

Humboldt Kolleg

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Global Challenges of the 21st Century

- 1) Technological development and human health/ quality of life*
- 2) Climate change and environmental sustainability*
- 3) Democracy and cohesion in Europe*

The Arab Waves of Migration to Europe and Their Impact on European Societies

Human migration has always been a way of survival, as a person naturally seeks to live a better life. Internal migration, within the borders of a country, or international migration have impacts on both places, the one left behind and the place of settlement. While modern times should have been challenged only with voluntary migration (work, study, family, seasonal migrations), we have unfortunately been witnessing massive involuntary migration as well. Europe faced the biggest refugee crisis of its modern times during the years 2015 and 2016, when approximately 1.3 million refugees came over the Mediterranean Sea to Europe, mainly through 3 roots: Morocco – Spain, Libya – Italy, and, the most important, Turkey – Greece. These waves of migration initiated a lot of political debates as legal and identity crises bursted out, eventually leading to changes of immigration policies.

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