

Johan Galtung: **MASS MIGRATION, EU, EUROPEAN NATIONALISMS** #427 09-05-16

Antwerpen, Alfaz: We are dealing with mass migration, basically into EU, and European nationalisms, many in favor of exits from the EU.

Why this mass migration, maybe to the point of Völkerwanderung, mainly into EU--but then what kind of EU--and why the European nationalisms now found one way or the other in many member states?

The forecast for migration from Africa into Italy in 2016 is about 100,000; 28,000 already arrived in the first quarter, with 1,000 drowning in the Mediterranean (INYT, 06-05-16). Big numbers. They knew the risks they were taking, so the push away from Africa and the pull towards Italy, and beyond, must have been considerable.

Better think in terms of 50 million migrants over 50 years, from regions considered uninhabitable to inhabitable regions. There seem to be five major causes underlying this basic world asymmetry:

- * Slavery, four centuries, depriving societies particularly of able-bodied males, by Arabs, then Westerners, cross-Atlantic transportation mainly by the English (Liverpool);

- * Colonialism, by Muslims after the death of the prophet in 632, from Casablanca to Southern Philippines, till the end of the 15th century, close to nine centuries, then by Christians close to five centuries, till colonialism was officially ended in the 1960s;

- * Robbery capitalism, stealing or paying next to nothing for resources processed into manufactured goods, pocketing the value added;

- * Wars, mainly initiated by the West, killing millions (the USA more than 20 million in 37 countries after WWII), destroying property;

- * Ecological factors, like depletion-pollution, often toxic for humans or nature, erratic climate partly due to climate gases, NOx, CO2, CH4.

These are the causes of poverty in some parts of the world but also of wealth in others; creating the asymmetry uninhabitable vs inhabitable by exploitation, becoming rich at the expense of others becoming poor.

That clearly applies to slavery, colonialism, robbery capitalism and many wars (the difference between bombing and being bombed). But the ecological factor hits both; so, the West attends to

that factor.

Anyhow, many think: Time has come to share more equitably this wealth.

Of 28 EU members 11 were colonial powers, 9 in Africa: England, Netherlands, France, Belgium-Luxembourg, Italy, Spain, Portugal, till the end of WWI Germany; all enriching themselves. To believe that the other 28 - 9 = 19 members will accept "quotas" for migration due to the violence of the 9--England-France particularly, in the Middle East by Sykes-Picot colonization*--is simply naive. EU has institutions, but has not managed fusion into a Europe of one for all, all for one.

EU today is an exploitative pyramid: Germany on top; 8 Northern-Germanic countries; 5 Southern-Latin countries with France, Ireland; 12 Eastern countries; Greece at the bottom. With inequity and quotas, not strange that nationalisms flourish, tearing EU apart. Remove the causes: England-France, pick up the bill; EU, flatten the pyramid.**

But that only solves the intra-EU problem, not the world problem of mass migration from parts of the world mainly damaged by the West. Migrating into the EU, over land and across the Mediterranean, with a small part into a USA protected by two major oceans from the problems they helped causing--except for migration via and from Mexico.

Mass migration is now an "industry" with "helpers", smugglers, drugs and trafficking, dubious migrants, police and military among them. But that does not detract from the role of the five root causes, even if all kinds of lesser causes and effects make them less visible.

EU redirects migrant flows from the Middle East to Turkey at high costs; the flow from Africa to Nigeria; NATO patrols the Mediterranean But these are at most stop gap measures. They are migrants not only from but to--to the colonial "mother countries", England and France.

Today they travel on foot, by bus, taxis--tomorrow by submarines (like drug smugglers), planes (many do) or by more massive numbers? Claiming a right to settle, uninvited, where much of their human and natural resources has been processed into the wealth of others--who also settled, uninvited. How do we handle this? Are there solutions?

5 Causes, 2 (groups of) Solutions For Each, Negative and Positive

Slavery

Negative: CARICOM leads in denouncing slavery, followed by ELAC Summit meeting in Quito; EU endorsing; joint history books (USA: Frederick Douglass testimony); mapping levels of slavery; museums-memorials.

Positive: EU-AU conciliation sessions; negotiate compensation.

Colonialism

Negative: South Africa leads in denouncing, followed by AU; others should join; joint history books on the experience.

Positive: EU-AU conciliation sessions; cover federation-confederation costs for multi-nation states and multi-state nations.

Robbery Capitalism

Negative: Documentation, like using Sevilla customs data calculating the value as debt of the resources robbed; "Hands Off Africa".

Positive: Africa processing its own resources; the Gaddafi 3 points; SSS trade also with China; lifting the bottom up; new infra-structure.

Wars

Negative: Stop killing (bombing, SEALs); how many killed in how many countries, like for USA; denounce events (like Berlusconi for 1911).

Positive: Use military defensively against IS violence; solve conflicts with "terrorists" (IS)--with "communists" (Vietnam) after they won.

Ecology

Negative: reduce CO₂+CH₄ levels controlling fossil fuels and fracking.

Positive: Switch to renewable non-polluting resources like sun, wind; increase diversity of biota and abiota resources; help with symbiosis (enough CO₂!); improve light-dark balance to absorb less solar heat.

Much more awareness is needed to understand the damage done. But three positive approaches,

from "trickling down" capitalism to lifting the bottom up, from offensive to defensive use of military, from victory to solution, could carry a far way, even quickly. Likely?

* To tilt the WWI power balance in their favor one century ago, the four colonies they created--instead of freedom for the Arabs--have been at the root of most Middle East problems. Take Syria as example, an artificial state constructed by Paris, with 7 built-in conflicts: with Israel-USA blocking for Eretz Israel (Golan is one aspect); with Russia if a government should deny Russia their only base (as opposed to at least 800 US bases); between minority Shia-Alawite dictatorship with tolerance for others and a majority Sunni dictatorship without; between Arab Muslims and others like Kurds, Turks, Christians, Jews; between Shia and Sunni and their countries, the Shia living in the Fertile Crescent; between Al Qaeda+ and foreigners; and between all of the above and the Islamic State. IS wants to undo Sykes-Picot and to recreate the Ottoman empire and their Caliphate without Istanbul; and see themselves as Islamic responses to the EU and the Vatican.

In so doing IS has a decisive advantage relative to "all of the above" who reify Syria as something sustainable with basic changes. IS relates to a reality where today's Syria is located that lasted four centuries, 1516-1916. They want to reconstruct a past based on provinces and proceed accordingly. This author would be surprised if Iraq as a state survives beyond 2020 and Syria as a state beyond 2025.

** If we collapse the top three and the bottom 2 levels 14 Western and 12 Eastern; with two islands 28. Add Turkey and the point of gravity moves further East, with Istanbul challenging Brussels. And what happens then to the migrants stranded in Turkey?