

The Historical Realities of Illustrative Images of African Youths with Deadly Dangerous Voluntary Crossing of the Saharan Desert Through the Mediterranean Deep Sea to European Clandestine Destinations 2000-2021

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Abstract: The present paper handles clandestine migratory pathways of Sub-Saharan African youths struggling with deadly eyes across the Sahara Desert through the Mediterranean waterways to different targeted destinations aiming to arrive in European countries between 2000 and 2021. The targeted countries includes Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Britain which were the former slavery and slave trade practitioners thereafter their abolitions to colonial masters then to the stage of neo-colonial looting agents of continuous Exploration, Expropriations and Exploitation of African Natural Resource (EEEANR). However, about forty years of their departure but sustaining the mechanisms of neo-colonialism has been a serious challenges to African developmental patterns with strings of foreign aid in collaboration with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dictating the norms of macro and micro- economic policies to Third World Countries. This set confusions among individual African leaders who find it difficult to come out with good effective implantable policies without consulting the neo-colonial actors. Consequently, most of the African youths in Sub-Saharan Africa saw the end of the 20th Century as era of European ill lucks and beginning of the 21st Century with the realities of globalization as an era of new hopes through clandestine migration at all cost. The funny issue here is that they are still running to do slavery in the name of blue or white collar jobs to the same white men who enslaved our ancestors in the era of slavery and slave trade, and hard and harsh labour with all torturing mechanisms in the era of colonization. The shocking images are clear visibility of what the African youths embarking on such immigration are going through as corpses are seen lying beside the Mediterranean shores. Frequently, sinking of vessels resulted in the mass drowning with the Tunisian Coast Guards rescuing a minimal number of survivors from the twin shipwrecks. The Libyan direction is too havocking as torturing is the order of the day with female migrants facing serious sexual harassments. There exists some concentration camps for the migrants in Libya offered to youth migrants from Sub-Saharan African countries. The eras of slavery and slave trade, colonization were long outdated as Africans were transported in waterways as cargoes to work in plantations with some saving in many domestic services. The era of voluntary slavery and forceful obligations by individuals to make several attempts of cross the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Mediterranean Sea and other water channels has been too rampant in the 21st Century with much highly recorded death from drowning with incapacities to swim during the sinking of r the transported boats. African leaders needs specific effective policy implementations in different economic sectors and opening of manufacturing industries which can recruits the youths as most of them are doing but slavery in European manufacturing industries whose raw materials are looted from the African Continent.

Keywords: Mediterranean, Sahara Desert, Europe, drowning, boat, torture, greener pastures, Youths, Africans.

INTRODUCTION

With much inspirations drawn from diverse documentary, media reporting, eye witnesses and numerous sources pertaining to the challenges of African

youths involvement on clandestine migration between 2000 and 2001, the search for African migrants drawing in the Mediterranean sea are well illustrated with evidence gotten from ANSA/AFP/Getty Images among others. It started by bringing out the frightening outcome

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of about 16 migrants who tried to reach different European destinations were drowned in the Mediterranean Sea when their small dinghy capsized off the coast of Libya as was reported by the UN Migration Agency the latest shipwreck to underscore the deadly risks facing those who flee the war-afflicted North African country. (Mediterranean CBC... www.cbc.ca/news/world/libya-migrants-mediterranean-1.5738478, Nearly 1,000 migrants have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea in...[www.rfi.fr > en > Africa](http://www.rfi.fr/en/Africa)). In another instances, 57 migrants who drowned off the coast of Libya added to the toll of nearly 1,000 lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea in 2021 according to the UN Agency International Organisation (for...; Thirty-Nine African Migrants Drown in Mediterranean Shipwrecks, [www.breitbart.com > immigration > 2021/03/09.](http://www.breitbart.com/immigration/2021/03/09/), Images for African Migrants drown in the Mediterranean Sea in addition to aspiring African migrant on the road in Morocco, a common departure point for migrants seeking to reach Europe (Andrea Comasi, Online, June 2021). According to official information from a spokesman for the Tunisian National Guard, Houcem Eddine Jebabli, said the mostly sub-Saharan migrants had set sail during the night aboard two makeshift boats in an effort to cross the perilous Strait of Sicily to the Italian island of Lampedusa. Both of the vessels sank, resulting in the mass drowning. The Tunisian Coast Guard was, however, able to rescue 165 survivors from the twin shipwrecks. From figure No.4 above, we can see youths already seeing death more closely to them than the greener pastures they were hunting for right in the Middle of the sea with hands on their heads. Mr. Jebabli attributed the disaster to the poor condition of the boats and the fact they were overloaded beyond capacity. Migrant deaths in the Mediterranean Sea have risen since Italy indicated it was once again opening its ports to immigration. The number of Tunisian migrants landing on Italian shores jumped fivefold in 2020, to 13,000, Reuters reported (Thomas D. Williams, 2021).

