

The European Crisis of Identity: Muslim Migration and the New Racism in Europe

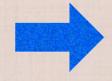
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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the European continent has been experiencing an influx of Muslim migrants, and this has led to the emergence of a new xenophobic attitude; constructed primordialism and the creation of "new racism." As a result, there has been an increase in discrimination, hate crimes, and xenophobia against Muslim minorities throughout all states within the European Union due to a multitude of reasons including; the historical aspects of Muslim migration to EU countries, the overall failure of multiculturalism, and the resurgence of right-wing political and racist groups which has led to unforeseen return to radical Islamic fundamentalism by Muslim immigrants.

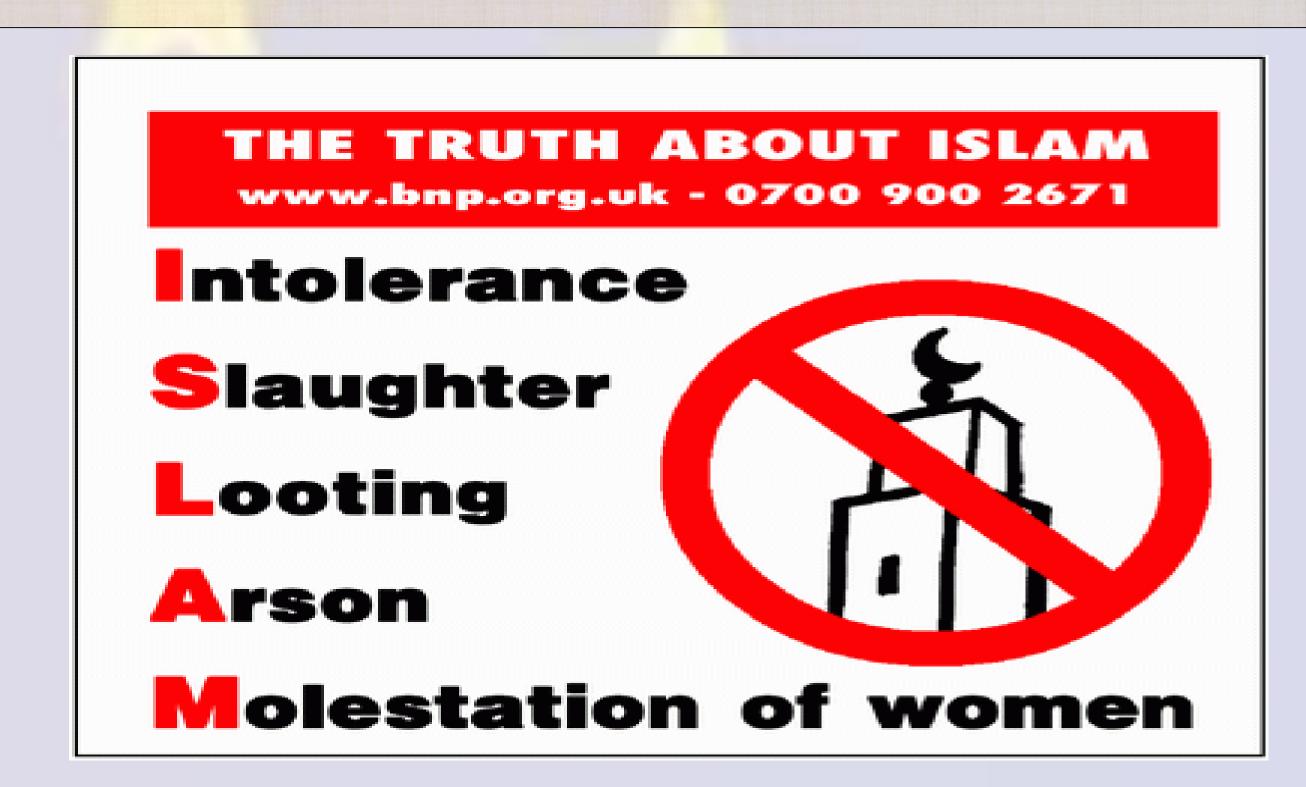
MUSLIM MIGRATION



CONSTRUCTED PRIMORDIALISM CREATION OF NEW RACISM



- ❖ CONSTRUCTED PRIMORDIALISM- the social construction of ethnic identities reinforced by nationalistic sentiment within nation-states (Sheila Croucher)
- * NEW RACISM- the perceived cultural, ethnic, racial, and religious differences between natives and immigrants. The outsider group (Muslims) will be seen as a threat to the host society (Europeans)



FRANCE: HISTORICAL ASPECTS



- Algerian War of Independence-terrorist attacks of Algerians on French citizens
- Restrictive policy-making starting in 1970s during Algerian War
- Algerians seen as "unassailable" and a threat to French culture
- Outward segregation of Muslims- red-lining and banlieues (project housing)
- Laïcité- secularization, no display of religious symbols which then causes the "headscarf debate"

BRITAIN: FAILURE OF MULTICULTURALISM



- * Religious pluralism policy- incorporates religion into formal institutions of the state
- Native racism has led to assaults on Muslims and furthers their exclusion in society
- Terrorism as a threat to national security- July 2005 London subway bombings
- In schools: "Few Muslim girls refuse to attend music, art, biology, or sexual education classes because these subjects are seen as contrary to Islam" (Fetzer and Weitz 85)

GERMANY: RIGHT-WING GROUPS



- Focus on nationalism and xenophobia- only pure ethnics have a right to reside within the country and all foreigners must leave
- Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands (NPD)
- Cities Against Islamization
- Anti-Muslim rhetoric from political parties portrayed in the media outlets
- High membership and increased number of attacks on Muslim migrants
- Violence as a means to assert political goals

CONCLUDING REMARKS The marginalization and alienation of Muslim migrants has created social unrest and ethnic conflicts

- The return to nationalistic xenophobia has fostered feelings of resentment within the Muslim community which, in turn, has led to the reemergence of radical Islamic fundamentalism
- Without a change in public perception or progressive EU policy-making, there will be more terrorist attacks in Europe as a result of Islamic fundamentalism



