics) in order to enable the settlement of Germans (mostly Protestants)

9. I World War and Weimar Republic

Since 1898 the military service in Prussia became compulsory. This was one of the reasons, why on the I World War the personal losses, as a percentage of the society, was so high. The German Empire, with the population approx. 65 Millions, lost 2 Million of soldiers, mostly men, 0,4 to 0,8 Millions of civilians and 4,2 Million were military wounded. Germans moved from the lost territories (Alsace-Lorraine, Saarland, Greater

Poland, Kashubia) to the Weimar Republic, but the migration was not strong and the majority stayed on their places, as the score of the war was thought as not definitive. The men to women ratio was significantly lower than 1, especially among young adults, because of personal losses during the war. This fact and the Great Depression of 1030s have significant impact on the German society in the interbellum period.

10. Hitler's Era

In the 1933 Adolf Hitler became the chancellor of the Weimar Republic. His government started to create society without physical and psychical disabilities, homosexuals and races other than *Aria*. After the Night of Broken Glass in 1938, approx. 115,000 Jews emigrated from the Third Reich. During Hitler's government est. 42500 places were created, in which 15 to 20 Million of people were imprisoned or killed. The huge relocation programs were conducted in Nazi Germany. For example *Heim ins Reich* program ('back home to the Reich) in years 1939-1944 included approx. 867,000 Germans, that came back from territories controlled in this time by Soviet Union. After the Aggression on Soviet Union in 1941, the new government-controlled plan to increase German settlement on the East was introduced. It was *Generalplan Ost* (Main Plan for the East), which correspond with the doctrine *Lebensraum im Osten* (Living space on East). New German cities and towns as well as germanization of others were planned on the captured territories of USSR, that is in Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Belarussian and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics. The II World War brought for the Nazi Germany (pop. 69 Million) following personal losses: 4.4 to 5.3 Million of soldiers, 1.5 to 3.0 Million of civilians and 7.3 military wounded.

Territory of origin	Year	#
South Tyrol	1939-40	83k
Latvia and Estonia	1939-41	69k
Lithuania	1941	54k
Volhynia, Galicia	1939-40	128k
General Government	1940	33k
North Bukovina, Besarabia	1940	137k
Romania	1940	77k
Yugoslavia	1941-1942	36k
Soviet Union	1939-1944	250k
Summary	1939-1944	867k

Fig. 2. Back home to the Reich

11. Post-war Germany

Territorial losses of Germany after II World War covered vast regions, where many Germans lived. The victorious coalition decided to create in Europe states without significant ethnic minorities. As a result, a huge relocation programs were introduced in late 1940s. 31 Million people were moved from Central and Eastern Europe between 1944 and 1948. That includes 7 Million people moved from Poland and Soviet Union to Occupation Zones, 3 Million moved from Czechoslovakia to Occupation Zones and 2 Millions that died during relocation. As for expellees' place

of residence, 8.1 Million came to West Occupation Zones, 4.1 Million to East one and 0.4 Million came to Austrian territory.

The lack of men in labor force, caused by two great wars, could be observed during the rebuilding of state and especially later. In 1960 both German states signed treaties with different countries to invite temporary workers. Those were among others Spain (1960), Greece (1960), Turkey (1961), South Korea (1963), Morocco (1963), Portugal (1964), Tunisia (1965) and Yugoslavia (1968) for FRG and Poland (1965), Hungary

(1967) Mozambique (1979) and Vietnam (1980) for GDR. The policy was cut down in FRG due to Oil crisis in 1973. As for Federal Republic of Germany, in the years 1955 to 1973, 14 Million workers arrived and only 11 Million of them came back to their countries. The Schengen Agreement was signed in 1985 and the border controls between Belgium, Netherland, Luxemburg, France and Federal Republic of Germany were cancelled. After reunification in 1990 (GDR was incorporated by FRG), a large migration from the east to the west part of the FRG was observed. The reduction of the population in years 1990-1996 was up to 6% and was observed in every 'new Land'. In 2011 the labor market of FRG was open for new EU-countries. As a result, many people from those countries came to the FRG. Five years after the opening, the number of Poles increased from 470,000 to 780,000 and Romanians from 160,000 to 530,000. Because of the so-called migration crisis, the number of Syrians in the same time rose rapidly from 30,000 to 780,000. As of the end of 2016, there were 10 Million of foreigners in the country of the population of 82 Million. It is worth to mention, that most of them stayed in the west part of Germany.

12. Conclusions and outlook

The history of Central Europe is complex, diversified regions evolved. However, in the recent decades, the German diversity turned into multiracial diversity. Events from Luther revolution (burning of books, anti-foreigner proposals, creation of the Führer/leader) were repeated in the history, especially in the Nazi-Germany. Nowadays the borders between nations are not sharp like in the past, because of the rising number of cross-national marriages (see migration background). Great settlement plans were made and turned into reality in the past. Compared to them, the number of migrants during last 'migration crisis' should not scare. During last decades the technology (construction of buildings, logistics) developed so much, that handling with a few millions of people could not be any problem for European countries. Low total fertility rate of present inhabitants and significant immigration increases the rate of cultural and social changes. High taxes and high social benefits encourage rather lazy than productive people to immigrate to Germany – in contrast to America in 18th and 19th century.



Fig. 3 II World War

	2001	2008	2011	2014	2016
Turkey	1 947 938	1 688 370	1 607 161	1 527 118	1 492 580
Poland	310 432	393 848	468 481	674 152	783 085
Syria	27 389	28 459	32 878	118 196	637 845
Italy	616 282	523 162	520 159	574 530	611 450
Romania	88 102	94 326	159 222	355 343	533 660
Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo	656 685	532 322	404 690	456 107	454 245
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Total	7 318 628	6 727 618	6 930 896	8 152 968	10 039 080

Fig.. 4. Foreigners in Germany

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