According to AFRICANGLOBE, “dozens of African migrants have reportedly drowned after a boat carrying over 500 people capsized in the Mediterranean Sea. Most of the 500 migrants aboard the boat were fleeing from Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea and had been hoping to reach Italy. Somali media reports say that rescue workers have only managed to save 29 passengers from the waters after the shocking incident. Over 400 migrants are thought to have drowned, the Somali ambassador in Egypt told reporters. Meanwhile a boat carrying around 130 migrants from Libya was rescued by the Aquarius in the Mediterranean yesterday. It is thought up to 27 drowned but 108 were saved and taken to Lampedusa harbor in Italy, where they received medical treatment. Social media users have claimed that the boat had started its journey in Egypt with Italy being its intended destination, a route favoured by many smugglers. Photographs of a handwritten list of victims’ names have been uploaded on to social media by several Somali speaking users. As many as 70 migrants trying to

reach Europe from Libya drowned Friday when their boat capsized in the Mediterranean Sea, and at least 16 others on the boat were rescued, according to U.N. migration officials and Tunisia’s state news agency. The International Organization for Migration called it the deadliest migrant boat sinking since January, and it comes as overall migrant arrivals to Europe are decreasing. Migrants. The smuggling boat was coming from Libya when it sent a distress signal in international waters early Friday off the Tunisian coastal city of Sfax, according to an IOM official in Tunisia. She said between 60 and 70 people drowned. Tunisia’s state news agency TAP said 70 people drowned as the boat sank and that fishing boats rescued 16 others (Hakan F. A., 2018).

Eradicating the root causes of migration will take some innovative thinking. At an information session in the Bundestag, a panel of experts presented their ideas on Africa to members of parliament. At the event, which was co-sponsored by the German Africa Foundation and DW, three experts’ briefed representatives of almost all of Germany’s major political parties about unauthorized migration from Africa. It is a difficult topic to get a handle on — especially as officials do not even know how many people from Africa there are in the country. Estimates made by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the UN Human Rights Council and Germany’s own Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) differ wildly because they count different categories of people. “The essence of the tangle of numbers is that we don’t have any good overview,” said Reiner Klingholz, the director of the independent Berlin Institute for Population and Development think tank. Klingholz said roughly 50,000 migrants from Africa might arrive in Germany per year, of whom one-half to two-thirds leave the country sooner or later. That hardly represents the “flood” of low-skilled immigrants that right-wing politicians fret about at every given opportunity. But the numbers are on the rise, which is worrying, given the prospect of a population explosion in Africa and the fact that Africans can currently generally only reach Europe by submitting to exploitation by human traffickers (Jefferson C., 18 May, 2018). For the Nigerian activist Joseph Osuigwe Chidiebere, human trafficking is the biggest problem facing his country. “Human trafficking and illegal migration are increasing in Nigeria, with the majority of victims being young people,” Chidiebere told the Bundestag deputies. “The traffickers come in different forms, but most times they come with fake promises of a better life in Europe.” Many African migrants have to be rescued in the Mediterranean, but some aren’t so lucky. Image: Getty Images/AFP/M. Turkia A, common stereotype within anti-immigration movements such as PEGIDA and the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party is that migrants are far better off in Germany than poorer Germans are. The reality for most is much grimmer than that. Claus Stäcker, the head of DW’s Africa programs, spoke of the “mistaken ideas” and “unrealistic expectations” that

many migrants have when it comes to Europe. Stäcker told of young Nigerian women being lured by human traffickers into making the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean to Italy only to be forced into prostitution at the lowest, most perverse rungs of the sex industry. He also offered a self-critical assessment of Germany's involuntary role in encouraging Africans to make the wrong decisions. "With its open policy toward migrants, Germany may have contributed to this," Stäcker says. "One of the echoes of the crucial summer for mass migration of 2015 is that anything's possible in Germany (Phillip C., 2024).

