

Why do people migrate? Evaluating Syrian migration towards EU.

Master's Thesis

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Cover photo: slideshare.net

List of Abbreviations

EU	European Union
UN	United Nation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
CEAS	Common European Asylum System

Abstract

International migration is a nexus of diverse and complicated phenomena, often seen from various angles. Some people move because their interests pull them, while others move because circumstances prevent them from remaining in their original location. Individual resolution for migration goes through evaluation of the future, putting the cost on the other side. Reasons for migration can be different based on individual and group dynamics. In most cases, migration happens to the wealthy, safe, and accessible regions. Also, the United States and European countries are known for welcoming asylum seekers and helping them get started in their new home.

The main purpose of my thesis is to find out the key determinants of migration for which people decide to migrate. All the factors will be evaluated under macro, meso and micro theories. Push and pull factors are one of the major determinants for migration. Critically, under social system factors, migration takes place differently. Moreover, I will try to present what motivated or compel Syrian people to migrate and further find their way to the EU as classified migrants. Moreover, the Syrian case will be scrutinized under the Social System and Push-Pull theory in my paper to get a better understanding of the causes. I will attempt to investigate migration as a sociopolitical crisis.

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1.Introduction

1.1 Background

According to Pieter Kok, “Migration is defined as the crossing of the boundary of a predefined spatial unit by one or more persons involve in a change of residence” (Pieter Kok 97-99). But looking for a single definition of any Migrant is challenging and that is why United Nation (UN) stated migrant “A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least one year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence”. Though this definition is not accepted in all manners, but it is based on person’s homeland, citizenship and previous or next residency. (understandfreemovement.eu).

As per International Organization for Migration (IOM), a Migrant is “any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/ her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person’s legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is” (Castell F-2018).

Calculated number of migrants has got sharp increase over last fifty years. According to the 2020 migration report, currently 281 million international migrants worldwide which is 3.60 percent of the total global population. (IOM-2020). People are moving by a plethora of ways motivated by variety of factors. More than 244 million international migrants were estimated to live in a foreign country in 2015. (Castell F-2018). On 1 January 2019, there were 21.8 million residents in EU countries with non-EU citizenship, accounting for 4.9 percent of the EU-27's population. Roughly another 13.3 million people who reside in one of the EU27 countries were inhabitants of another European nation on the same time scale. (europarl.europa.eu).

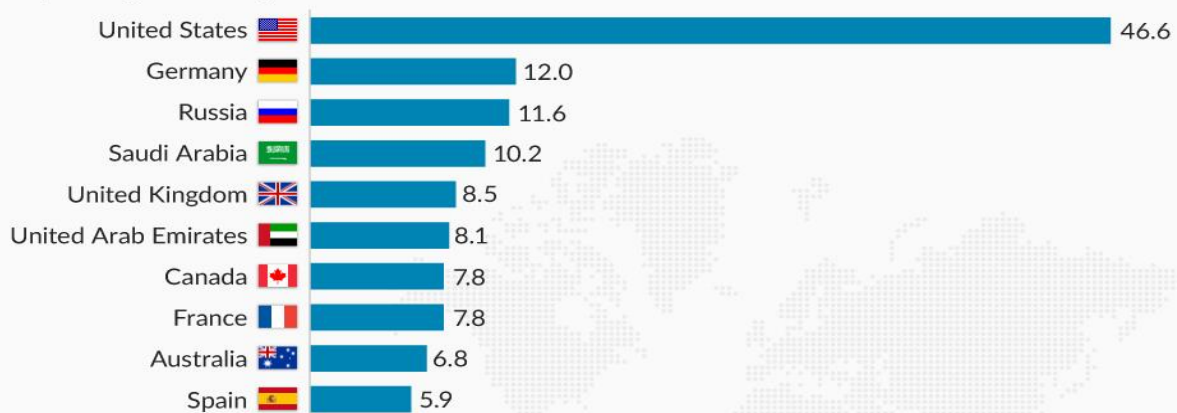
The United States is the most desired country in international migration hosting for the migrants worldwide since 1970 (Martin Armstrong-2022). Europe has taken 87 million migrants and Asia 86 million migrants and that is combined 61 percent of global migrant number. In 2000 to 2020

period Asia encountered a large shift by 74 percent, Europe got a shift by 30 million, North America by 18 million and Africa by 10 million. (IOM-2020) Thousands of people endangering their lives through ships and raft boats trying to cross Morocco to reach Spain, packed in trucks from Turkey to reach Europe. According to United Nation (UN) over 300000 people migrated towards Europe from North Africa and Middle East only in 2015 which was almost 40 percent higher than 2014. (Kaplow L.-2015).

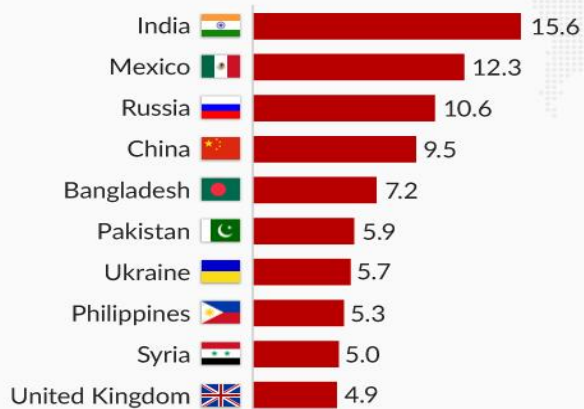
Which countries host and send the most migrants?

Number of migrants resident in/sent by country as of 2015 (million)

Top 10 migrant hosting countries



Top 10 migrant sending countries



@StatistaCharts

Source: United Nations

indy100

from The INDEPENDENT

statista

Migrants hosting and sending countries with numbers(million)- 2015

Source- Niall McCarthy-2017. Statista.com

Migration Destinations & Origins

Top destination and origin countries
of international migrants in 2020



Figures as of mid-2020
Source: United Nations

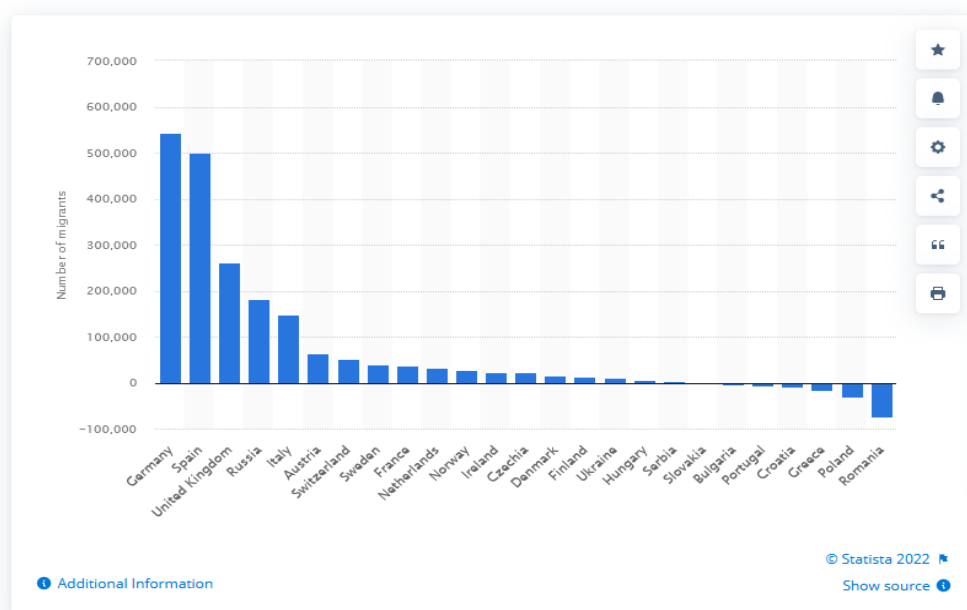


statista

Migration destination and origin countries in with numbers(million)- 2020

Source: Martin Armstrong-2022.Statista.com

Net migration in selected European countries in 2020



Net migration in selected European countries in 2020

Source- D. Clark-2022. Statista.com

In 2020 Germany had the highest net migration figures in Europe at over 543 thousand people, while Romania had the lowest with negative net-migration figure of almost 74 thousand. After Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom had the second and third highest net-migration figures in that year, at 498 thousand and 260 thousand respectively.

