THE AGE OF CULTURAL TRAUMA IN EUROPE AND THE CHANCES OF THE PRESERVATION OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Abstract: The article is an attempt of the synthesis of extensive issues describing demographic and cultural problems of Western Civilization. To familiarize a reader with the issues of civilization, the authors used the classical theory of Feliks Koneczny – the precursor of the civilization typology and the author of contemporary civilization knowledge. Furthermore, Samuel Huntington’s contribution to the theory of civilization was presented. His typology became an updated version of F. Koneczny’s views. On the ground of theoretical deliberation on civilization, the authors analysed the selected problems of the contemporary world connected with the uncontrollable birth rate in some parts of the world, with mass migrations, which are the effect of political changes and transformations in poor countries, as well as with the paradox of modernity, which led the countries of so-called the old democracy in a vortex of consumption and mass culture, and moved away from fundamental traditions and values. The idea of this article was to show the reader the problems which modern societies face nowadays. This issue underlies the paradox where the fall of western countries population breeds the necessity of accepting “the strangers” – immigrants as a minority, which helps to build prosperity. That acceptance is connected, however, with cultural assimilation, which in consequence leads to the diffusion of cultures as well as creating the mosaic, hybrid and culturally heterogeneous societies.

Keywords: western civilization, population, culture, civilization

INTRODUCTION

Western Civilization, especially the European society, faces cultural crisis nowadays. It happens because Europe has become an area of cultural confrontation discussed at two levels. The first one is described by the internal heterogeneous character of the European culture and the value conflict between the societies of the old and new democracy while the other one by the clash of European cultures and the incoming cultures. Taking into consideration this situation, the question arises if there are any chances to endure for Western Civilization, whose cradle is undoubtedly the European society and its culture formed for ages.

Observing the social processes happening not only in Europe but also in all the democratic world, the tendency of the fall of the population growth of modern societies can be noticed, which unavoidably leads to the slow death of Western Civilization. The question arises if this situation is not natural, if it should provoke anxiety. Taking into consideration that each civilization has its natural cycle – on the model of a body, which is born, evolves, falls into decline and finally dies – it can be assumed that the twilight of Western Civilization becomes a part of a natural process. On the other hand, there arises the question about the future of Western Civilization, which although is not the oldest one, has played the most crucial role in shaping world culture both in the financial and spiritual sphere. Its ability to endure can be characterized by dualism lying in the situation that, on the one hand, for ages it has been the centre of creating and distributing the
components of culture disseminated with the territorial expansion of European influence, on the other hand, it has undergone a modification as a result of foreign civilizations, which naturally have increased the range of its features. This dual character of Western Civilization is not a special phenomenon, because each civilization, which makes expansion, modifies the other ones, and at the same time is modified by enriching its cultural oeuvre with artefacts of other cultures and influences.

**THE CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS**

In the literature on the subject the term civilization is confused with the term culture. By putting the equal sign between these two categories, we make a mess and inconsistency in a taxonomy of terms. The first theoretical presentation describing culture as a civilization can be found in the theory of Edward Burnett Tylor, the author of *Primitive Culture* from 1871. This generalization was criticized by Jacques Maritain, which was emphatically proved by the words: (...) culture and a civilization have almost become the synonyms (...) however culture refers to a sense and moral life while a civilization to a political and organizational life¹. Generalizing, we talk about culture whenever a man trouble themselves whereas whenever a man transforms a world, we talk about a civilization². A different approach concerning this issue is expressed by Władysław Tatarkiewicz³, according to whom, a civilization means everything that humankind created, gave to the nature to make life easier and better, and that is common to many people, while culture means experience and action taken by individual people who created and use a civilization⁴. Referring to Tylor’s definition of culture, it should be emphasized, although it is unfounded to combine such terms as culture and civilization, it is not necessary to counterweight them. Neither culture could exist without a civilization, nor a civilization could exist without culture. Therefore, culture should be analysed in a dynamic system, as a phenomenon which is a subject to evolution, determinates creating a civilization by financial and immaterial products of social units as well as their diffusion between societies thanks to communication both verbal and non-verbal⁵.