Germany has an excellent reputation, but people have some truly illusory ideas about what they could achieve in Germany, if they work hard enough." "Many of them think that European governments are more caring," agrees Chidiebere. Stäcker says Western public broadcasters like Deutsche Welle need to be frank in depicting the downsides to migrating to Europe as well as the positive aspects of life on the continent. And Western governments, everyone agrees, need to start combating the root causes of illegal migration. So why do Africans choose the risky path of illegal migration to Europe? After all, as Klingholz puts it, "no one from Ethiopia feels an inner need to go to Bielefeld." For Chidiebere, the main motivation for Africans to migrate is not the desire for material comfort per se but rather the "lack of social protection" in Africa. Klingholz cites seven main factors that influence African migration, of which the most important is uncontrolled population growth. Experts predict that Africa, the world's poorest continent economically, will account for more than half of the world's population growth by 2050. If not curbed, this could mean unprecedented economic misery in Africa and migrant numbers to Europe that would dwarf those of 2015. "It's simple – more people means more people who will hit upon the idea of moving to another

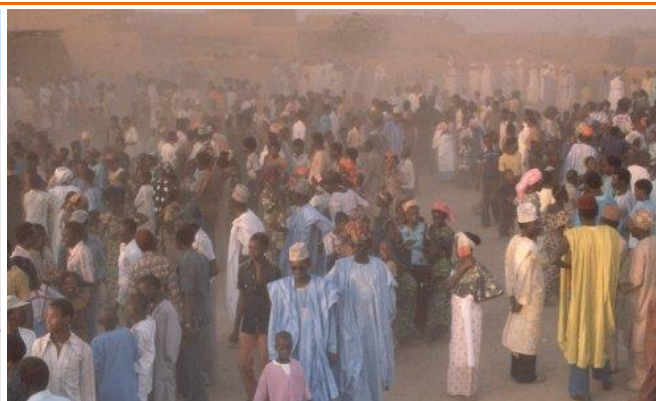
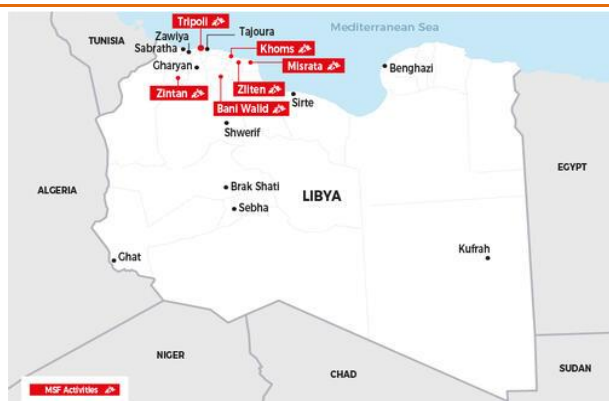
country," Klingholz said. Joseph Chidiebere confers with German Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid Bärbel KoflerImage: DW/J. Chase. Klingholz said that thus far measures aimed at combating the root causes of migration have yet to keep "a single person" from setting off for Europe. Stäcker raised doubts as to whether broad-based financial assistance (the so-called watering-can principle) or Germany's much ballyhooed "Marshall Plan for Africa" would significantly alleviate the situation. He also acknowledged that Western nations often had to make deals with autocratic African leaders to help people in need. Klingholz explained that many of Africa's problems can only be solved in the long term, whereas Germany's political system tends to function in increments of four-year legislative terms. But the panelists also sounded some notes of optimism. Klingholz pointed out that not all that long ago many Asian countries were as poor as today's African ones and had succeeded nonetheless in achieving impressive economic growth and in improving living conditions. And he cited Ethiopia as an example of a contemporary African nation on the rise. The keys, he said, were jobs and education, including sexual education. "Education has the double effect of giving people perspectives for the future and reducing the number of children," Klingholz told the Bundestag deputies. "Population explosion needs to be made into a public issue not just politically, but on all levels of society." And Chidiebere pointed out that there have been examples of Africa dealing with serious problems in the recent past, drawing a comparison with the fight against the Ebola virus from 2014 to 2016. "When Ebola came to Nigeria, it was seen as a national priority, and everyone was committed, even the government," the young activist said. "And after one year, Ebola was eradicated." Human trafficking, Chidiebere says, could also be done away with, if there was a similar demonstration of political and public will (Phillip C., 2024).