1.2. Motivation and Problem Formulation

Evaluating the factors or causes of migration is the core of migration studies. It is also important to explore human shifting from one place to another. A huge number of people who migrate have entwined causes of migration. Economic factor has been a crucial factor in relation to migration decision. Armed violence and security factors are also key drivers of migration. For example, West Africa and Afghanistan. Reason or motivation for migration vary in terms of route of origins. (Bram Frouws et al -2022).

“People on the route from the Horn of Africa towards Yemen and Saudi Arabia, for example, are primarily moving for economic reasons, while those moving from the Horn towards North Africa and Europe are also moving because of a lack of rights. People may choose different destinations according to their primary needs, but perhaps also to their expectations about what destinations countries will offer.” (Bram Frouws et al -2022).

In my thesis I would, try to define and explain the causes of migration. Moreover, factors acting behind the migration and motivation of the migrants will be evaluated critically in my thesis.

Thus, I set my research question “*Why do people migrate? Evaluating Syrian migration towards EU.*” With this research topic I will be in a quest to dissect the fundamental causes of migration and will supplement my paper with how Syrian migration move towards EU.

I have chosen this specific topic as in the present world people are facing hegemony in terms of social, national, or global. We have seen how religious dominance or pressure from one group to another makes people’s lives uncertain in their own territory, and because of that, they escape. Wealthy and strong-defended countries use hard power over other countries and compel people to leave. Sometimes terrorism-affected areas of the world also push people to move. On the other hand, there must be some sorts of factors in terms of choosing a destination that need to be evaluated. That is why how Syrian migration took place to Europe will also be a case study in my research under the social system.

1.3 Objective

My research would be based on applicable theory, analysis of the factors, and empirical study to find the reasons for transnational migration. What is the hidden motivation of the migrants for making a shift from origin to destination? This would be evaluated from different perspectives. Moreover, how the route of Syrian migrants turned towards the EU and what factors compelled them to choose the EU would be the case study of my paper. Under the push-pull factors and social system, I will try to clarify the Syrian case along with empirical study.

The main purpose of my thesis would be to unveil and evaluate the causes of migration from various dynamic angles. Therefore, I will go through in search of why people are migrating under socio-political issues, and lastly, I will present how the Syrian migration case turned towards the EU to support my research from a practical migration perspective.

1.4 Literature Review

Peter Stalker in his book *“The no-nonsense guide to international migration”* has explained migration factors in a specific manner. He evaluated the reason of migration as the people think they will be privileged in the migrated nation. Some success stories after migration also presented. Every migrant carries their own motivation for migrating where commonalities in terms of motives also visible as well. He also showed, not all the people migrate for being poor or economic reason. (Peter Stalker -2008).

“Côte d’Ivoire, for example, with a per capita GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of \$1,600, is by global standards a poor country yet relatively few of its people leave. The Netherlands on the other hand is one of the world’s richest countries, with a GDP per capita of \$31,789, yet in 2005 more people were leaving than arriving.” (Peter Stalker -2008). He argued that presence or absence of border control of countries cannot determine the migration reasons in all cases.

Another literature *“Why people migrate”* by Population Bulletin explained the step of migration is not an easy matter to that being decided. The basic reasons for migration have been categorized

economic and non-economic. Migration has been influenced by Push pull and network factors as described. (Population bulletin-1996).

“Individuals may be influenced primarily by one factor (for example a job offer) but also motivated by non-economic factors such as the chance to join family members or the desire to experience life in another country. Poor job prospects at home might provide a push toward the decision to migrate. Networks interacts with the push and pull factors by providing the information and means necessary to move.” (Population bulletin-1996).

Factors That Determine Migration

Type of migration	Factors encouraging migration		
	Pull/demand	Network	Push/supply
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guestworker programs • Recruitment • Company transfers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job information from employers, the media, compatriots • Labor recruiters and smugglers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment/underemployment • Low wages
Noneconomic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family reunification, marriage • Personal desire to live abroad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and communications networks • Communities of family and friends • Refugee assistance organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War • Political and religious persecution

(Population bulletin-1996)

Here, in the table, factors of Push pull and network under the category of economic and non-economic have been described.

The literature evaluates Network as non-economic factor and that is why migration flow from a specific place does move around the globe rather to a specific territory. Germany’s ‘Guest worker program and Malaysian ‘Rubber plant program’ cited as pull factors. Whereas population growth, violence and persecution and economic reconstruction have been presented as push factors. (Population bulletin-1996).

Maciej Duszczyk in his book *“Why Do People Migrate? Labour Market Security and Migration Decisions”* elaborated people’s tendency of migration based on logical structure. He stated that, individual decides migration by comparing the positive and negative factors of origin and hosting country. (Maciej Duszczyk-2019)

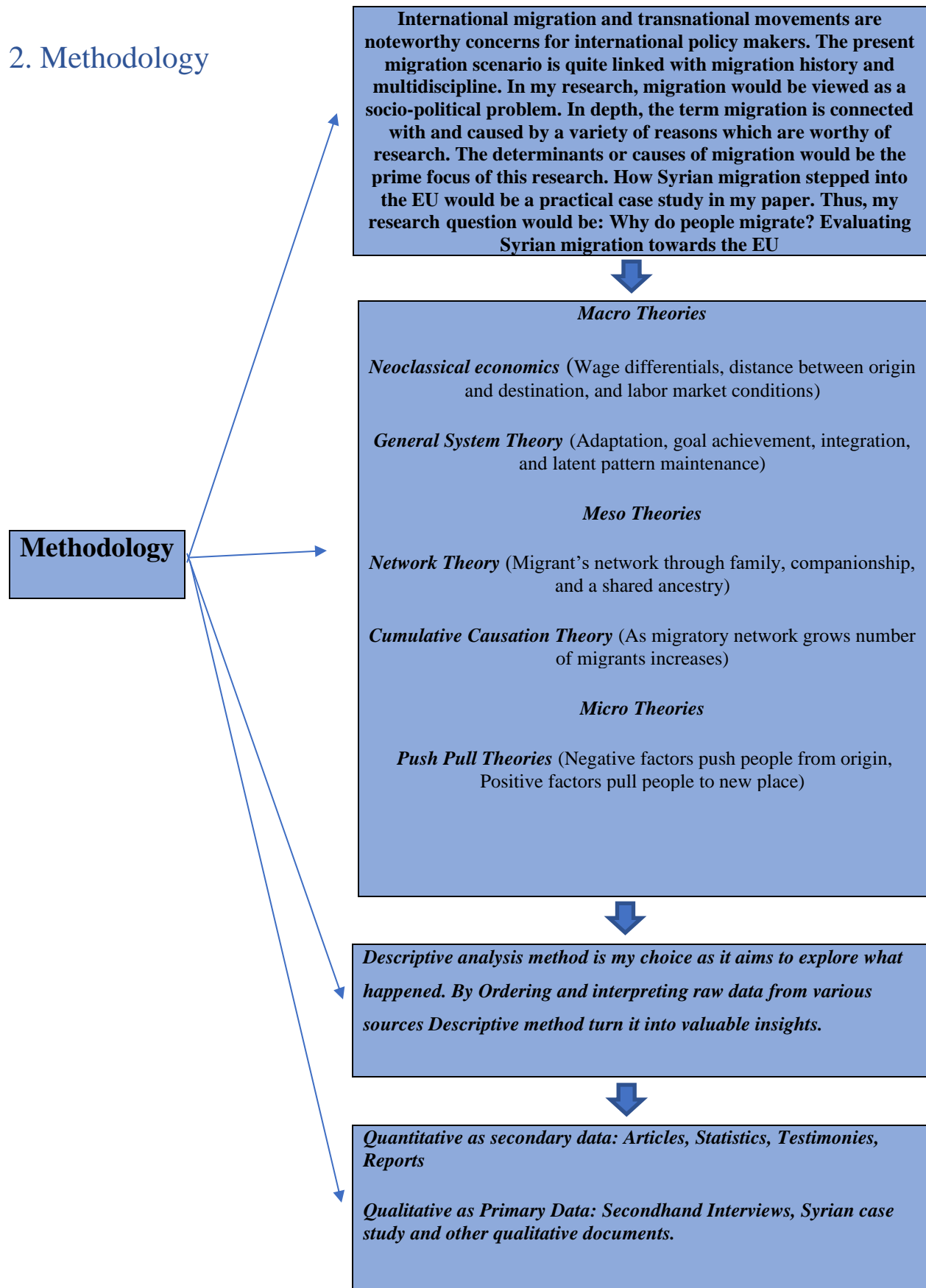
“Scholars nonetheless emphasize the lack of a consistent catalogue of causes which would allow an explanation of why only a part of a population decide to adopt the migration strategy within the period of their economic activity”. (Maciej Duszczyk-2019).