Civilization typology was reflected in the classical theory of civilization of Feliks Koneczny – the author of pioneering works titled *On the Plurality of Civilisations* and *O ład w historii* (About order in history). He included the typology of seven civilizations, which played a crucial role in forming a social order in the historical perspective⁶. Analysing this theory, there is put forward a thesis about unavoidability of a conflict included in those words: (...) each civilization aspires to expansion, whenever two

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civilizations meet, they have to fight. Undeniable source of so-called conflict is undoubtedly the aspiration to enlarging existential space as well as getting knowledge about financial goods – the artefacts of financial culture – which are kept by another civilization. He also claims that civilizations living near each other in indifferent peace are deprived of so-called vital power leading to the acivilization state based on mutual compromise and on artificial mixing components of foreign cultures. In this situation natural expansion vanishes because of that so-called action culture vanishes as well. According to F. Koneczny, these civilizations will die sooner or later and the reasons for their death are mainly civilization mutations. It can be proved in words: (...) there is no greater absurdity as a doctrine about the fall of civilization as a result of aging. Any civilization does not have to die because of senile dementia but every moment it can be poisoned by mixing civilizations.

Mixing civilization is just diffusion of culture components and the ability of driving some cultures by the others. Issues raised by F. Koneczny – a part from the flow of time – in an ideal way show the realities of the present time. The expansion of some civilizations and the simultaneous population fall of the others as well as the loss of so-called vital power perfectly become a part of the contemporary world problems. This theory gave the foundations of new understanding of the social order of the contemporary world.

This new order is nothing but a geographical and political system which was created after the fall of the bipolar world. One of the theories describing the realities of the world was included in Samuel P. Huntington’s opinions and it assumed that in the meeting of various civilizations conflicts will be unavoidable and their intensity and scale will result from cultural differences dividing nations. The effect of his courageous assumptions was his famous work called The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order, which to a large extent was in opposition to Francis Fukuyama’s view about the end of history, as a result of the fall of the Eastern Bloc. S. Huntington, in contrast with F. Fukuyama’s opinions, claimed that after finishing the Cold War the problem of a war would not disappear, quite the opposite, it would have the civilization dimension. According to him, one of the main sources of conflicts is cultural and religious differences changing the world into the fight and competition arena among eight main civilizations. He states that the most conflictual boundaries among civilizations, on the micro scale, are those which separate the Islamic world from Orthodox, Hindu, African, and Christian (Western) neighbours. Whereas, on the macro scale, the main

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8 L. Gawor, op. cit., p. 197.
9 I. Białkowski, op. cit., pp. 84-85.
division runs between the West and the rest, while the most violent conflicts will break out between both Muslim and Asian countries from one side and the West from the other side. Likewise other theories, this one drew widespread criticism of the scientific world as well. Robert Kaplan and Thomas Friedman were adamantly opposed to this theory as they found it too enterprising and not proved by facts. Another scientist criticizing the theory of the clash of civilization – Edward Said expressed his criticism in his work titled *The Clash of Ignorance*, which became a particular response to S. Huntington’s opinions. E. Said claimed that S. Huntington’s categorization of civilizations passed over the relationship and interaction of culture while it concentrates on the culture conflict theory. He recognized it as a plagiarism of F. Koneczny’s views as well.

F. Koneczny’s and S. Huntington’s theories lead to some reflection on the future of Western Civilization, its chances to preserve in the situation of uncontrolled migration from the Third World countries as well as the fall of population in Europe, North America and Japan. They also justify the question about the sources of a culture conflict. Probably the culture conflict has a double basis – the first one is searching new enclaves to live for the poor part of the Earth population while the second one is uneven access to natural resources. The second issue seems to play a vital role for a potential war about the recourses. It was proved by Paul Kennedy who stated that in the future the demographic system of the world would turn. 5/6 of global society coming from poverty and possessing now 1/6 of the Earth resources would take over 5/6 of Earth resources used by 1/6 of the rich part of global society. In this situation the war about the resources is unavoidable and its explosion is a matter of time. It is difficult to determine when it happens, although some opinions claim that this war has already started and nowadays it is gaining the pace and entering a new stage.