Map 1; Main Zones of African Migrants through North Africa through the Mediterranean to Europe

Map No.1 above shows clear directions and countries which most African migrants stop there before crossing around the Sahara desert then embarked on

deadly Mediterranean crossing to Western and Eastern Europe.



Peril in the Desert: Irregular Migration through the Sahel

Photo: K.M. Westermann/Getty Images, Erol Yayboke and Rakan Aboneaa, October 21, 2020.

1. General Over View of the Sahara-Mediterranean Clandestine Migrants Deadly crossing to European Destinations

It is an all too common story. A Guinean teenager is unable to envision his future in a hometown increasingly characterized by joblessness and insecurity. He cultivates delusions of grandeur through regular consumption of carefully curated Facebook feeds full of happy-looking migrants exploring European capitals. He believes that a better future awaits if only he can make the journey north. If only he can *survive* the journey. On the Move through the Sahel. Though such aspirations may be common, migration north from sub-Saharan Africa is complicated and often misunderstood. For starters, most migrants never set out for Europe, let alone make it there. The majority of the migration through the Sahel is intraregional and legal thanks to free movement protocols that apply to most states in West Africa. Nonetheless, the Sahel has become a key corridor and departure point for those trying to reach Europe, often at extreme personal risk. With limited legal pathways, most of this migration to Europe is irregular, taking place through two dangerous routes: the central route through the Sahara from Niger to Libya and on to Southern Europe, or increasingly the western route along the coast of North Africa, eventually to Spain. This commentary focuses on the first (Erol Y., *et al.*, 2020), Multiple overlapping factors drive irregular migration through the Sahel. Mostly young and male, the majority of migrants cite economic reasons as primary considerations, as was partially the case for our fictional Guinean above. In this scenario, those compelled to leave likely are forced to do so irregularly, relying on unscrupulous smugglers, traffickers, and other illicit groups. Traveling “in the shadows,” without access to humanitarian aid, health checks, or proper documentation presents an enormous risk to the health and well-being of migrants and to the security of countries in the region (Erol Yayboke, *et al.*, 2020), Agadez: The Gateway to a Dangerous Desert the Guinean migrant hoping to reach Europe, the town of Agadez in northern Niger is a critical juncture along the central route. From his home in Conakry the trip takes two days and involves multiple legs in taxis and commercial buses. While grueling, this leg of the journey

is legal and mostly safe; the perils of irregular migration begin upon arrival in Agadez. Historic migrant flows have served as an economic cornerstone for Agadez, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known as “the gateway to the desert”. From 2014 to 2016, 5,000 migrants per week would pass through Agadez in the high season, with as many as 330,000 per year attempting the irregular journey north. This changed in 2016: prices rose, migrant numbers dwindled, and the journey became even more dangerous. Today, our Guinean migrant would be accommodated in ghettos run by smugglers before getting on a pickup truck headed for Libya packed with as many as 30 other migrants, more if in a larger vehicle. The journey across the Sahara can take days; a single wrong turn or engine failure can lead to dehydration and death. If he is among the few to make it that far, his next stage is no less dangerous. Once in Libya, he is at risk of being detained by the state or non-state actors who subject migrants to forced labor, sexual exploitation, torture, kidnapping, and even death. If he avoids detention, he then faces a Mediterranean crossing to Italy, a voyage that kills 3.4 percent of those who attempt it and leads to many others being intercepted by authorities (Erol Y. *et al.*, 2020).