Different factors motivate migration decision of different individual. There is a variety of difference on motivation why a high qualified professional or unskilled worker or natural or war refugee migrating to a new place. In Maciej’s book four types of factors are mentioned in terms of causes of migration.

- i. Push factors typify the origin territory.
- ii. Pull factors typify the hosting destination.
- iii. Extraneous hindrances
- iv. Individual factors.

“According to the push-pull model, a migration-related decision is taken on the basis of a crucial disparity between the two localizations. In this context, ‘push and pull factors ’ interact with each an individual ’ s resource pool, needs and experiences. The decision to migrate is a complex compromise between the incentives to go, the capacity to go, and the perceived costs and benefits.” (Maciej Duszczyk-2019).

2. Methodology



2.1 Theoretical Justification

Migration principle is an extensive and thoroughly researched field. There'll now no longer be a scarcity of theoretical paintings which can draw up. In my studies, as a whole, it's been critical that I've a phenomenon or problem to hand that is based upon the prevailing studies and opens up a hall to discover my instructional reflections and findings (Faist, 2000).

The first point is that it is a relatively well-known issue — migration, of course, has always happened, and older people have undergone more dangerous voyages to reach their desired location.

Descriptive studies questions can occasionally cause very simplistic conclusions – however, this paper delves right into a complicated problem, which calls for theoretical and analytical reflections (Tuominen, 2017). Why do migrants embark upon such risky routes so that they can reach Europe? This trouble calls for deep analysis, and that is what we are seeking for to recognize on this paper. According to the points, there are enough theoretical grounds to evaluate the studies question. (Aneta Haimannová- 2015).

Explanatory power of international migration theories	Derived variable	Measurable indicator	Estimation results
Neoclassical economics	Wage difference between countries	Log GNP p.c. ratio	+ effect Asylum migration
World system theory	Material and cultural linkages between countries	Log trade	Insignificant
Network theory	The size and quality of the network of the migrant population of the home country	Log migrant stock	+ effect Asylum migration Immigration
Cumulative causation (Demographic context)	Accumulation of various social factors in the home country	Share of urban population in the home country	+effect Immigration
		Growth of labour force in the home country	+ effect Immigration

		Log population in the home country	+ effect Immigration
System approaches: Economic context	Economic characteristics of the home country	Log home GNP.	-effect Asylum
System approaches: Political context	Political repression in the home country causing the asylum migration	Political rights, civil liberties	+ effect Immigration
		Political terror scale	+ effect Asylum migration

Source: Aneta Haimannová- 2015

2.2 Method of Research

My paper will employ numerous study techniques to apprehend the subject at hand. Here I will use both qualitative and quantitative data. Firstly, my research will include quantitative information, broadly speaking in facts and information, as a way to assist, apprehend the scope of the migration inflow from the applicable regions. In preferred terms, quantitative information affords a completely preferred assessment of an issue. It permits the researcher to shape a few generalized conclusions on a given issue. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

I will try to apply Social capital and Network theory, Socio political, Demographic, Economic and Environmental angle to investigate the reasons of migration. On the other hand, Push-Pull and Social system will be my tools to scrutinize the Syrian migration to Europe. Empirical study will be based on Syrian case in my paper to have realistic investigation.

Similarly, my research also includes qualitative information, consisting of articles, testimonies, secondhand interviews, reviews and different qualitative documents. This studies technique may be the premise of the studies paper, and there are numerous motives for this. Primarily the problem in my thesis paper, is a qualitative issue, and I am looking to apprehend the complexities of why migrants from a specific area migrate even after overcoming the risks. (Bhattacharjee-2012).

My point of departure in terms of period would be 2015 as a flood of migration flowed on that time scale. Statistics as quantitative data will enable me to get a general overview. (Young-Jun Lee-2017). I will try to figure out the causes that compel or attract migration seeker to leave their home country or move to a new nation and will put some light in relation to socio political overview. Syrian case will be in focus in my thesis as from this part of the world most of the migrants crossing through. Why they migrated and how they found their destination to the EU.

2.3 Limitations

Obviously, my thesis paper will be affected by some shortcomings. Firstly, migration is a huge ground to work with and within a short period of time, scaling all the facts related to migration is a challenge. Secondly, it is more challenging to get all the required data related to conflict persuaded regions. Thirdly, access to the information in the site of the pushing countries is restricted in broad view which is a gap for my paper. Lastly, I tried to include firsthand interview with the Syrian migrants to solidify my paper but due to language barriers and time limitation it was not possible.

3. Choice of Theories

3.1 Overview

Analyses of the assumptions withinside the theoretical framework of migration towards Europe and effects of empirical studies that have seemed throughout the 20th century are vital for evaluating the present-day methods and complicated models. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Some crucial theories related to international migration was introduced by Massey et al. (1993). However, an unified single theory of migration still not discovered. *Massey claims*, “at present, there is no single, coherent theory of international migration, only a fragment set of theories that have developed largely in isolation from one another, sometimes but not always segmented by

disciplinary boundaries”. (Massey, 1993: 432). On the other hand, *Bodvarsson and Van den Berg* disagreed with the statement: “While there is a strong tendency in the literature to distinguish between domestic (internal) and international (external) migration, there is actually just one economic theory of migration. In mainstream economics, the theory of why people migrate is simply an application of the human capital model; migration is an investment in one’s well-being.” (Bodvarsson and Van den Berg, 2013: 1).

