

Comparative Study of French and German Integration of Muslim Immigrants

Sabrina Harris

Department of Political Science

Background

- Europe recruited temporary guest workers to rebuild countries after World War II.
- Today, over 10 million Muslims live in Europe, largely in France and Germany.
- Violent clashes between host populations and Muslim immigrants demonstrate the failure of state policies to integrate them.

Research Question

- Using France and Germany as case studies, which state policies lead to fuller integration of immigrant (especially Muslim) populations?
- This research makes country-specific policy recommendations that go beyond existing theoretical approaches to the “Muslim question” in Europe.

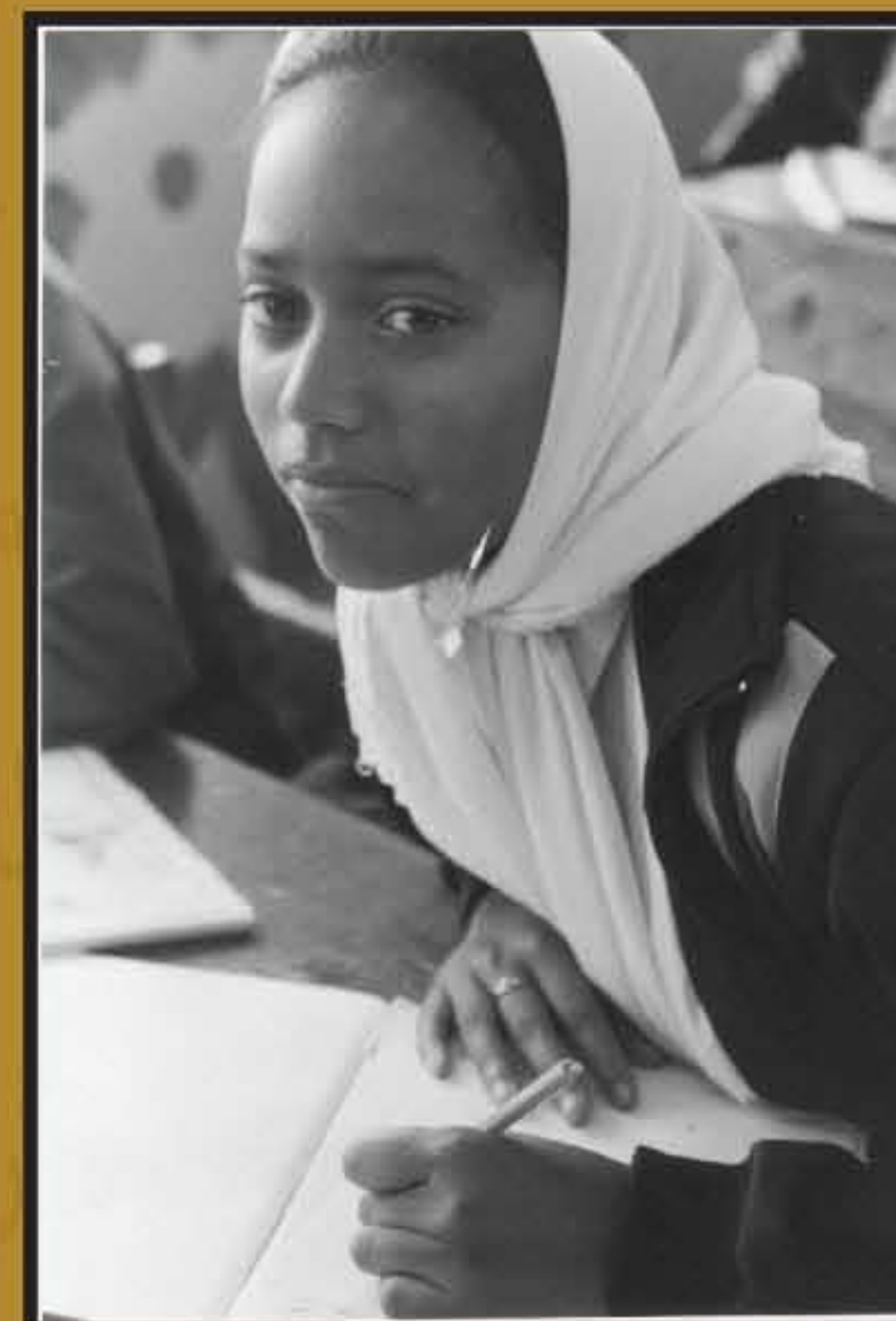


Conclusions

- Effective integration policies must include mechanisms for mediating conflict around three major issues: political rights, economic opportunity, and socio-cultural incorporation.
- Policy recommendations must be country specific in order to accommodate national, historical experience with issues of nationality and church-state relations.

Methods

- Dependent variable: successful integration- state and policy mechanisms for mediating conflicts between immigrant interests and the national interests of the host country.
- Independent variables: political rights (voting, citizenship, etc), economic opportunity (employment, welfare access, etc), socio-cultural incorporation (church-state relations, education, attitudes towards immigrants, etc).
- Primary research using French and German sources in addition to secondary theoretical research on issues of immigration and integration.



Future Research Questions

- Additional case studies are necessary to further define “successful integration”, including cases with non-Muslim immigrant populations.
- Focused research on specific state policies and mechanisms for conflict mediation is necessary to determine long-range effectiveness.



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