Every year, tens of thousands of migrants from poor and war-stricken countries attempt a risky journey by boat for what they hope will be a better life in Europe, according to EU border patrol agency, Frontex, who counts the number of migrants apprehended by border patrols along Europe’s shores. Nearly 300 migrants drowned last year just half a mile off the southern Italian island of Lampedusa, and in the last week the Italian navy has rescued thousands from the rough seas off the Sicilian coast. With the number of migrants waiting to travel to Europe by sea suggested by one immigration official to be in the hundreds of thousands Italian leaders are debating the \$12 million monthly cost of those rescue efforts (Phillip C., April 30, 2014). Boat migrants comprise less than 10% of the more than one million new immigrants entering the European Union from non-EU countries by air, land or sea each year. But among those known to have arrived illegally in 2013, over half came by sea – the highest percentage in recent years, according

to Frontex. In some years, including 2009 and 2011, roughly half of migrants illegally entering Europe came by sea. In other years, such as 2010 and 2012, majorities of unauthorized migrants crossed by land. (Year-to-year fluctuations in the number of migrants arriving by land versus sea are due to a combination of factors including changing policies, border. Overstaying a legal visa is another way to become an unauthorized migrant in Europe. Some migrants who arrive by sea, land and air may initially live in Europe with legal status but stay longer than their visas allow, becoming unauthorized residents. However, the exact number of migrants in this category is difficult to ascertain. Many migrants travel very long and perilous journeys through several countries before embarking on their final journey by boat. The exact number of people who die making the voyage from Africa to Europe is hard to know, but unofficial reports by advocacy groups estimate as many as 10,000 migrants have died crossing the Mediterranean during the last two decades or so (Phillip C., 2024). Many are fleeing potentially dangerous situations at home, and as conflicts around the world have changed, so have the national origins of migrants by sea, for instance. Today, roughly a quarter originate from Syria, often crossing through several countries before taking the final voyage from ports in Egypt or Libya. Some migrants who arrive by sea, land and air may initially live in Europe with legal status but stay longer than their visas allow, becoming unauthorized residents. However, the exact number of migrants in this category is difficult to ascertain. Many migrants travel very long and perilous journeys through several countries before embarking on their final journey by boat. in Egypt or Libya. Crews have given up hope of finding nearly 30 migrants thrown into the sea after setting sail from Tunisia. It happened as human rights groups called on Tunisia's president to save migrants trapped on the border with Libya. The crisis also accelerated criticism of the European Union, which signed a deal with Tunisia to crack down on illegal migration. Special correspondent Malcolm Brabant reports. Amna Nawaz: Italian Coast Guards have given up hope of finding nearly 30 migrants thrown into the sea over the weekend, when their flimsy dinghies overturned after setting sail from Tunisia. This latest Mediterranean tragedy happened as human rights organizations called on Tunisia's president to save hundreds of African migrants trapped on the border with Libya without shelter from the scorching heat and sun. Lauren Seibert, Human Rights Watch: Over 300 people are still currently trapped at the Tunisia-Libya border in the desert, and they have been trapped there for weeks. Some migrants stated that "in Tunisia, the police arrested us, beat us, and took our phones and all our money. They told us to go to Libya, and my people kept saying, Libya is very bad. They left us without water and food. They put us there and then left. Tunisia's authoritarian President Kais Saied is being blamed for what is turning into a 21st century pogrom" (Phillip C., 2024).