The research subject of migration includes various sides and components that might be discussed in relation to this paper's research issue. Most academic areas, on the other hand, can be divided into three categories. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

The first one is called Macro or grand theory which is broad theoretical approach that evolved to include as many examples as possible - this classification of theories has the highest level of abstraction. Then there's Meso theory, which is a type of theoretical approach with a medium level of complexity and research scope. The third classification of theoretical approach is at the Micro level– as the name implies, this type of theory will focus on specific cases and contexts. (Gregor-2006), (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

My research is focused on migration determinants or causes and that the reasons why people choose even a dangerous route to migrate from their origin. As a result, it makes sense to concentrate on the specifics of these examples, but there will also be generalizations that are common and shared across settings; these viewpoints will also be beneficial to provide. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

I will try to investigate migration factors using Macro, Meso and Micro theories. These includes Neoclassical, System approach, Network, Cumulative causation and Push-pull theories.



4.1 Macro Theories

4.1.1 Neoclassical economics

“The basic model of neoclassical theory highlights that migration results from interregional wage differentials, distance between origin and destination, and labor market conditions such as the unemployment rate as factors determining migration” (Young-Jun Lee-2017).

Samers (2010: 55-56) points out based on Ravenstein’s ‘laws of migration’ that Migrants move mainly over short distances; those going longer distances head for the great centres of industry and commerce. Most migration happens from agricultural to industrial area. Surprisingly, large towns grow more by migration than by natural increase. Migration increases along with the development of industry, commerce and transport. Every migration flow produces a counter stream. Noticeably, Females are more migratory than males, at least over shorter distances; males are a majority in international migration. The major causes of migration are economic. (K. Russel-2012).

Macro-level assessments frequently consider migration movements in the context of global systems and often there is a three-way interaction between the nations where migration flows to and from, and the migrant relationships. In different cases international organizations also plays a role in this context. Apparently, variety of variables influence direction and decision of migrants while above mentioned tools take role of shaping as well. Political structure, bureaucratic power, civil unrest changes the migratory fluxes. Internal rules of some nations ease the flows of migration and thus network migration forms. Existing international guidelines on the other hand affect migration transparently. (Faist-2000).

4.1.2 General System Approach

System theories did not openly refer to migration in its previously; yet, there are assumptions within that paradigm that pertain to migration. The main components of such ideas can be used to explain international migration. The *Social System Model* is one of these system theories. The premise here is that everyone acts in their own self-interest while also taking into account the expectations of their counterparts. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

According to Eisenstadt, the *four* functions that ought to be attained by any community are adaptation, goal achievement, integration, and latent pattern maintenance, which are sometimes abbreviated as AGIL. (Eisenstadt, Shmuel N.-1954).

Migration can be clarified under the circumstance where an individual can't find survival and welfare for own and family. Society is incapable of providing a certain standard and that is called scarcity of *adaptability* what prevails in that nation. *Goal accomplishment* is variable that depends on lots of factors and migrant can't be confident about their goal accomplishment by the providing of their community. People decides to relocate as an outcome of feeling insecurity about their nation what they think can't match their economic ambitions. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Insufficient opportunity for the migratory people what makes a vibe of non-inclusion in the community or nation can be defined as *integration*. In that case, political migrants are epitome who relocate depending on their ideology or belief. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

When society fails to provide an appropriate living pattern can clarify the term *pattern maintenance*. A lot of things can be included with this term. To be precise, migrants leave their own territory with a belief of different life pattern what exists in other territory and not in their own nation. Relocation of people in 90s to Afghan territory could be a classic example. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

4.2 Meso Theories

4.2.1 Network Theory

Migrants, ex migrants, and non-migrants of origin country and host country get connected through family, companionship, and a shared ancestry of Migrant Network. This network increases international migration as it reduces costs and uncertainty and maximizes profits. Mass use their network or links as social capital for searching jobs in the western countries. When the number of migrants hits a certain threshold, network growth reduces the costs and dangers of migration raising the possibility of migration, which leads to more migration, which leads to further migration, and so on. (Light, Bhachu & Karageorgis, 2017), (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Migration network theory addresses the cumulative causation of migrating owing to lower social, physical, and emotional costs of migration as a result of the establishment of migration networks (Light, Bhachu, & Karageorgis, 2017).

By introducing a social component, network theory reinforces traditional mechanical and economic "push and pull" ideas, especially world-process variations. Despite this, current migration network assessments overlook the relevance of these networks in expanding the immigrant economy in destination cities. This function is fulfilled by the migration network, which fosters migrant entrepreneurship. (Light I, Bhachu, & Karageorgis, 2017), (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Networks promote the flexibility of migratory fluxes in two ways. First, once migrant networks reach a certain size, they develop into a self-contained social structure that promotes immigration. Here, networks reduce the social, physical, and emotional costs of migrating. Through networks migrants receive substantial aid in organizing transportation, seeking housing and jobs in their new area, and making a good psychological and emotional adjustment to what is usually a difficult cultural marginality situation. These benefits and direct support of networks make migration easier, allowing those who might otherwise remain at home to relocate. Migrant networks facilitate the settlement of the migrants and getting established in society. help migrants settle in and establish communities. Migrant communities provide their own social and economic structures, like unions, clubs and so on. (Light, Bhachu, & Karageorgis, 2017). (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

4.2.2 Cumulative Causation Theory

“The theory of the cumulative causation of migration posits that as migratory experience grows within a sending community, the likelihood that other community members will initiate a migratory trip increases”. (Elizabeth Fussel-2010).

Cumulative causation theory (Massey et al. 1987, 1994; Massey 1999, 1990a) is enticing as a framework for understanding migration processes because it focuses on a variety of migration perspectives from various fields of study and merges them into a single general theory (Massey 1999a).

This analytical integration is made feasible by focusing on immigrant families and social networks, which both impact and are affected by different macro-structural variables that have been claimed to shape international migration by range of disciplines. However, by focusing on immigrant social networks, the theory does not deny the reality that specific structural circumstances are required to commence the outflow of migrants overseas. (Bachmeier J.D., Bean F.D.-2009).

As according to adapted form of cumulative causation, the maturity of migration networks in a given sending community drives both the number of migratory outflows and the kind or composition of flows. (Massey et al. 1994). Communities with longer out-migration histories, and hence more mature migration networks, had bigger and more diversified out-flows than areas with shorter migration histories and more recently created networks. In short, the volume and political and social variety of migrant outflows grow in proportion to one another, and both are influenced by the maturity of the outgoing community's migration network system. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Overall cumulative causation theory says, factors other than migration networks become less significant over time, yet migration networks at their beginning may be self-evolving and cumulative, with migratory behaviors having inner self. Migrating behaviors are accepted within the migration group when they are assimilated as derived patterns that transcend conscious control.

As a result, migrant networks survive even if the settings that led to the original migration behaviors have altered or if outsiders regard the migration behaviors as illogical (Amaral, Ernesto FL,2018), (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

The theory has a disadvantage in that it analyzes migrants' social networks as network linkages connecting groups of departure and groups entering, which requires researchers to tally the number of contacts a migrant has at their location prior arrival. (Liang Y, 2014), (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

4.3 Micro Theories

4.3.1 Push Pull

At Micro level, migration is the consequence of individual 'rational actors' weighing the advantages and drawbacks of relocating vs staying based on plentiful knowledge about the possibilities.

Sjaastad (1962) evaluated the results of this cost-benefit analysis as a migration decision based on returns on the individual's investment in human capital; this approach was then extended to the 'international immigration market' by Borjas (1989).

In this scenario, the expenses are tied to the financial and psychological variables that are incorporated into the relocating and integrating process in the target country (Boswell, 2002).

Benefits include things like a greater wage and physical safety, for example (Boswell, 2002). The micro viewpoint is critical for understanding "how individuals internally analyze and appraise the numerous variables causing migration" (Boswell, 2002), (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

As a result, the micro theory serves as a check on the macro and meso theories, demonstrating how individuals make judgments based on objective and relational criteria (Boswell, 2002).