**THE BIRTH RATE – THE THEORY OF POPULATION BOMB**

One of the deliberation areas on civilization threats is a problem of progressing overpopulation of our planet and disproportionate distribution of population for some civilizations and nations. Although the results of uncontrolled birth rate on the Earth have been observed since the 1970s, it is worth emphasizing that this phenomenon was the object of scientists’ interests from the distant history. The basis of deliberations on this issue is now the theory of Giovanny Botero from 1558, according to which *humankind has unlimited and uncontrollable ability to increase its number*. On this basis later there was formed a new theory called *malthusianism* coming from 1798 and which was named after the author’s surname – Thomas R. Malthus – the author of *An Essay on the Principle of Population*. His views are based on the hypothesis that *too high demographic*

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14 M. Bodziany, *op. cit.*, p. 22.
15 *Ibidem*, p. 23.
17 M. Bodziany, *op. cit.*, p. 23.
18 G. Botero, a precursor of *populationism* trend in his work titled *Della Region di Stato* (*The Reason of State*), claimed that nation’s strength results from population and an advantage of industry over agriculture.
growth can cause the exhaustion of natural resources and the fall of overpopulated countries\textsuperscript{19}. He also claimed that if the population grows in a geometric progression and the food production in an arithmetic progression, overpopulation becomes a natural phenomenon. In our times, it is estimated that Malthus’s theory, although it was formed in 18\textsuperscript{th} century and was widely criticized, still in some aspects very precisely describes the realities of the present time, especially in the context of the demand concerning the birth control. Nevertheless, it is recognized as historical. In actual fact, taking into consideration the advanced thesis about the relationship between the birth rate and the exhaustion of natural resources, it is necessary to take it with certain measure of subjectivism, as it is based on contemporary social conditions as well as the level of knowledge and technology development appropriate to the time when it was created\textsuperscript{20}.

The precursor of other views on the relationship between overpopulation and the exhaustion of natural resources was Julian Simon, who in the 1981 book titled *The Ultimate Resource* stated that T. Malthus’s theory does not fit the realities of the present time as it completely passes over the economic factors of societies’ development. J. Simon indicated that reducing the amount of resource causes a rise in price, and then it becomes the spur for searching for a new source of this resource and then searching for a substitute\textsuperscript{21}. According to J. Simon, resources have the nature of substitute, which proves their infinity even in the situation of overpopulation. He introduced to the taxonomy the term physical resources as finite that is replaced by abstract objects, which give the possibility of substitution of some physical resources by others. Following Simon’s deliberation, it can be assumed that civilization progress naturally adapts to social and economic conditions of each age, especially for the population growth and natural resources used by it.

Omitting J. Simon’s criticism, it is necessary to state that T. Malthus’s theory, although it was set in the social and economic realities of 18\textsuperscript{th} century, became an inspiration for the next so courageous theories parameterising the size of population in the world concerning the possibility of feeding it. One of the theories, published by Paul Ehrlich in 1971 in *The Population Bomb* assumed that the growth in population will cause overpopulation and the rapid consumption of natural resources, which finally will lead to many conflicts among nations. According to some authors’ assumptions, in 2000 the population will be 7 billion, by 2050 – 20 billion while by 2100 as many as 55 billion people\textsuperscript{22}. Ehrlich’s forecasts appeared to be too pessimistic and were not proved at least the one referring to the year 2000. P. Ehrlich in his research used historical approximate data which shows that to the mid-19\textsuperscript{th} century population will stay at the level of 1 billion to double it in 1925. According to him, the next population doubling will take place in 1974. It is a fact that in 1990 there were 5.3 billion not 6 billion and in 2000 there were 6 billion not as it was forecast 7 billion people.

\textsuperscript{20} M. Bodziany, op. cit., p. 24.
In our times P. Ehrlich’s pessimistic forecasts were verified by research conducted on behalf of the World Bank, from which it was concluded that in the mid-21st century population would stabilize at the level of 10-11 billion people, which definitely shatters the vision of the rapid birth rate in the future. However, it does not mean that the population problem on the Earth does not exist, quite the opposite, it is very serious. It does not result from overpopulation on the Earth but from unevenly placed population growth in various geographical areas. Observing the pace of birth rate on some continents, certainly it can be stated that in the nearest future this factor will become the main reason for dying out members of Western Civilization.

THE TWILIGHT OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

The consequence of the deliberations on the phenomenon of *population bomb* is the natural necessity to analyse the structure of the birth rate on the Earth. On the basis of the demographic forecasts provided by the United Nations, it can be stated that the birth rate of population is formed unevenly, there is noticed serious disproportion in the pace and the birth rate for different continents\(^{23}\).