European politicians are terrified by migration from Africa and will do anything it takes to stop it, even if it means dealing with dictators such as in Tunisia. These people were rescued from the desert by Libyan authorities. Their protest took place during a media facility with a border guard unit. Some people are sick. We are asking for a solution. No solution. Every day, they come with weapons for us. We are not fighting. We are just migrants. Tunisia's actions are a welcome distraction for its neighbor Libya, another country on the migrant trail with a dreadful reputation. Our legal advisers who work with survivors of torture every day describe Libya as Armageddon. They describe it as complete hell on earth. Natasha Tsangarides is the associate director of advocacy with Freedom From Torture (FFT), a British nonprofit. People experience such high levels of trauma and PTSD following their time in Libya, being subjected to open-air slave markets, being sold off at auctions, being subject to rape and torture. But, for human rights activists, discussions about the morality and cynicism of the European Union and its North African partners are taking second place to the issue of life and death in the Sahara. Honestly, if the Tunisian government does not take action to save these individuals' lives by allowing humanitarian aid immediately to access the zone, and if it does not also facilitate the evacuation of these people, you're going to see extreme numbers of deaths. And you have got children there. More children could die. It's just really catastrophic. Tunisia has dismissed international characterization of the expulsions as false allegations. But it's impossible to deny that time is running out in the desert and in the cruel Mediterranean Sea (Malcolm Brabant, 2023). The EU approach has been determined by fears of large-scale irregular migration, which intensified after the 2014-15 migration crisis. To be sure, Sahelian countries are not the leading countries of origin of African migrants trying to get to Europe; the primary countries are Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, followed by sub-Saharan African states like Senegal, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Guinea and the Gambia. Migration remains out of reach for most living in the very poor Sahel region. However, state fragility, terrorism, organized crime, communal violence and food insecurity have substantially increased in the number of internally displaced people and refugees within the region. The Sahel region provides a cautionary tale about excessive interference, the limited impact of aid and the collateral effects of far-reaching agendas designed and imposed by external actors. Despite initial successes, the efforts to stabilize the region since 2012 – led by France, the EU and the United Nations – have largely failed. These failures, combined with perceptions of illegitimate foreign interference, led to rising anti-France and anti-Western feelings and violent anti-UN protests. These sentiments were then successfully exploited by other foreign actors willing to operate in the region, like Russia's Wagner Group. Not surprisingly, this has provoked anxiety among European decision makers: Regarding the pull factors, the EU focuses on creating

conditions for legal migration, as evidenced by the 9.9 billion-euro budget allocated to the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (2021-27). However, political decision makers acknowledge that migration is no longer a marginal issue in European politics, with opposition to illegal migration reflected in electoral results across the continent. That has provoked changes in several countries. In Italy and Austria, governments have been elected on the promise of containing illegal immigration. In Sweden, Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson of the Moderate Party has described immigration as “unsustainable” and announced a “paradigm shift” to affect family reunification and rules for gaining citizenship. The government has also launched an informational campaign targeting potential asylum seekers (Teresa Nogueira Pinto, 2022).

Between 2020 and 2021, illegal Tunisian migration to Western Europe through Serbia rose dramatically as migrants sought routes different than the seaborne passage across the Mediterranean. While European Union (EU) pressure forced Serbia to close down the so-called West Balkans route to Tunisians in November 2022, its implications remain relevant today, as some states might have a broader national interest in adopting similar actions down the road, even as the non-state actors involved continue to have a stake in sustaining the route. The Serbian route, which was used by Tunisians and migrants from other nationalities, many from North Africa, showed that in an interconnected world, illegal migration has become an unconventional weapon used to build political leverage, extract resources, and gain influence over stronger and wealthier countries. States to the EU’s south and east are aware of the extent to which mass illegal immigration can cause tensions and polarization within the union, and have at times used this to push the EU to make concessions. As the EU has sought to control illegal immigration, particularly from North Africa, it has had to address several levels of challenges. Not only has it faced strong push factors in the countries of origin, it has also had to wrestle with pull factors within Europe—the foreign policy agendas and interests of non-EU transit countries, not to mention the mercenary objectives of illegal migrant smuggling networks and others (Hamza M., 2023). This was shown most notably in 2015, when Türkiye allowed migrants and asylum seekers to sail to Europe in order to pressure the EU into accepting a \$6 billion deal to help Ankara keep the refugees. In addition to the financial deal concluded in 2016, the European Union agreed to reduce visa restrictions for Turkish citizens, update the customs union, and reactivate stalled discussions regarding Türkiye’s accession to the European Union. More recently, Belarus created a migrant crisis in 2021 by easing entry procedures for Middle Eastern migrants, then facilitating their passage to the borders it shared with EU member states.² This was a response to EU sanctions that had been imposed on Minsk. While Serbia did not create crises of the same magnitude as Türkiye and Belarus, it did view illegal