The push and pull variables associated with migration are one component of the micro theories. This theory is the most significant on the micro-level of theories since it outlines the causes of

migration in a clear and unambiguous manner. Lee was the first to establish and formulate the push and pulled paradigm at the individual level in 1966, by examining the "supply and demand side of migration" (Hagen-Zanker, 2008), (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

In this project's context, push factors are the circumstances that "push" or lead a migrant to leave Syria as their home country. War, for example, is a negative push force that worked in that case. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

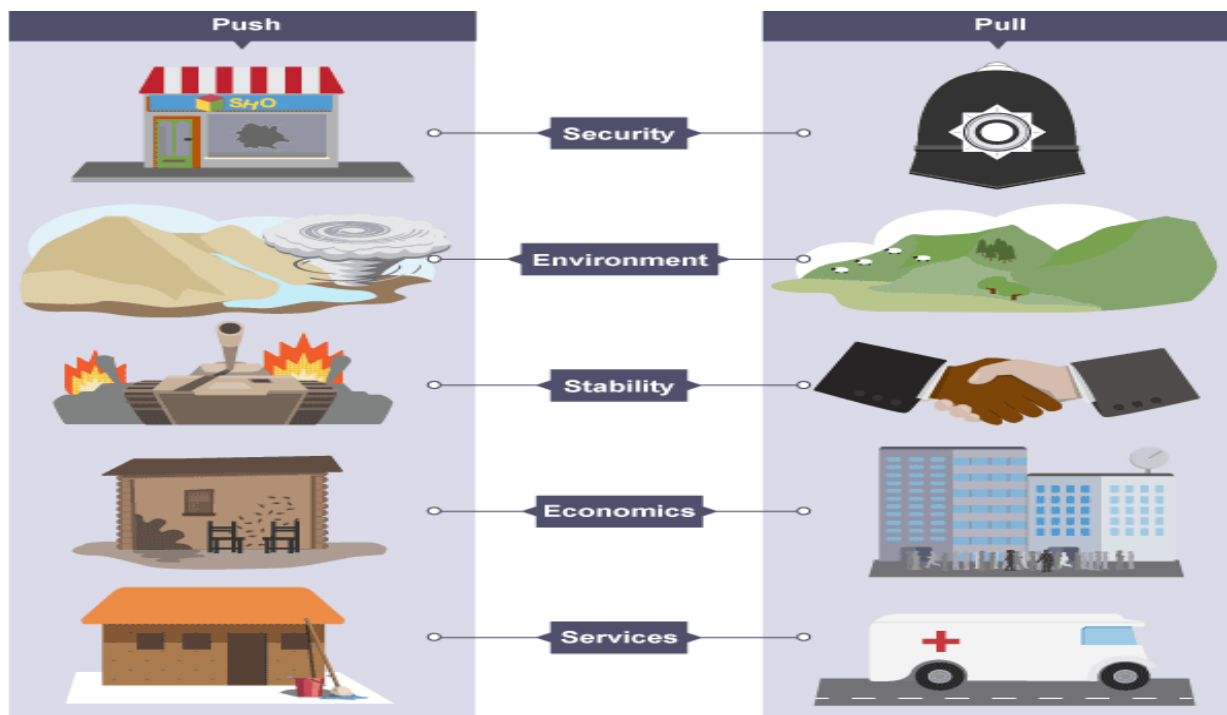
In Syria, the principal driving force is the continuing civil conflict between the rebels and the country's president, Bashar al-Assad (Sam Bauer, no date). Life uncertainty, no future perspective, no food, no clean water, no hygiene possibility, no work, no income, no education, a destroyed Syria with no end of the war, no peace, economically unstable, corrupt, ruled by force, a life of danger every day, no aid, no medical treatment possibility are the main factors pushing Syrians out of their country towards neighboring countries or Europe. As a result, fear led millions of Syrians to take the dangerous routes and vehicle to flee. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Pull factors being considered positive as for a hope of hygiene, a future with perspective, education, work, family, higher salary, feeling welcome with open arms, food and running clean water, economically stable country and democratic country, peace, hope, aid and medical treatment possibility people leave their home country. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

5. Analysis

Security, human rights, poverty, natural disasters, ethnicity, and so on are only a few examples as causes of migration. Economic, environmental, political, and social variables influence migration. In both the way from the migrant's home country (push factors) or in the country of destination (pull factors)

Push factors are the reasons people leave a country. Pull factors are the reason they move to a particular country.



Push & Pull factors behind migration. (Migration Trends-bbc.co.uk)

Migration can be defined as mobility of the people from one place to another. Migration could be self-intended or forced, legal or illegal. There are various sorts of factors behind the migration process. People flee to secure their own life, sometimes for a better lifestyle or even for pressures.

Categorization of Migration

Economic migration	In search for a job or dream career people migrate under Economic migration.
Economic migration	In search for a job or dream career people migrate under Economic migration.
Political migration	Here to escape from political punishment and even from war people migrate.
Environmental Migration	Natural calamities compel people to migrate under this category.

(Migration Trends-bbc.co.uk)

5.1 Socio Political Factors

People may be forced to leave their nation due to persecution based on their ethnicity, religion, racial group, politics, or tradition. War, terrorism, and political punishment, or the threat of them, are all key factors. Humanitarian refugees are more likely to leave military insurrection, arbitrary detention, or persecution. This will have a repercussion on where they try to settle because some countries are more ambivalent than others when it comes to humanitarian migrants. These people reasonable flee to their nearest safe nation in search of asylum. People have been fleeing to Europe in significant numbers in past few years, fleeing violence, terrorism, and torture at homeland. (News-European parliament-2020).

More one fourth of the 295,800 asylum applicants granted asylum identity in the EU in 2019 came from war and terrorism affected country Syria as in first position, Afghanistan in second position and Iraq in third position. (News-European parliament-2020).

5.2 Demographic and economic factors

Demographic fluctuations determine the way of people's migration. Fluctuations in masses and age groups effect on economy and career prospects not only in their homeland but also in the host country's legislation system. Labor policies, job availability, inflation, growth in the economy more or less placed with this type of migration. Better incomes, greater job alternatives, a better and quality life, and access to better education sorts of pull factors. When poor financial conditions prevail and appear to be on the verge of worse, more people will likely relocate in where they could grab a higher, better and stronger foundation. (News-European parliament-2020).

UN international organization stated, 'people who migrate for seeking employment are defined as migrant workforce and almost they are 164 million in 2017 which is two third of world's migration. Amongst the migrant workers, 70 percent, 18.6 percent, 10.1 percent and 3.4 percent secured them in high, upper-middle, middle and low-income countries respectively.' (News-European parliament-2020).

5.3 Environmental factors

People have traditionally fled natural hazards like floods, storms, and earthquakes, volcano, tsunami because of the environment. Climate change, on the other hand, is projected to intensify more natural disasters, implying that more people will be forced to relocate. According to the *International Organization for Migration(IOM)*, "Environmental migrants are those who for reason of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad." (News-European parliament-2020).

Due to considerations such as increase in population, welfare dependency, democratic control, humanitarian assistance, and violence and so on quantify the range of environmental migrants worldwide became challenging. By 2050, as projected range could be is from 25 million to 1 billion. (News-European parliament-2020).