According to the United Nations human population was approximately about 6.8 billion people in 2009 and the pace of the population growth registered one year earlier was about 1.16%. From further analysis it appears that the largest number of people inhabit Asia (60.6%), then Africa (13.8%), Europe (11.4%), Latin America (8.6%), North America (5.1%) and Oceania (0.5%). It is estimated that 91% of the land area of the Earth is inhabited by people and according to data from 2008, average population density was 41 people per km\(^2\).

Analysing historical data describing population growth in the world, it can be stated that population on the Earth grew relatively slowly in the time line, especially in the period from the year zero to the end of 19th century. It is estimated that there were 250-280 million people in the world in about the year zero while in 1500 there were 450 million people. Environmental factors as well as the progress of development in medicine influenced the low birth rate. Together with the development of technology during Industrial Revolution in 18th century population started increasing dramatically. This situation was the effect of popularizing technological knowledge influencing, on the one hand, on the improvement of life conditions and, on the other hand, on the development of medicine, which directly influenced extending human life and the productive age. It should be noticed that the age of great industry took place only in countries of Western Civilization, that is why, in a natural way the disproportion in the standard of living on the Earth was created and simultaneously because of falling the death rate – with the constant birth rate – in 20th century there was the first in history a population explosion in Western Civilization. The next demographic boom was noticed after WWII, which till the 1960s placed population at the optimistic level not only in Europe but also in Japan and the USA. Western Civilization societies believed that the birth rate is the domain of healthy nations aspiring to maintain the continuity of the civilization. This continuity was

kept for ages thanks to propagating the category of being (quincunx) by F. Koneczny and thanks to natural hunger to maintain *the commensuration of the structure of associating*\(^\text{24}\) all nations creating the civilization. The lack of common aim, which is the natural desire to preserve for civilization, dooms it – as F. Koneczny stated – to *the state of acivilization* and to the slow death. *Has this situation become a fact in case of Western Civilization?* Taking into consideration its cotemporary problems, certainly it can be stated that yes.

One of the precursor of the fall of Western Civilization vision is Patrick Buchanan, who explicitly states in his famous publication *The Death of The West* that both Europe and the United States will be dominated by nations coming from other civilizations. He also devotes a lot of attention to the vision of Europe flooded by Islamic Civilization and the United States drowned in *a melting pot of cultures*\(^\text{25}\). He indicates that after the last demographic *boom* of Western Civilization from the 1960s, the forecast is rather pessimistic. In that time in nations, which were the core of Western Civilization, there were 750 million people, which is 25% of that population of the Earth (counting 3 billion people). When for 40 years the Earth population was doubled, simultaneously in Europe there was noticed the lowest proportion in history – 15% of the Europeans in the Earth population. Out of 47 nations of *the Old Continent* in 2000 Albania was the only one with positive birth rate. The other nations started to age dramatically.

According to the United Nations, in 2000 total number of European citizen fell to 728 million while the forecast for 2050 indicates that the number will fall to 556 million\(^\text{26}\). Nowadays it is believed that the reason for this situation is the adverse rate of women’s fertility, whose essential for generation exchange number is 2.1 children per woman for European countries while at present it is 1.4. Jacqueline Kasun from Humboldt State University states in her *War Against Population* that the low current rate of children birth is much more serious problem than the fall of European population because of the plague in 14\(^\text{th}\) century. She aptly emphasizes that the number is not as essential as the structure of the population fall. Comparing the cataclysm from 14\(^\text{th}\) century to the present fall of population, she states that the previous one destroyed both the young and old citizens of Europe, while the contemporary one harms only the young ones\(^\text{27}\). Finally, it influences the process of aging the societies and its slow dying. J. Kasun’s views show explicitly that women’s tendency to maternity is smaller when the greater burden of responsibility for older society lies with the younger one. Another issue which moulds population of *the Old Continent* is women’s egalitarianism (equal rights for women)\(^\text{28}\).

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\(^{24}\) See L. Gawor, *op. cit.* *The commensuration of the structure of associating* means that the auspiciousness and effectiveness of associating is larger when its members maintain the identical method in organizing the communal life, the identical values describing existence and they aspire to one common aim – maintaining the civilization in the shape allowing it to preserve.


Cultural changes happening in most of European countries caused that women became financially self-sufficient and a husband stopped playing traditional social roles. Due to this, the hierarchy of women’s needs was changed and marriage and family were replaced with subjective freedom and consumption. Follow these trends, basic values, formed in a family, disappear together with the natural ability of reproduction, which has determined the direction of Western Civilization development for ages. P. Buchman thinks, on the basis of the UN forecast, that if the current rate of birth stays at the same level, at the end of 2100 European population will fall to 207 million. It will mean the death of European nations.

