

## THE SOCIAL CHALLENGES ON SPAIN'S SECURITY POLICIES INTEGRATION AND MIGRATION EFFECTS

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### ABSTRACT:

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS FACING MANY CHALLENGES AND IS STRUGGLING TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE MIGRATION POLICY BASED ON THE CORE OF EUROPEAN VALUES, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND IS FIGHTING AGAINST ILLEGAL MIGRATION. SPAIN HAD BECOME THE DESTINATION FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS AND IS REPRESENTING A STRATEGIC POINT IN THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN EUROPE. THE ARAB SPRING HAD INCREASED THE CHALLENGES FOR EU' S BORDER POLITICS REGARDING NORTH AFRICA. THIS EVENT HAS TRIGGERED THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE MIGRATION PROCESS, AND ALSO IMPORTANT SOCIAL CHANGES IN SPAIN' S FRONTIER POLICIES. THE COMMON STRUGGLE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AGAINST IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN SPAIN AND THE MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS IS NOT YET CONCLUDED. THE MAIN QUESTION REMAINS: IS SPAIN READY FOR THE NEW CHALLENGES THAT ARE EMERGING?

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**KEY WORDS:** SOUTHERN BORDERS OF EU, SPAIN, ARAB SPRING, SECURITIZATION, IMMIGRATION

### MOTTO:

*"But destiny — what from a vital point of view one has to be or has not to be — is not discussed, it is either accepted or rejected. If we accept it, we are genuine; if not, we are the negation, the falsification of ourselves. Destiny does not consist in what we feel we should like to do; rather is it recognised in its clear features in the consciousness that we must do what we do not feel like doing."*

*-José Ortega y Gasset,  
The Revolt of the Masses, XI.*

### INTRODUCTION

During this decade Spain has experienced an increase in his foreign-born population, from 4 percent to almost 14 percent. The waves of immigrants in Spain and Italy attracted the international attention in the recent period. In Spain the immigration did not cause political and public instability. This country has managed so far to treat the immigration process with finesse, and assured the reinforcement of European Union southern frontier.

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In this moment, the unemployment rate in Spain has reached the highest rates from the European bloc. The Spanish Society is facing a significantly wave of threats which emerged both on the background of the current financial and economic crisis, but also due to the autonomy movements which lately have intensified, and are stimulated by the present social transformations.

## MAIN TEXT

The Spanish policies in the last two centuries were strongly forged by dramatic events and large social transformations, dominated by regimes under constant instability. However, in the few moments in which Spain has experienced the stability, this country succeeded to show to the world its capabilities, on the political level, but also culturally. In this country the migration phenomenon was present since ancient times. It played a key role in the creation of the Spanish nation. The kings of Spain, especially the Catholics have encouraged the immigration. The giant process of conquest and colonization of the Americas demanded an extremely high human potential. The contributions of Arab culture in the peninsula and for the whole Europe have been invaluable. Nowadays in the approach of migration and immigration issue, have emerged considerable debates regarding the arabic population who immigrated in Spain after the "Arab Spring". The Spanish Society has a great respect for the past, therefore is trying to ensure a more efficient integration, both at the cultural level and also in the social matter.

Thinkers and writers of the stature of Miguel de Unamuno y Jugo (1864-1936), Pío Baroja (1872-1956), Azorin (1873-1967), Ramiro de Maetzu (1874-1936), José Ortega y Gasset (1883-1955) or Ramón del Valle-Inclán (1866-1936) have contributed through their writings and ideas, to Spain's integration in the European community. The painting representatives like Pablo Picasso (1881-1973), Ramon Casas (1866-1932), Joaquín Sorolla (1863-1923), Ignacio Zuloaga (1870-1945), Romero de Torres (1874-1930), Juan Gris (1887-1927), Joan Miró (1893-1983) and Salvador Dalí (1904-1989), in sculpture: Antonio Gaudí (1852-1926), Lluís Domènech i Montaner (1850-1923), the musician Albéniz (1860-1909), the "Nobel" Prize winner Santiago Ramón y Cajal (1852-1934), represents only a part of the personalities that propelled Spain in the cultural European Integration.

In 1898 the Spanish-American War has compelled Spain to renounce his colonial empire in the American continent. The United States obtain all of Spain's territories, except of Africa, including Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines. Ceuta, Melilla and a few markets in the North of Africa, are all that was left from his colonial past. This context is worth mentioning because the Spanish society from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century underwent a strong cultural development. This progress have been produced both due to the capital of the Spanish companies who withdrew from the American continent as a result of the Spanish defeat in the Cuban war, and therefore this assets were invested substantially in the economy of the Iberian peninsula, as well due to the powerful activities of the group of intellectuals „Generation of '98". The African colonial wars that followed soon after the lost of Cuba, still haunts the policies of this regions.