5.4 Perspective of Social capital and Network migration

Other than push pull factors, Network theory explore correlations in between people who already migrated and how migration being facilitated through network. One of the links or networks is considered as social network that facilitate the connection of migrants with non-migrants. It becomes possible with this method to view the concern migration from more large perspective in relation to socio-economic ground of the departing and hosting countries. (Kouider 2021). (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Following the way of family and friends for migration and giving support or access to competence and accommodation facility are two ways that social network makes changes. In the case of Syria, migrants have the access of getting authentic details regarding several EU countries and their rules with the help of their social connection. Network gives a glimpse of everything related to travelling to the host country. This are information gathered in the network through various organizations and existing migrants. (Kouider -2021). (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Migrants make their choice of destination with the help of their social network and rely on it. The route they take to migrate also a map they get from their network. The link often be family or friends or smugglers. (Massey et al-1993). Often migrants try to choose and live in a country where they have social connections and cross border network. Social network is considered now as an important key to rise of migration as well. (Sonmez-1989).

5.5 Perspective of Push-Pull factors and Syrian case

Push factors are the causes that compel migrant leaving their home country. Push factors act negatively for example in my case study about Syrian migration ‘Civil War’ acting as push factor. (Sam Bauer et al- no date), (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

In Syrian case, nearest safest country of Syria like Lebanon, Turkey etc are the destination of the migrants. (News European Parliament, 2020). Surprisingly, the migrants still face push factors from the neighbor countries what make them bound to set destination to the EU.

This migration crisis called into question for a major change in EU asylum policy as well as a change in border control system in 2017. In 2020 European Commission proposed a fresh system on migration category. It enables a fast way to handle EU’s asylum and migration policy and a new way to show solidarity by the member states. The new pact was taken under ‘Dublin Regulation’ and that set a binding to the countries to process asylum claim by own. In terms of EU immigration policy, member states have the right to keep a volume of admission people coming only from non-EU nations. By maintaining the fundamental rights with a return policy EU also handle irregular or illegal migration. By contrast, since 1999, EU is going through to create Common European Asylum System (CEAS). (News-European Parliament-2017).

5.5.1 Push factors

Seeking Protection in Europe is one of most effective causes to migrate to the EU because of the continued conflict in the humanitarian migrants' home country (Syria) affected the mass exodus and rendered a return home difficult. Refugee camps in the neighbor countries (first asylum countries) of the Syrian people became jammed and those government made their borders harden what resulted in limited access by the migrants. (Fratzke 2015). (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Limitation to work opportunities and access to schools led the migrants to choose the EU.

With the occupancy of the host countries by the migrants made variety of difficulties to the neighbor countries. Admittedly, the host or neighbor countries have their own socio-political imbalance and that is why access to work, health or education became less probable due to the high pressure of refugees. An indirect rivalry started in between locals and migrants because of the work opportunities and health access and made a concern of further violence. As a result, this situation also compels a huge number of migrants to flee to the EU. (Fratzke 2015). (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

According to BBC News, the political angle of many Syrians' lacks belief in the possibility of a political solution to the crisis and the civil conflict in Syria continues to force them out of Syria. They got the belief that the situation related to war and instability will never have and end. All these factors made Syrian bound to flee to the EU via Mediterranean Sea, Germany, Italy or Greece. (BBC News, 2015).

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR), some other pull factors made the migration of Syrian people to neighbor countries and to the EU. Spokesperson of UNHCR, *Adrian Edwards*), director of UNHCR *Amin Awad*, spoke in Geneva September 25, 2015. The overview is based on interviews, evaluations, monitoring, surveys, group coordination, and everyday interactions with refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Iraq. The information acquired is mostly applicable to Syrians living as refugees in the region, rather than people going straight out of Syria. (UNHCR, 2015).

Due to the hopelessness people from Syria migrated. There was little hope for any sustainable solution of the Syrian socio-political situation. This led people to more misery and hopelessness. (UNHCR-2015).

There was a huge contribution of incapacity of cost managing and poverty in regard to migrating factors. In Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt the Syrian people were struggling to cope up with basic needs like home, high living expenses and family providing what compel them to flee to the EU. (UNHCR-2015). *"In many cases, savings are long depleted, precious valuables have been sold*

off, and many refugees across the region live in miserable conditions, struggling to pay rent, feed their families, and cover their basic needs "(UNHCR, 2015).

Little access to livelihood opportunities acted as factors to push the refugees to the EU. There was approximately no opportunity to work and that's the reason refugees could not survive and flee to the EU. (UNHCR 2015). *"Syrian refugees in Iraq say a large number of internally displaced people has increased competition for jobs in the Kurdistan region of the country. Meanwhile, work on construction sites in the region has dried up with the drop in oil prices "* (UNHCR, 2015).

All these circumstances made it hard to find work by the refugees and they were bound to search for illegal employment with misery and unsafe condition and sometimes no payment by the employer. Sometimes, the refugees had to sign statement of 'no work' for further extension. These factors forced the refugees to move towards the EU. (UNHCR, 2015).

Difficulties in extension of stay is another push factor. Lebanon is the country what is a via to reach Turkey but the authority made it difficult to renew extension. Some conditions like 'No work', 'renewal fee' 'rental documents' made the refugees flee to the EU.(UNHCR 2015).

Aid deficiency in Jordan made the migration situation worst with the lack of food and access to healthcare. Child labour and also begging became a result of the issue. Refugees from Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt told humanitarian aid deficiency as the cause of move forward .(UNHCR 2015).

Little access education was a push factor for migrating from Syria or Jordan or Iraq or Egypt. Children had less chance to maintain work and education at the same time as they had to support their family financially. In Jordan the percentage stopped going to school is 20. (UNHCR 2015).