Among many European countries facing the problem of population decline there is Germany where the birth rate is 1.3 children per woman while the minimum rate of population is 2.1. Relying on the above mentioned data, the forecast for 2050 for this country indicates that 23 million from present population – 82 million of the Germans – will disappear till then while by 2100 their population will fall half to 38.5 million. Nowadays DINK (double income, no kids) is getting very popular in Germany. This fashion forms the basis for demographic problems in this country.

Paradoxically Russia, where there has been noticed the fall of population since 2005, faces the problem of population decline as well. In 2005 Russian population was 143.42 million people while one year later there were 142.89 million Russians and in 2008 – just 140.7 million. Assuming this pace of the population fall and the rate of 1.35 children per woman, the forecast indicates that by 2015 Russian population will fall to 123 million while by 2050 to 114 million. Further forecast says that by 2050 the number of children, which is now 26 million, will fall to 16 million while the number of the old generation will increase from 18 to 28 million. One of the speeches given by the president of Russia – Wladimir Putin in a plain way shows the fear about Russian society. It can be read that if we believe predictions (...) in 15 years’ time there will be 22 million Russians less (...) think that this number is one seventh of the whole population of Russia. The loss of 22 million in 15 years would be larger than all the Soviet Union losses during WWII. If a present trend is kept, there will be the threat to the preservation of the nation. W. Putin’s speech proves that Russia has also faced the demographic problem, and what is paradoxical, although it does not come from Western Civilization, it is also in danger of the end. It happens because of the low level of population in the terrains far to the east contending with the expansion of the Chinese and other border nations.

Other European countries face similar problems. In Italy the birth rate for one woman is dramatically low, and it is 1.2. It indicates that population of Italy will fall from 55 million to 41 million by 2050. In Spain the birth rate is even lower than in Italy. It is 1.07 children per woman. Furthermore, simultaneously Spain is in danger of the uncontrolled influx of the Moroccans, whose population increases at a dizzying pace, which allows to forecast that by 2050 it will increase 50%. In the United Kingdom the problem appears to be even more serious, as it is predicted at the end of the century British will be minority in their own country. Apart from the Old Continent population

29 P. Buchanan, op. cit., p. 6.
30 R. Leqvold, Russian’s Uniformed Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs 2001, XIX/X, p. 63.
Dike Kai Nomos

decline takes also a heavy toll. The similar situation will take place in the United States, whose society will become nation minority by 2050. The problem seems to be the same in Japan and Australia where consumption, the low birth rate and aging societies envision less optimistic future for these countries.

It is paradoxical that when Europe suffers the extinction of young society and the fall of birth rate, the Third World becomes the demographic power. It is predicted that the next half century East and South-East Asian countries as well as African and Middle Eastern countries will keep the most dynamic growth. In 2000 almost half of the world population was gathered in 8 countries. In 2025 out of 8.5 billion people inhabiting the Earth more than 7 million will be citizens of developing countries. However, the future belongs to the Third World countries, which will dominate the world and will use up natural resources dramatically, and will degrade the natural environment. This is an effect of a technological leap and euphoric prosperity.

The UN forecast shows that by 2050 in Africa there will be about 1.5 billion people while 30% of African population will be members of Islamic Civilization, which nowadays floods Europe (according to various data from 15 to 25 million). Hindus will become serious population power, whose number will increase to 1.5 billion as well as the number of the Chinese. The other part of Asia will consist of 700 million of the Afghans, Iraqis, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis as well as 300 million of Indonesians. It is worth noticing that Russia will be placed among three civilizations – Chinese, Islamic and Hindu, which also indicates explicitly that Russian eastern terrains rich in natural resources will be dominated by these three civilizations in the nearest future. Facing the fall of Russian population and weak population of the eastern terrains there will be no one to protect natural resources of this country.

MIGRATION TO EUROPE

Migration routes in the world have recently changed considerably. Europe, which in 19th and partly 20th century was an emigration continent because of wars, unrest, conflicts and military action, changed its character in the last decade. Today as a symbol of prosperity, Europe is seen by potential immigrants as a place of improving their life conditions as well as the possibility to defect from conflicts and coups threatening public safety within their own countries.