In May 2014, more than 150 migrants have fled to Spain from Melilla after hundreds broke into the North African region. More than 1,000 stormed the fences into the enclave and about 400 had managed to cross the frontier. Juan Jose Imbroda, the mayor of the city stated that „Immigrants from all over Africa regularly attempts to cross the fences at Melilla and a second Spanish enclave along the coast, Ceuta. Both are surrounded by Moroccan

territory and the Mediterranean sea. It has renewed calls on the EU to do more to address what it says is a security threat to European borders, not just Spain's".<sup>2</sup>

„Security is a cornerstone of development and progress in a free society. A basic and widespread understanding of the importance of security as a guarantee of citizens' well-being and the stability of the State itself is therefore essential.”<sup>3</sup>

According to the Migraciones Series of the CIDOB, whose studies focuses on the illegal migration from the North African countries in the Canary Islands and other southern European regions, that are major concerns regarding the securisation of the Southern maritime borders of the European Union in the recent years.<sup>4</sup>

The North African uprisings had intensified the migration process bringing new challenges for the EU border system. People from Tunisia, Saudi-Arabia, Egypt, Lybia, Syria, Iraq confronted with massive protests, dictatorships, poverty and civil wars are trying to reach in the European area. Many scholars claimed that the European migratory system will be forced in a short time to update his policies in front of these confrontations. The European Commission supported Spain by using his economic resources like European Refugee Fund and the European Border Fund, helping the Spanish authorities to cover the humanitarian and medical costs and also the repatriation of irregular immigrants.

Today the competitiveness and a balanced management are the key factors in the strengthening of the Spanish social system, in fighting unemployment, and the appropriate approach in the integration process.

In our study we can not ignore the financial sector, since there is an increasing interdependence between the migration process and the economic field. This sector is the most affected by this crisis, the Spanish companies have reached critical points since 2008 and are involved since then in a constant struggle for survival, and trying to distance themselves more and more from regression and stagnation. The current researches revealed that the Spanish economic engine is on the right track, successfully exceeding the critical level. In this process of strengthening the spanish economy, the European Union had an essential role. This is being demonstrated by the loans she made, but also by the increasingly active role in the management of migration, the integration process and the fortification on its southern borders.

The project "Access to Citizenship and its Impact on Immigrant Integration", financed by European Union is providing new informations about obtaining nationality in Europe. The indicators reveald that in 2008, only 16% have obtained citizenship in Spain. In the same period, in countries like Sweden and Netherlands the between 60% and 70% of foreign immigrants have obtained citizenship.<sup>5</sup>

The background of the immigrants is very important. The education, employment, family status and language use are factors that also influence the acquisition of nationality. In most EU countries 15% of the immigrants from less developed countries, with secondary

<sup>2</sup> Immigrants moved to mainland Spain after Melilla break-in, *Euronews*, available at: <http://www.euronews.com/2014/05/29/immigrants-moved-to-mainland-spain-after-melilla-break-in/>, (accessed July 10, 2014).

<sup>3</sup> Departamento de Seguridad Nacional, *The National Security Strategy*, (Madrid: Presidencia del Gobierno, 2013), 2.

<sup>4</sup> Lluís García Pinyol Agulló, *Introduction 'Protecting borders'? Managing Irregular Migration on the EU's Southern Flank*, in Dirk Godenau, Vicente Manuel Zapata Hernandez et. al. (eds.), *Immigration flows and the management of the EU's southern maritime borders*, Numero 17, (Barcelona: Documentos CIDOB, Serie Migraciones, Fundacion CIDOB, 2008), 8.

<sup>5</sup> Elena, Sánchez-Montijano, Cavadonga, González Pujol, *El Acceso a la Ciudadanía y sus efectos sobre la Integración de Imigrantes*, (Barcelona: Centre for International Affairs, Migration Policy Group, 2010), 4.

school, are 42% more likely to obtain citizenship than those who only have primary education. Immigrants from developing countries and developed countries are more likely to obtain citizenship if they speak the language of the country, home residence, if are married and if they work. The policies also influence the process. Although these factors are important, the nationality laws largely determine the number of naturalized immigrants, because they have establish the conditions under wich immigrants can apply for citizenship.<sup>6</sup>

### **CONCLUSION**

In addition to managing the irregular migration, and the integration process, since the early twentieth century Spain was confronted with increasingly separatist movements. Beginning with the reign of Alfonso XII and the Carlist wars, in certain regions of the country the struggle for self-determination has not been concluded yet. Spain has proved so far that she can successfully manage the migration process and is continues to make further contributions to the European security. The social policies within the integration process facilitated this task, especially in the cultural field. The main question still remains: *is Spain ready for the new challenges that are emerging?* We can say that as long there is a constant versatility this country is on the right way.

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<sup>6</sup> Sánchez-Montijano, *El Acceso a la Ciudadanía*, 7.

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