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Migration: A Pressing Issue for Northern Africa and the European Union

Southern Europe and Northern Africa share close borders – only separated by the Mediterranean Sea. However, the political climates of both regions are very different. Many Northern African countries experience corruption and unrest, while the European Union (EU) is relatively stable. Thus, Africans have pursued channelized migration to Europe for decades. Many migration waves have occurred. Recently, the post-WWII and Arab Spring-driven waves have driven Northern Africans to Europe.

In "The European Migration Crisis," Alberto Tagliapietra emphasizes the laws regulating African migrants and asylum-seekers that escape to European countries. Tagliapietra also describes how Niger and Ethiopia deal with new policies. In comparison, "Securitization of Migration in the EU and Africa" by Sibel Yanik Aslan discusses the European security efforts to stop illegal immigrants. Tagliapietra and Aslan consider migration issues from Northern Africa to the EU. They first mention the push and pull factors that cause migration, the EU's border control and funding policies, and why the EU struggles to unify its states' migration policies.

Political unrest, environmental degradation, and inequalities in income, healthcare, and education "push" many Africans from their own countries. Tagliapietra and Aslan discuss the 2011 Arab Spring conflict, where anti-government protests occurred in Tunisia, then spread over the Arab World (Aslan 157; Tagliapietra 2). Tunisians, Egyptians, Syrians, and other Arab

citizens protested income, education, and healthcare inequalities. For several years, these uprisings forced numerous Africans to leave their homes. Political corruption spread to other Northern African countries, such as Ethiopia, Niger, Mali, and Nigeria.

Furthermore, many Africans have unsuitable biological, chemical, and physical changes in their neighborhoods – a problem that Aslan defines as "environmental degradation." He argues that a rapidly increasing African population cause droughts, deforestation, overgrazing, and food shortages (Aslan 162). I believe Aslan should reconsider the definition of environmental degradation because only impoverished Africans live in these areas. Many people in Africa enjoy clean, healthy lives. Nevertheless, reluctant migration, or when people warily relocate because of unfavorable conditions, occurred throughout Africa because of political corruption, inequalities, and environmental degradation.

Combined with the push factors, the promise of stability and paid occupations "pull" migrants towards Europe. In the 1950s, the EU promoted migration because they needed labor workers after the devastating effects of World War II (Aslan 156). Europe wanted these immigrants since younger European generations increasingly attended college, so fewer people undertook the labor-intensive work. The jobs lured Africans, whose working opportunities were worse in their home countries. As migration grew, educated Africans moved to Europe for higher pay, resulting in an African "brain drain." Thus, Africa has the most emigrants globally, while Europeans have the most immigrants (Aslan 159). It became a cycle prompted by disruptive events: uneducated Africans fled to Europe, leading to a lower standard of living in Africa and a brain drain. Many Europeans, especially those in the workforce, became angry and overwhelmed with the number of Africans invading their homes, jobs, and overall lifestyle.

In "The European Migration Crisis," Tagaliapietra compares the many policies the EU created to control outside immigration. Firstly, after World War II's large influx of immigrants, the EU agreed to reconsider the Common European Asylum System. It came into effect in 1999 and "create[d] an open and secure European Union" (Tagaliapietra 4). The policy allowed for extensive flexibility within EU states, highlighting their disagreements. For example, each state assigned its application due date; Italy in 33 days, and Greece in 180 days – meaning each migrant has 180 days to fill out the application after first entering Greece. Acceptances also ranged; Germany accepted 71% of asylum-seekers, while Hungary only accepted 8% (Tagaliapietra 4-5).

Secondly, the EU instituted the Migration Partnership Framework (MPF) in 2016. Its main goal was to improve relationships with the "third countries," drawing immigrants "under a collective EU banner" (Tagaliapietra 12). The European Union agreed that partnering with African countries would solve migration issues on both sides. The MPF fought to return immigrants to their home countries and address the cause of irregular migration. It concentrated on the central Mediterranean Route to achieve its goal, specifically routes from Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal. To help African countries in hopes of counter migration, the European Union instituted the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), which gave 4.1 billion euros to African countries (Tagaliapietra 12). Nevertheless, the Migration Partnership Framework never focused sharply on the interest of these African countries.

"Securitization of Migration in the EU and Africa" furthers the conversation about the policies enacted to control migration. Starting in 1985, The Schengen Agreement allowed free movement among some European states while building metaphorical walls around others.

European countries increased their security to keep Northern Africans and other non-European societies out. Due to its harshness, the Schengen Agreement notoriously became known as "Fortress Europe." World War II previously used the term to separate the Nazi and English powers, but it changed meaning during the migration crises. Due to the Schengen agreement, migrant boats and illegal migrant paths became popular. More migrants died during their journeys. Furthermore, the Dublin Convention in 1997 agreed that refugees must seek asylum in the country where they first set foot. It greatly limited the options of migrants traveling by boat because not every European country shares a border with the Mediterranean Sea.

On the brighter side, the 2000 Cotonou Agreement gave funding for specific African states from the EU. Funding included transport, development, healthcare, energy, infrastructure, and other "permanent solutions for long-term development" (Aslan 167). The Cotonou Agreement decreased illegal immigration because of developing living conditions in poorer African communities and the support of a healthcare system. Nowadays, the EU and Africa work together to implement return migration and prevent illegal immigrants from applying for European jobs.

