

Forced to Leave or Free to Go?

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Introduction

THE TOPIC

- Under the reign and after the fall of Gadhafi in a time of disorder and insecurity, many Libyans fled across the Mediterranean Sea searching for a better future in Europe. As they have a direct influence on Europe, those migrants have broadly been analysed in recent years. However, hardly any European researchers focused on inner-MENA migration and on the consequences huge transit movements have on Libya.

THE PLAN

- The plan of the analysis at hand is to provide a survey analysing the reasons why young adults leave Libya for Tunisia. It gives a short insight into the current challenge of migratory movements from Libya to Tunisia.

- It is based on the push-and-pull factor analysis theory of migration. The result of the paper at hand is the outline for a survey called "Push and Pull Factor Analysis on the Causes of Post-2011 Young Adult's Migratory Movements from Libya to Tunisia".

THE AIM

- This paper provides a valuable contribution by analysing the situation of Libyan migrants in Tunisia. These have barely been analysed due to current changes in the political situations and their respective lack of direct influence on European state. It therefore aims at depicting the drivers and motives behind migration from Libya to Tunisia and the current situation of migrants in Tunisia.



Results

THE OUTCOME

- In the following, the result of the paper which is the survey outline on Libyan young adults migrating to Tunisia, is provided.
- In the course of the research, the author conducted an interview with Hanspeter Mattes

Survey on Libyans in Tunisia

Nationality

1. What is your nationality? *

☒ Please choose...

☐ Libyan

☐ Tunisian

☐ Other

3. POLITICAL: For my decision to come to Tunisia, it was relevant that ... *

Please assess the following items according to their influence on your decision to come to Tunisia.

	Not true	Slightly true	Somewhat true	True
I can act, speak and think as I want.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am treated without cruelty.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am respectfully treated as an individual human being.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can pursue life and goals without interference from others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can live free of war.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can freely express my political opinion.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The government is stable and reliable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reasons for Leaving Libya

1. Why did you mainly leave Libya? *

Please assess the following items according to their influence on your decision to leave Libya.

	Not true	Slightly true	Somewhat true	True
ECONOMIC reasons: e.g. I left Libya to find better work or a better economic situation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
POLITICAL reasons: e.g. I left Libya to escape political persecution or conflict.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SOCIAL				

5. What is your current employment situation? *

6. In case of employment: How much do you earn per month?

I earn Tunisian Dinars monthly.

7. Which other sources of income do you have?

☐ Pocket money

☐ Scholarship

☐ Support from family

☐ Support from friends

☐ Other - Please Specify:

Methods and Material

THE CASE

- The number of Libyans migrating to Tunisia is unclear. Laura Sundermann and Dr. Said AlDailami stated in 2016 that the numbers of Libyans who migrated to Tunisia vary between 300.000 and 1.9 million. They even go further calling it a "war of numbers" (Sundermann & AlDailami, 2016, pp. 85). In their article, they name various causes for migration reaching from tourism to political persecution. In addition, Libya and Tunisia have a bilateral legal contract from the year 1973 in which Libyans and Tunisians are granted the right to work, live, move and possess premises in the respective neighbouring country. This contract, the geographical closeness and the openness of Tunisia make it an attractive travel and living destination for Libyans. In broad terms, the Libyans who are currently living in Tunisia, can therefore be distinguished by their belonging to the following categories: those who come to Tunisia by their own force and those who flee due to political, economic or social reasons to the neighbouring state.

METHODOLOGY

- Migration is often analysed on the basis of the so-called "push-pull model" (Schoorl et al., 2000) coping with push factors which drive people to leave their country and the pull factors attracting them to the country of destination (IOM, 2016). The push and pull factors that can lead to huge fluxes of migration are various and can broadly be divided into economic, social, political, and environmental factors with a push and pull leverage (Baldwin-Edwards, 2015). As the latter does not play a role in the Libio-Tunisian migration phenomena, the environmental factor is being neglected in the analysis at hand.