Nowadays in Europe there is the largest proportion of immigrants in the global scale, which approximately is about 15-20%, which makes 9-10 million people. Furthermore, according to S. Castles and A. J. Miller, almost solely immigration is

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31 M. Okólski, Współczesne europejskie migracje międzynarodowe a dynamika procesów integracyjnych, Studia Socjologiczne, 2001, No. 1 pp. 11-16;

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responsible for the complete population growth in Europe. Table 1 presents the number of migrants in the total population of some countries in 1990 and 2005.

Table 1. Ten countries with the largest number of migrants in 1990 and 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1990 Number of migrants (millions)</th>
<th>As percentage of total</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2005 Number of migrants (millions)</th>
<th>As percentage of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


There have recently been noticed three main migration trends prevailing in Europe:
- migration within the European Union, including between the old and new members of the EU;
- migration from African and Asian countries to the EU countries;
- migration within the former Soviet Union (which is treated as a phenomenon different in its features from migration of people in the other European countries).

An essential issue, which should be mentioned at the beginning, is a fact that 90% of foreigners, who in 2009 acquired the citizenship of a EU country, were citizens of non-EU countries. This situation appeared in almost all the EU countries, however in Luxembourg and Hungary among people acquiring citizenship there were more people from the EU countries. Table 2 presents numbers of all foreigners (people who are not

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citizens of inhabited countries) in a demographic structure of the EU countries (data from 2010).

Table 2. Foreigners in the EU countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected EU countries</th>
<th>Number of inhabitants (million)</th>
<th>Number of inhabiting foreigners (million)</th>
<th>Number of inhabiting foreigners (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>82.4</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>60.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>60.3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Own elaboration


The data presented above is only estimate figures. The proportion of migrants staying in the EU countries is not known because of difficulties in studying them. Refugees and immigrants, most frequently illegal, incessantly come to their destinations both by sea and land. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) published a report stating that in 2009-2010 the number of people coming to Europe by sea significantly fell down (depending on their destination) from 50% to 95%.

It is estimated that about 1.5 thousand refugees went to Malta by sea in 2010, by contrast with 3 thousand in earlier years. A few years ago, one of the most popular island among migrants was an Italian Lampedusa, which was overpopulated in 2011. Usually it is inhabited by about 4.5 thousand people, however an influx of refugees from Tunisia made the number bigger several times. There has been noticed the fall of undesirable strangers from Northern Africa for two years. Approximate UNHRC data from Roma office indicates that the number decreased 94% for the first 5 months of 2010 comparing to the same period of 2009. However, the events that took place at the beginning of 2011 in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya caused the new influx of refugees in this area.

France and Spain are under migration pressure less as well. According to Madrid UNHCR, migration at the Spanish coasts, especially on the Canary Island and the Balearic Island, fell half in 2009 comparing to 2008 when it was 13400 people. According to the head of the border police, in France in Calais district and at the railway

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37 http://www.dw.de/dw/article/42/0,,14841783,00.html
38 Nowe szlaki migracji, www.presseurop.eu/pl/content/article/28097
39 http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/1,114873,9188730,Wlochy_w_panice__nowa_fala_migrantow_z_Tunezji
Vintimille-Paris the largest number of illegal migrants was from Italy. In 2010 20% less migrants were stopped. It happened thanks to French government action, which reached an agreement with countries called ‘sources of migrations’, and thanks to sealing the borders coordinated by FRONTEX\textsuperscript{40}.

Another transit country, especially to Italy, was Libya. To stop the influx of illegal migrants Libya reinforced the border control and in 2009 reached an agreement with Italian government, thanks to which the project was supported financially\textsuperscript{41}. In 2011 Libyan-Tunisian border was besieged by Libyan refugees in fear of the civil war. More than 20 thousand people spent there even up to a few weeks in dreadful conditions\textsuperscript{42}. Italian foreign minister Ingazio La Russa appealed to the other EU countries to cooperate and relieve Italy of African immigrants\textsuperscript{43}. This position should not surprise anyone, especially when Italy is exposed to illegal migrants from Africa most. The problem looked serious as after mass migration in 2009 Italian government made legal amendment where illegal immigration became a crime and renting accommodation to a person without a legal residence permit is punishable by even up to 3 years in prison. Then the wave of migrants deportation to their homeland took place. Italian feature writer Marina Corradi compared the case of suffering migrants to displacing Jews in 1933 where the problem is noticeable and known, but nobody does anything for migrants’ good\textsuperscript{44}. Because of the difficult situation of African migrants, there was a possibility that some Libyan migrants travelling through Malta would get to Poland, however the only action taken was a proposal put forward by our country\textsuperscript{45}.