Both Tagaliapietra and Aslan consider the backlash towards European migration laws. For example, the Migration Partnership Framework assumed that members of the EU would work together to enforce peaceful relations. However, each EU country has different interests and histories regarding African immigration. Some countries, like the Balkans, are less willing to accept refugees from Africa. Moreover, the EUTF targeted Northern African countries cooperating more with the EU. Northern African countries with unethical leaders are less likely

to cooperate with the EU and, therefore, are less likely to receive funding. Unsurprisingly, these countries are the homes of most illegal African immigrants because of their corrupt governments.

Unlike Tagaliapietra, Aslan disregards the weaknesses of the EU migration laws he mentions. He argues that the EU tried creating a polished immigration system, but the "sensitivity of individual nation-states to protect their sovereignty" blocked those endeavors (Aslan 156). EU states want to protect their citizens, especially those who support the country's authentic nationality. For asylum policies to work, EU states should learn to cooperate on the national and regional levels. The increasing number of immigrants concerned EU citizens, especially when migrants seeking asylum in Europe quadrupled from 2013 to 2015 (Aslan 167). Governments debated the immigration regime, the level immigrants are allowed to take refuge in a country, and their rights in a settlement. Most concluded that immigration needed to decrease.

Both articles analyzed previously published research and used endnotes to cite their sources. For example, Aslan revolves his analysis around the research done at the Copenhagen School. The Copenhagen School concluded that overusing security would harm the migration system in Europe and Africa. Using other research papers, Aslan discusses the EU's security attempts with the Copenhagen School theory in mind. Tagaliapietra, on the other hand, analyzes data from previous asylum records. Each author provides good analysis and reasoning throughout their articles.

Because migration from Northern Africa to Southern Europe is a pressing issue, I believe both articles could have conducted interviews and surveys to gain new insights. It would have been adequate to investigate the opinions of Africans who desire to migrate and Europeans

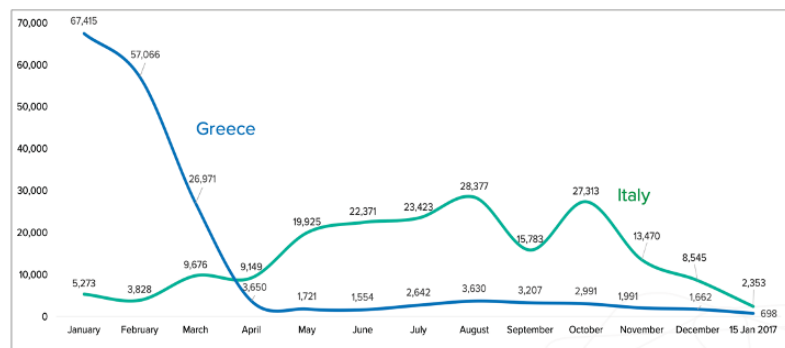
affected by the migration. To strengthen their articles, Tagaliapietra and Aslan can analyze prior EU migration policies and use conducted research to propose future migration policies.

Because "Securitization of Migration in the EU" and "The European Migration Crisis" are academic papers, their writing structures do not sympathize with lower reading comprehension. Both articles have similar ways of guiding the reader, but overall, "The European Migration Crisis" is easier to follow because it splits its argument into four points during the introduction. Each argument is thoroughly analyzed and leads swiftly into the next. Tagaliapietra uses line graphs to chart migration flows, which helps visual learners analyze and absorb information more easily. Tagaliapietra also provides examples of how immigration policies affect African countries, which also helps visual learners envision the real-life effects of the EUTF.

On the other hand, Aslan provides a clear abstract summarizing his main argument. It offers the reader an understanding of what they are examining. Aslan does not discuss the presentation order of his information. However, Aslan includes a picture of migrants in a boat headed toward Europe. The caption explains the picture quite well; there are 147 people, and they are all illegal immigrants. The photo elicits emotions from the reader. Due to increasing boat migration, Europe is concerned with its security. Many lose their lives during the journey. "The European Migration Crisis" also includes an easy-to-read graph about immigrants to Africa, migrants within Africa, and emigrates who leave Africa. It quotes important points in large letters that jump out to the reader. Visually, "The European Migration Crisis" captures larger audiences better.

Tagaliapietra and Aslan use past research to articulate conclusions on past immigration policies. They discuss different EU migration laws and whether they negatively or positively affected African immigration. Tagaliapietra offers examples of policies that affected African countries Niger and Ethiopia. Africa and Europe must collaborate and explore better laws to control irregular migration.

Figure 1 | 2016 monthly arrivals to Greece and Italy



Source: UNHCR Bureau for Europe, *Weekly Report Key Figures Mediterranean*, 20 January 2017, p. 1, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/53108>.

A line graph used in Tagaliapietra's article, *Securitization of Migration in the EU and Africa*.



A Libyan coast guardsman stands on a boat during the rescue of 147 illegal immigrants attempting to reach Europe off the coastal town of Zawiyah, 45 km west of the capital Tripoli, on June 27, 2017.

TAHA JAWASHI / AFP via Getty Images

A picture used in Aslan's article, *European Migration Crisis*.

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