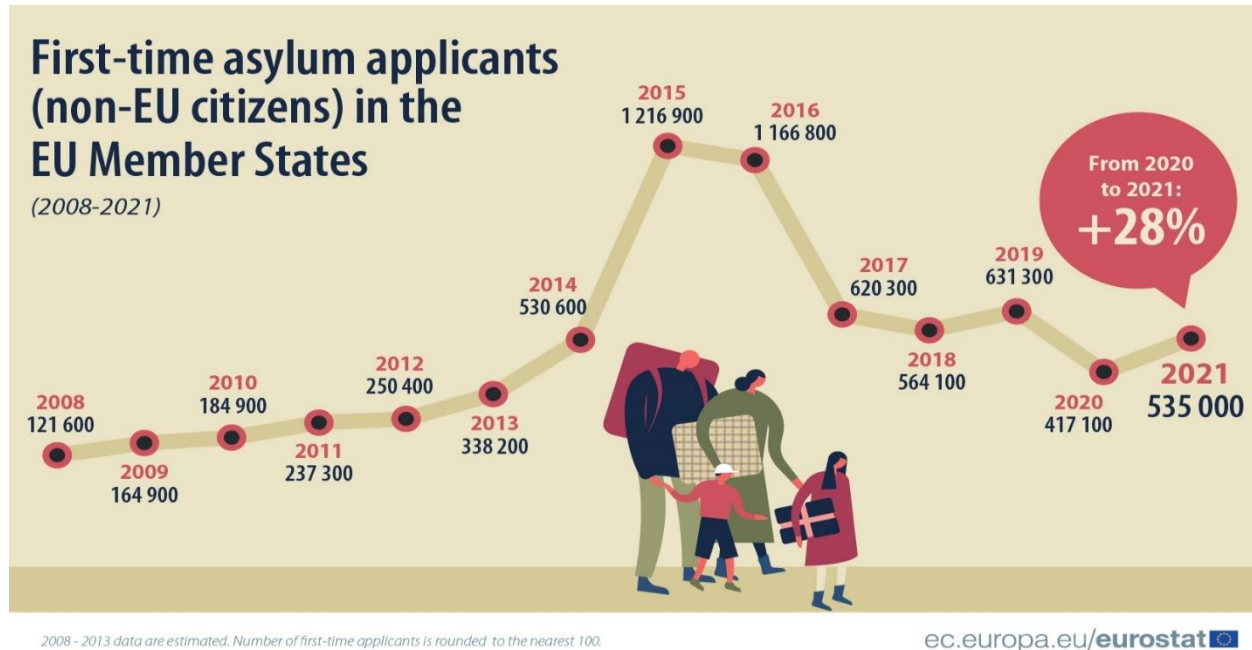
5.5.2 Pull factors

Safety, high pay etc act positively as pull factors and attract migrants to migrate towards a specific region or country leaving own. According to BBC, ‘Momentum Effect’ is a pull factor in relation to the EU migration. Syrian people experienced from their family and friends that Germany welcoming with open hand what created a hope in them for a better lifestyle. With the statement of Angela Merkel regarding the grant of asylum to Germany, Syrians made decided to make their way towards Germany with out concerning the danger of the route. (BBC News 2015), (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Country of destination	Numbers of Syrian refugees	Facts
Turkey	3.6 million	About 90% live outside the refugee camps and have limited access to basic needs (Reid, 2021)
Lebanon	865,531 (making 12,5 % of Lebanon's population)	Live in bad conditions in tents, which are not official refugee camps. Only a few legal income opportunities. Struggle to afford living costs, rent, food and services (Reid, 2021)
Jordan	663,507: 120,000 of them in Za'tari and Azraq refugee camps	Aid groups turned desert waste into cities (Reid, 2021)
Iraq	243,121	most in the Kurdish region in the north, where more than a million refugees went to, to escape ISIS. The refugees are integrated here into communities, being a burden for services (Reid, 2021)
Egypt	130,577	
Europe	at peak in 2015: 1.3 million asked for Asylum in Europe.	The number of new asylum seeker has declined since 2015.
The U.S.	18,000 between Oct. 2011 and 31 st Dec. 2016	

Source: Eesha Sinha et al-2021, Reid-2021

Table showing the data of destination countries with the number of Syrian refugees along with a short explanation of the facts related to migration.



Source: Eurostat Statistics

“More than half (54%) of the first-time asylum applicants in 2021 had Asian citizenship, while 25% had African citizenship, 10% European citizenship (non-EU) and 9% American citizenship”. The migrant spread was in pick in 2015 and after 2019 it falls because of the covid pandemic. Temporary closure of asylum authorities, suspension of asylum interviews, suspension of receiving application led drop in asylum apply in 2020. (Eurostat 08-21)

5.6 Social system theory and the Syrian case

According to Parsons society is a system. A social system has *four* functional conditions. First one is *Adaptation*, second one is *goal attainment*, third one is *integration* and fourth one is *pattern maintenance*. Society must full fill the above-mentioned functions to survive. (Talcott Parsons-1951).

Syrian migration case can be explained as the absence of all or some functions and could figure out the causes of migration towards EU.

The basic migration crisis started with the civil war of Syria against the President Bashar Al-Asaad. With the revolutionary movement in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) nations civil war spread over Syria. This was a multi angle situation of bloody war, bombing, displacement, terrorism covering by the followers of President, rebel groups and other groups like ISIS. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

The war resulted the mass displacement and eventually migration what could be evaluated under the absence of mandatory means of society for survival of the masses. Here “*Adaptation refers to the relationship between the system and its environment. In order to survive, social systems must have some degree of control over their environment. Food and shelter must be provided to meet the physical needs of members. The economy is the institution primarily concerned with this function.*” (C N Trueman- 2015).

Though Syria is not a wealthy nation but in the EU there was no such migration flood ever before. But now rebel based areas are wholly foreign aid depended for needs. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Syrian society and demography can be seen under goal attainment to comprehend the changes that have occurred as a result of the violence. “*Goal attainment refers to the need for all societies to set goals towards which social activity is directed. Procedures for establishing goals and deciding on priorities between goals are institutionalized in the form of political systems. Governments not only set goals but also allocate resources to achieve them*”. (C N Trueman- 2015).

A common goal is a must to attain cohesion. There are a variety of religious and ethnic groups in Syria. Sunni, Alawites, Assyrian, Kurds and Druze. President's root in Alawites has always placed the Sunni in sideline. Bashar al Asaad and Hafez al Asaad tried to combine the commonalities of Arabs what made the Sunni differences more acute. Each groups had self-visioned goal by their own. Now, majority of the migrants in the EU are Sunni and Kurds as they were habituated in most violence-oriented area of Syria. Still the partition in Syria by the groups prevails. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

Integration facilitates collaborative actions what result in advancement. *“Integration refers primarily to the ‘adjustment of conflict’. It is concerned with the coordination and mutual adjustment of the parts of the social system. Legal norms define and standardize relations between individuals and between institutions, and so reduce the potential for conflict.”* (C N Trueman-2015).

Failure in integration also resulted Syrian migration crisis. The Sunni and Kurdish part felt marginalized and they departed from the collaborative integration. (Eesha Sinha et al-2021).

“Pattern maintenance refers to the ‘maintenance of the basic pattern of values, institutionalized in the society’. Institutions that perform this function include the family, the educational system and religion. In Parsons view ‘the values of society are rooted in religion’. (C N Trueman- 2015). In Syrian case, the migrants were not convinced that the pattern was maintained, and their values were evaluated.

6. Empirical Data & Analysis

Migration resembles problems as well as new opportunities for the EU. Europe had encountered severe migration crisis in recent years. In 2015, 1.25 million first-time asylum applicants were registered in the EU; by 2019, this figure had dropped to 612,700 applicants. In 2019, more than 120,000 people reached Europe by sea. That was more than one million in 2015. In 2019, illegal entry to EU dropped to 141,700, which was least in last six years (News-European Parliament-2017).

According to UNHCR, Eurostat and Europe's statistical agency above 500000 Syrians migrated to Germany, above 110,000 and approximately 50000 Syrians migrated to Sweden and Austria respectively in 2011 to 2016 period. Approximately 24000 Syrians officially migrated as refugee in the EU within the same period. (Phillip Connor-2018).

Migration studies already provided plenty of information & insights till now which are worthy to acknowledge. There are plenty of resources that reveal the intention of the migration seeker in decision making in terms of migration. In the recent years and more specifically after the year 2015 vast flow of migration took place worldwide.

“The unfortunate reality is that there have been major migration and displacement events during the last two years; events that have caused great hardship and trauma as well as loss of life. Foremost have been the displacements of millions of people due to conflict (such as within and from the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan), extreme violence (such as inflicted upon Rohingya forced to seek safety in Bangladesh) or severe economic and political instability (such as faced by millions of Venezuelans). There has also been growing recognition of the impacts of environmental and climate change on human mobility (such as planned migration/relocation and displacement), including as part of global efforts and international policy mechanisms to address the broader

impacts of climate change. Large-scale displacement triggered by climate and weather-related hazards occurred in many parts of the world in 2018 and 2019, including in Mozambique, the Philippines, China, India and the United States of America. We have also seen the scale of international migration increase in line with recent trends. The number of international migrants is estimated to be almost 272 million globally, with nearly two-thirds being labour migrants.” (McAuliffe M. and Khadri B, World Immigration Report-2020).

Above 78000 Syrians applied for asylum in the EU in 2021 which is 70 percent more than the previous year’s calculation. (News Alzazeera-2021).