THE MATERIAL

- The following tables show the push and pull factor items that the author elaborated in order to analyse why young Libyans migrate to Tunisia. They result from the interviews that were conducted in the time of research with experts on Libya and Libyan migration. In the current analysis, the push factors analyse what drove young Libyan adults to migrate to Libya whereas the pull factors tackle Libya's attraction letting young Libyan adults migrate to Libya. The push and pull factors can be divided into political, social, and economic motives.

THE PUSH AND PULL FACTORS

Push Factor Categories	Push Factor Descriptions
Lack of services	I did not have access to the services I need.
Low wages	I did not earn enough to sustain a living.
Poverty	I did not have enough money to care for my family.
Unemployment	I did not have a job.
Unstable economy	I could not rely on getting the things I need in life.
Civil unrest	I suffered from protests from the people.
Conflict	I was victim of a clash between two parties.
High crime	I was concerned to become a victim of crime.
Lack of safety	I did not feel safe.
Police harassment	I was not protected by the police.
Political unrest	I was not free of political persecution.
Family moved already	I sought to stay with my family who moved already.
Famine	I did not have enough to eat.
Housing shortage	I did not have an affordable place to live.
Lack of health care	When I was sick, I could not access services to get better.
Military domination	I felt restricted in my freedom due to the military.
Perspective	I did not see a perspective in life there.
Racial intolerance	I felt discriminated against due to where I come from.
Religious intolerance	I could not exercise or choose my religion freely.

The items for the Push Factors Driving Libyans to Migrate.

Pull Factor Category	Pull Factor Description
Economic opportunity	I earn enough in my job to care for my family.
Economic stability	I can rely on buying the things I need in life.
Higher employment	I have well paid work.
Job prospects	I can develop my skills.
Freedom	I can act, speak and think as I want.
Freedom of torture	I am treated without cruelty.
Human rights	I am respectfully treated as an individual human being.
Individual rights	I can pursue life and goals without interference from others.
Peace	I can live free of war.
Political security	I can act freely express my political opinion.
Political stability	The government is stable and reliable.
Better services	I have access to good health care.
Educational opportunities	I can access good education.
Ethnic diversity	I can live together with people of other ethnical backgrounds.
Quality of life	I can live satisfied and happy.
Religious freedom	I can freely exercise my religion.
Safety, less crime	I can live safely without crime against me.
Wealth	I have enough money to sustain a good living.

The items for the Pull Factors Attracting Libyans to Tunisia

Conclusions

THE RELEVANCE

- "Forced to Leave or Glad to Go" constitutes the problem statement for the survey and analysis at hand.
- Surveys in an intercultural setting are hard to create and require an enormous amount of work outside of bare question-elaboration. Therefore, this analysis also aims at providing a possible way to gain more information on needs and everyday life of Libyans in Tunisia.
- However, albeit the various intercultural issues that occurred during the research and the creation of the survey, this topic is highly relevant providing valuable insights into the current debate on migration taking place in Germany
- The problems that Libyans face while integrating, as well as the attractiveness of Tunisia show motivations of Libyans leaving their hometown in search for a better future.

- These can be a model for Libyans who are about to come to Germany or who already made their way to Europe.

THE STRENGTH

- The main strength of the paper at hand is the experience and close contact of the author with Libyan migrants themselves. They provided considerably more insights and understanding on the situation in post-Gaddafi Libya than any articles could have done.

LIMITATIONS

- However, especially due to the oppressing four decade long dictatorship, not a lot of analytical and critical data were available for the analysis of the paper at hand. The data landscape is fragmentary, as is the basis of objective, reliable, and academic work from inside Libya.

Outlook

- Having researched on current status and developments of migration from Libya to Tunisia, the survey outline shall be put in practice. A minimum of 100 participants are advised in order to guarantee the validity of the survey.

- Furthermore, an extensive amount of work needs to be invested into operationalising the survey at hand, meaning that it shall be made measurable and categorisable. For example need calculations to be defined in order to categorise the terms like network migration or family migration.

Sources

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