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Why Do European Countries Keep Accepting African and Middle Eastern Refugees Regardless of the Chaos and Conflict Refugees Bring?

Proposal

I want to write a research essay about the reasons of why developed countries keep receiving refugees from Africa and the Middle East even refugees may cause many problems inside the countries, like increasing crime rate and overpopulation. Before I started the research, I heard the news that there are lots of people moving from the Middle East and Africa to Europe because of the war. Although European countries, especially Germany, suffer from refugee riots, most of those countries keep accepting new refugees from the border. European countries’ acceptance towards the refugees really made me curious—what motivates them to help the refugees so generously? For most countries, accepting the refugees cannot bring them a lot of economic benefits since they need government support in their daily life. More issues may appear due to culture difference and associated problems with such a big increase in population. In addition, they may even face challenges that Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) spies take this chance to enter Europe with fake IDs. I am interested about this the reasons European countries keep accepting them. It is important because it corresponds to the lives of millions of refugees and core values of those
European countries. The focus of this question is not narrowed to a particular region, yet it is an issue that the whole world should be aware of.

My research will begin with gathering information from the school’s library. First I will search the sources form our school’s library database and evaluate if the writer has a deep understanding towards this topic. Secondly I will distinguish if the source is primary or secondary, informational or it is intending to give people an opinion, biased or unbiased. I will search for the backgrounds of the war in Africa and the Middle East, the benefits and harms for more developed countries to accept the refugees and reasons European countries accept refugees. Finally I will discuss if it is worth to let the refugees in without very careful identification check in both moral and economical aspects. I will use as much primary sources and scholarly sources as much as I can. Most of the sources will come from the library database. I will type “refugee,” “Middle East”, “Europe,” “War,” in different combinations, like “refugee” and “Europe,” for the library search terms.

There are several challenges I will encounter during the research. Firstly, there are not so many sources about this topic. Most sources in the library are about US policy towards Mexican illegal immigrations. Moreover, it seems to me that the reasons of European countered is receiving refugees is out of sympathy instead of economic reasons, which I can only discuss in a moral aspect, so the data does not support the act of accepting refugees. Additionally, there is almost no book source, which would be a problem for writing the research essay as well.
Why do European countries keep accepting African and Middle East refugees, regardless the chaos and conflict refugees bring?

Annotated Bibliography

Source 1:

This journal stated the Syria refugees’ living condition in their neighbor countries. The author uses the quotation from different countries’ president and senators to give their different ideas why they accept or do not accept the refugees. The article mainly talks about the argument if they will use those frozen assets to help the refugees, but also a lot of information stating that the Arab countries does not want to accept the refugees anymore, while some European countries are willing to offer help. The debate about who is going to pay the bill for helping refugees is very intense.

The journal is peer reviewed, and is reliable. It can be used as a supplement for the reasons Middle East refugees rush into Europe, and why European countries cannot accept them all. I will use this source to give brief ideas about the benefits and harms when accepting the refugees.
Source 2:


The author talked about the Syria refugee crisis in terms of economic aspect. He used the data of GDP growth change in Lebanon and Jordan from 2009 to 2012 to illustrate how did the war change the countries’ growth and how does it further affect the lives for Syrian refugees. Then he further stated how the issues in economy and poverty resulted the conflict and split of countries.

This is a reliable source because it is peer review and is scholarly source. The author is objective towards the topic and his analysis is based on data. I will use this source for stating the causes of the Syrian refugee crisis, and further investigate if there is any other ways for European countries help the refugees instead of letting them into the country. The source gives a thought to estimate the cost to save the refugees with economic supply outside European countries and compare with current European countries’ cost of letting the refugees into the countries.

Source 3:

This source tells about the inside of Europe politics and the politic parts that are going to gain support. The article also explains situations in Middle East and reasons that Europeans do not want to accept them as well.

