BRIDGES AND BANDITS ON THE ROAD TO THE NEW JERUSALEM

A Study of the Correlation Between Immigration and Terrorism
TRUMP’S IMMIGRATION ORDER

➢ “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States.”

➢ Religious Discrimination?

➢ Islamophobia?

Is there any link between immigration and terrorism?
LITERATURE REVIEW


- Much evidence is anecdotal
- Many Connections are Fabricated
LITERATURE REVIEW


- Increases in Immigration and Terrorism are not Contemporaneous
- Restricting Immigration May be an End Itself

Mary De Ming Fan, "The Immigration-Terrorism Illusory Correlation and Heuristic Mistake," (2007)

- The Perception of Terrorism is Greater than the Reality
LITERATURE REVIEW

Jozsef Kis-Benedek. “Illegal Immigration and Terrorism” (2016)

➢ Terrorist Groups can Use Migration to Send Operatives

➢ Social Media Offers a Door for Recruitment in Host Countries


➢ Rinkeby, Sweden Serves as a Prime Recruiting Area for Shebab

➢ Immigrants either Ostracized or Perceive Themselves to be so, Thus, No Assimilation

- Migration is a Means for the Spread of Terrorism
- Immigrants Serve as Physical Link
HYPOTHESIS

As countries receive increased levels of asylum seekers from terror-prone nations, they will experience an increase in the number of terror attacks.
METHODOLOGY

Six Countries Studied:

➢ Germany
➢ Turkey
➢ Greece
➢ United States
➢ Canada
➢ Australia

Based on:

➢ Immigration policies
➢ Proximity to terror prone countries
➢ Popularity as the country of destination for immigrants
SOURCES

➢ Inflows of Immigrants: International Migration Database of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

➢ Terrorist Instances: Global Terrorism Database
GERMANY

Inflows Asylum Seekers

Terrorism Incidents

Year


0 10 20 30 40 50

0 10 20 30 40 50
GERMANY

$R^2 = .901$, Strong Correlation.

90% of the incidence of terrorism can be explained by inflows of asylum seekers.
TURKEY
TURKEY

$R^2 = .55$, Moderate Correlation.

55% of terrorism is explained or predicted by inflows of asylum seekers.
GREECE
GREECE

$R^2 = .0005$, Weak Correlation.

Internally terror-prone, immigration impact masked as a result.
R² = .093, Weak Correlation.

The United States is an outlier due to distance, strict refugee vetting, and unique draw for terrorism.
CANADA

![Graph showing inflows of asylum seekers and terrorism incidents over years.](image)

**Inflows Asylum Seekers**

**Year**


**Terrorism Incident**

CANADA

R² = .061, Weak Negative Correlation.

Low terror-prone immigration, absolute immigration alone does not predict terrorism.
AUSTRALIA

R² = .065, Weak Correlation.

Too few incidents of terrorism for meaningful conclusions.
SUMMARY

➢ Germany and Turkey - strong linear relationship
  ○ Germany - 90% of the variance in terrorism incidents can be explained by the inflows of asylum seekers
  ○ Turkey - 55% of the variance in terrorism incidents can be explained by the inflows of asylum seekers

➢ What about immigration from terror-prone countries? (Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Syria)
POTENTIAL FUTURE RESEARCH
CONCLUSION

Increased migration from terror-prone nations and regions is linked to increased terrorism

➢ Germany indicates that migration from terror-prone areas is a strong indicator of a rise in terrorist incidents.

➢ Turkey indicates that immigration does not present a holistic picture.

➢ Canada indicates that immigration in general is not linked to terrorism.
CREDITS

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QUESTIONS