Moreover, new migration routes moved toward east and Turkey became a portal for immigrants to get to Europe. Stopping 70 thousand illegal immigrants in 2009 only in Istanbul can be taken as proof\textsuperscript{46}. Land migration routes run through Turkey as well. The most numerous group is the Afghans, Somalis and Eritreans\textsuperscript{47}. Apart from above mentioned, the other nations such as the Moroccans take advantage of travelling to Thailand without visas and then from Bangkok they fly to Istanbul. However, the largest group of refugees, almost 2 million stays in Pakistan. There are more than one million refugees in Iran while about one million in Syria. They are mainly the Afghans, Iraqis, Somalis and Congolese\textsuperscript{48}. In Jordan there have been about 40 thousand Syrian refugees since the beginning of 2012\textsuperscript{49}.

\textsuperscript{40} Europejska Agencja Zarządzania Współpracą Operacyjną na Granicach Zewnętrznych Państw Członkowskich Unii
\textsuperscript{41} Komisja Europejska, Komunikat komisji do parlamentu europejskiego, rady, europejskiego komitetu ekonomiczno-społecznego i komitetu regionów - Globalne podejście do kwestii migracji i mobilności, pp. 7-8
\textsuperscript{42} \url{http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0743:FIN:PL:PDF}
\textsuperscript{43} M. Szaniewski, \textit{Koszmarnie uchodźców z Libii}, \url{http://wyborcza.pl/1,75477,9204062,Koszmarnie-uchodzcow-z-Libii.html#ixzz1NRsxm6l2}
\textsuperscript{44} \url{http://biznes.onet.pl/uchodzcy-z-afrqyki-naplywaja-do-europy,18642,4194831,audio-detali}
\textsuperscript{45} \url{http://wyborcza.pl/1,76842,6954190,Immigranci-z_Afryki_jak_Zydzio_po_1933_roku__html}
\textsuperscript{46} \url{http://www.rmf24.pl/fakty/polska-news-uchodzcy-z-afrqyki-polnocnej-nie-chca-do-polski,nId,339731}
\textsuperscript{47} \url{http://www.presseurop.eu/pl/content/article/280971-nowe-szlaki-migracji}
\textsuperscript{48} \url{http://www.deon.pl/wiadomosci/swiat/art,6887,rosnie-liczba-uchodzcow-w-biednych-krajach}
\textsuperscript{49} Ibidem
\textsuperscript{49} \url{http://www.wprost.pl/ar/322044/20-tys-Syryjczykow-ucieklo-do-Jordanii/}

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Apart from the fact that most of the presented situations were strictly connected with refugee status, it should be emphasized that refugees ‘forced’ at the beginning to leave their countries, take advantage of this situation. Gainful migration becomes their real motive to resettle very often. Most of refugees from Tunisia are young people, who lost their jobs because of an economic slowdown.\(^5\)

Nowadays there is a view that if Europe before 2050 does not bring the sufficient number of migrants from countries whose culture allows to assimilate to European nations, the representatives of Islamic Civilization, who are hermetic to cultural assimilation, will overrun the Old Continent. The expansion of this civilization means the death for societies not only of Europe but all which it will encounter. It is allowed to claim so because of cultural issues, which nowadays unambiguously indicate that encountering this civilization means — contrary to optimism of some political and scientific circles — solely Huntington’s clash of civilization.

**SUMMARY**

Taking as a paradigm that everything has its beginning and end, it is worth to wonder whether the end of Western Civilization is not the result of natural end of its life cycle. Is expansion of the other civilizations the beginning or continuation of the life cycle of the other civilizations equipped with ability to reproduce and natural will to preserve? Maybe it is a key to answer the question about the future of Western Civilization. If Western Civilization is vanishing under the influence of the expansion of Islamic Civilization, African Civilization as well as in economic sense Chinese and Hindu Civilizations, when will they start a fight between each other, what will they fight about, who will win and when will their end come? What they will fight about seems to be a rhetorical question. Definitely they will be natural resources, which are nowadays the subject of interests of huge corporations and superpowers.

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