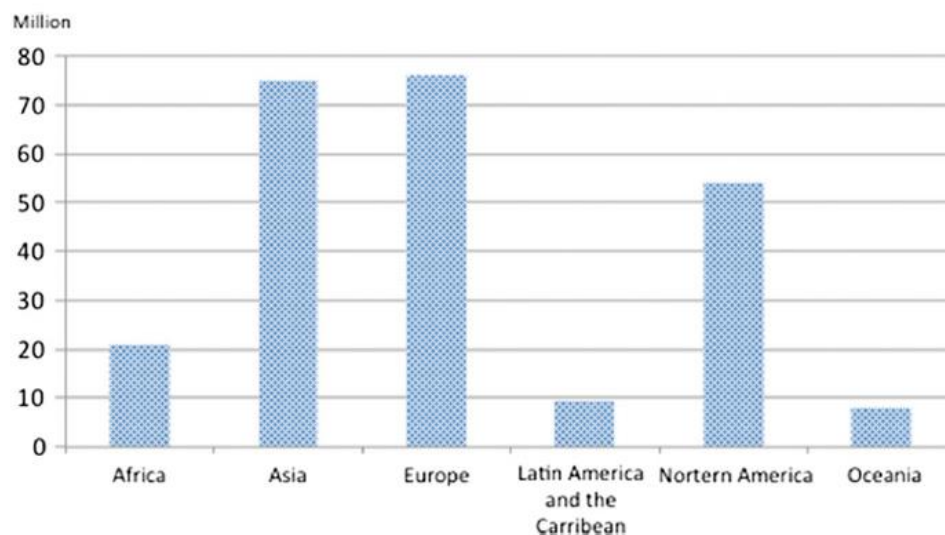


Figure 1. International migrants by region of residence, 2015

Source: UN DESA, 2015. www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml, modified

Source: Francesco Castelli-2018

6.1 Analysis

From a critical perspective, war is not the only reason for Syrians to move towards Europe. Almost no hope for a bright future, poverty, widespread corruption, devastated structures, brutality by the authority, collision of different community groups made the mindset of Syrians to move towards EU. Precisely, a socio-political crisis has been grown up. (News Alzazeera-2021).

There are some other crucial aspects worthy to be analyzed. Syrian poverty is in rise and a large proportion of people need humanitarian cooperation. General human needs like communication facility, medical facility, school facility are collapsed due to the ongoing war and violence. Fragile economic condition moreover currency fall in accordance with poor minimum wage made the life of Syrians in Syria worst. After earning the whole, they even cannot buy their daily food. On the other side crime, smuggle scam demolishing life from social aspect. (News Alzazeera-2021).

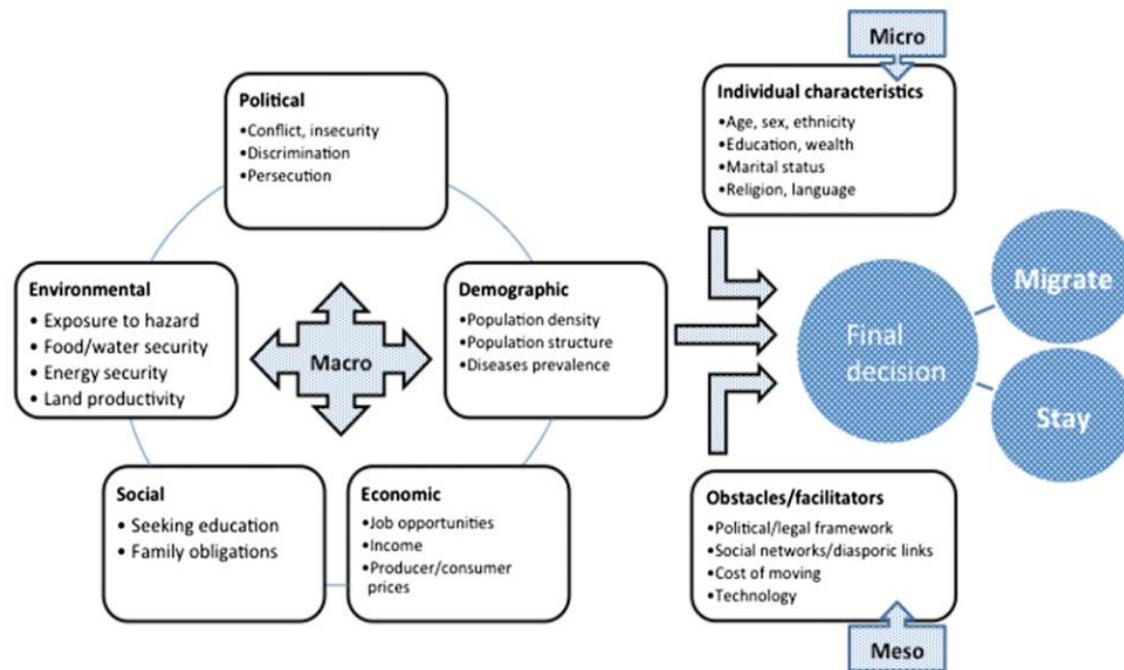
Social media playing a vital as sort of Network migration role in Syrian migration to Europe. Some of them inclined to migrating through scholarship, some interested finding a migration route, cost, smuggler information or risk evaluation. Whereas in social media a network or group of people are also willing to provide this information. So, (News Alzazeera-2021). Syrian people are getting attracted by the flash of welcoming Europe and forming an idea to migrate to the EU for a combo of safe living, work opportunity and education in exchange of smuggler fees and danger of life. (Melissa Fleming-2015).

A crucial fact in regard to Syrian migration to the EU is the struggling situation from a variety of perspective of neighboring countries of Syria. Those countries are facing Socio economic crisis and therefore willing to send back the Syrians to their origin. A great percentage of migrants in Europe escaped from their neighboring countries where they lived as refugee for many years. (News Alzajeera-2021).

People actually escape from a war effected zone to their nearest safe place to save themselves and to have an eye on the situation of their origin. But since it's been a long period that been passed Syrian people already lost the hope to return their origin and therefore a large number of people are moving towards EU. In most neighboring countries like in Jordan or Lebanon, Syrian refugees are not allowed to enter into the labour market. That is why they are becoming poorer after losing all their savings and debt where they can't even bear a month's expense. (Melissa Fleming-2015).

International organizations are struggling to continue the aid for Syrian refugees. aid is a great factor Programs like World Food Program got cut while free health care access for lots of Syrians are being stopped in Jordan. Whereas hosting countries are not getting compensation for refugee hosting what is a challenge for their infrastructures. Making the rules of getting asylum (for example Lebanon) or showing valid documents in some neighbouring countries making the motivation Syrians to shift to Europe. These critical circumstances in a real sense giving Syrians no option left but to find gate way of freedom elsewhere. (Melissa Fleming-2015).

7. Conclusion



Source: Francesco Castelli-2018

Foresight: Migration and Global Environmental Change (2011)

According to the diagram, factors or reasons of migration are categorized as macro, meso and micro element where macro elements are independent, meso elements are partial individualistic and micro elements are wholly individualistic. Macro, Meso and Micro-factors broadly work behind the migration as complex drivers of migration.

To conclude, migration has become a systematic fact and will probably run in the future also. People not only migrate to wealthy part of the world but also migrate nearest or neighbouring countries that are not wealthy. Migration causes from critical blend of macro, meso and micro factors. (Francesco Castelli-2018).

Mostly dominance of one factor to the other cannot be measured. Under 'Macro factors' insufficient economic growth, enlargement of socio demographic, city growth, violence, autocracy, social and environmental changes are core causes of migration. Under 'Meso factors' ethnic or religious group network, grasping lands, technological advancement, attraction through social media and transnational linkage plays key role as migration factors. Linkage with friends and family who already migrated, transnational information transfer creates the base motive to migrate to a new place and start a new life. Under 'Micro factors' religious views, educational desire, civil status and individual characteristics in regard to migration highly fluctuate the migration decision or reason for migration. (Francesco Castelli-2018).

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