The source is not peer reviewed, and is a popular source as well. I still think it is reliable because this is published by a US newspaper company, New York Times, which has no interest in the effects in Europe. Though it is not peer reviewed, there are still multiple writers, so the reliability is promised as well.

Source 4:

The source talks about the issues faced by the Arab countries refugee in a general way, including the refugees in Syria as well. He claimed that few things were done to the local refugees and there is a lack of social study in refugee area. There is not a lot of help given by the refugees’ home countries to help them go to Europe or other safer places as well. The author also discussed the different dimensions that refugees suffer, and reasons that European countries may not accept them. In specifically, he stated the reasons Russia and Greece did not accept refugees by using the historical example.

This is a secondary source. It is peer reviewed, so it is reliable. Though the source contains the author’s analysis, it is very objective and unbiased. I will use this source to explain the reasons of possible conflict between the refugees and developed countries, and why it may be hard for the European countries to accept the refugees. This can be
used as a counterargument towards my thesis.

Source 5:


The author, Scott Gilmore, talked about his opinion towards Canada’s immigrations policies towards the refugees in the Middle East. Just as the topic stated, he considered the Canadian government does not work hard enough to help as much refugees from the Middle East as they can. He first quoted the response from the prime minister, Stephen Harper, who claimed that “Canada had the most generous immigration and refugee system in the world”, and then reject the prime minister’s words through his article. The author gave data about the migrants per capita, the immigrations proportion of the total national population, and other immigration details to illustrate that Canada can do much more than they are doing currently. After addressing the issue, he mentioned the plan of the Canada government that they would increase acceptance of refugees from Syria to 200,000 per year and ways to accomplish this goal. He praised this act and claim that it is still not enough for the government to do.

This is a secondary source. Though it is not peer reviewed, MacClean’s has fact checkers that can verify if the author was using the facts. This means the source is still reliable. I will use this source in the essay to reflect what most countries are thinking
about facing the refugee crisis, and their reasons that they do not want to accept more refugees.

Source 6

The book talks about the laws that protect the refugees, and the difficulties they face in the host countries like identity problems and psychological problems. The author use several examples from previous refugee crisis to illustrate the conflict when refugees rush into the more developed countries, and European countries are mentioned specifically.

This is a scholarly source. The book uses an objective tone, and discusses the problem with real facts and data through research. It is very reliable and I will use it in identifying the conflict in immigration area in law aspect, as the book stated there is a lot of contradicting laws in refugee areas. I will use it to further discuss the identity difficulties faced by refugee in a micro way, as they face culture difference and law constraint.

Source 7:
This article explains the reasons that Germany accepts refugees out of conscience. Their chancellor, Angela Merkel, expressed her ideas that Germany had been accepting help from other countries since the end of WWII, so they think it is right to help the people in Africa and Middle East to have a safer and better life. The article quotes the words from the chancellor’s interview, which states what kind of help they had been accepting from the other countries after WWII, which made them decide to accept the refugees.

This is a primary source, which the author summarized the reasons and gave evidences for Germany accepting the refugees instead of giving his own ideas. The source is commercial and is not peer reviewed. I do not think the article is biased as it does not give opinions, so it is mostly reliable although it is for commercial. I will use this source for explaining the reasons why some European countries accept the refugees in a moral way.

Source 8:

This source explains the reasons and oppositions from several European governments when they were asked to accept a portion of Middle East refugees. The
biggest problem is that some countries said they would only accept the Christian refugee, as they did not want muslims to enter their country. The authors used quotations from the president of Warsaw to show the reasons Warsaw would not accept the refugees.

This is a commercial source. It is not peer reviewed, but I think it is still reliable as the article is written by multiple authors as primary source, which they would be responsible for each other’s work. This news is on the front page of the newspaper, which increase the credibility of it as the publisher would not risk their reputation for it as well. Personally, I don’t this article is biased as well, because the people have no self-interest related to this news. They are not refugees or government. I will use this source as the one that does not support my thesis, and I will try to find the reasons some European countries would not like to accept the refugees.