migration as an instrument in its own complicated relationship with the EU. Rising flows of migrants and heightened controls along the maritime route across the Mediterranean pushed transnational smuggling networks to look for less risky, though longer and more expensive, alternatives. Benefiting from the fact that Tunisians could travel to Türkiye and Serbia without visas, illegal migrants relied on North African smuggling networks to help them cross the Serbian-Hungarian border on their way to Austria and the rest of Western Europe (Hamza M., 2023). The number of illegal Tunisian migrants detected on the West Balkans route dramatically increased from 190 migrants in 2020 to 842 in 2021 and 6,782 in 2022. This route was taken especially by thousands of young people from Tataouine, a marginalized Tunisian region located near the Libyan border. From mid-2020, the Serbian route emerged as an alternative passage for Tunisians fleeing a deteriorating economic situation and political stalemate at home. In the context of tightening controls in the Mediterranean, the West Balkans route represented a way out for thousands of young people and their families, one that posed less risk than the maritime crossing, while offering the Tunisian state deniability vis-a-vis its international partners. Tunisia was hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, which came after a decade of low growth, leading to an acceleration of migration flows. In 2020, the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) declined by 9 percent, more than 200,000 Tunisians lost their jobs, thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises closed down, and the percentage of the population living below the poverty line rose from 15 to 21 percent (EU’s External Borders in 2022).

In July 2021, Tunisian President Kais Saied organized a power grab, suspending parliament, dismissing the prime minister, and securing judicial powers, which had the effect of exacerbating political deadlock in the country and intensifying Tunisia’s isolation from donors, investors, and international partners. For tens of thousands of Tunisians, particularly those from disadvantaged areas, migration was the only option left. A national survey conducted that year showed that 40 percent of Tunisians between the ages of fifteen and twenty-nine said they wanted to leave the country. This sentiment was hardly new. Waves of illegal migration began during the early 1990s, reaching a peak in 2011, following the fall of then president Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. That year, 28,800 Tunisians exploited the collapse of Tunisian border controls and crossed the Mediterranean (Frontex, January 13, 2023, <https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/eu-s-external-borders-in-2022-number-of-irregular-border-crossings-highest-since-2016-YsAZ29>). For half a decade flows of migrants from Tunisia, including non-Tunisians transiting through the country, remained remarkably constant, with an annual average of 2,500 arrivals in Europe, before the numbers began rising slowly in 2017. In early 2020, they increased sharply, even as Tunisia and Italy reinforced

maritime border controls. That year, 12,900 Tunisian migrants arrived illegally in Italy whereas 13,500 others were intercepted. The surge accelerated in 2021, with 15,700 Tunisians arriving in Italy and another 25,700 migrants prevented from doing so according to (Hamza M., 2023). The misfortune of Tataouine, a major source of illegal Tunisian migration, is a good illustration of the dynamics at play. The economic decline there in recent years and the dashed hopes of what is known as the Kamour protest movement, which shook the region for months in 2017, and again in 2020, encouraged departures. Paradoxically, Tataouine has hydrocarbon resources, and its oil and natural gas fields contribute 20 percent of Tunisia's natural gas output and 40 percent of its oil output. Despite this, the region has remained severely underdeveloped, with above-average unemployment and a stunted private sector. In 2021, Tataouine's unemployment rate was the highest in the country at 32.5 percent, compared with the national average of 15.3 percent.²¹ The percentage of unemployed graduates in Tataouine is also one of the highest nationwide, estimated at 58 percent in 2019. Historically the region's population has migrated to France, which counts a large diaspora of people from southern Tunisia. In addition, before 2011 Libya represented an attractive labor market for young people from the region, but the conflict there brought this to an end. The rising disenchantment that fueled migration from Tataouine needs to be understood in light of three factors that created a systemic crisis in the region. The first is Libya's decline as an economic lifeline for the region. The waning of the cross-border economy, with the concomitant loss of thousands of jobs and vital incomes, as well as the absence of employment prospects because of the Libyan conflict, aggravated the profound problems already affecting Tataouine. The second is the increasing militarization of the border region. This not only harmed the border economy, but also limited grazing areas, aggravating the crisis of pastoralism, which had already been strongly affected by drought and climate change. The local animal herding economy has also been hurt by surging prices and the ensuing shortages in animal feed. The third is the disenchantment caused by the failure of the Kamour protest movement, which had demanded that the state implement initiatives to create jobs and develop Tataouine economically. While protesters won concessions from the authorities through a June 2020 agreement that recognized many of their demands, since Saied's seizure of power the state has failed to fulfill its promises, generating more discontent. As a result, thousands of young people from the southern border areas migrated, or tried to migrate, to Europe starting in 2020 (Matt H., January 5, 2022).

The Serbia route was particularly attractive for two main reasons. It was safer than the maritime route, where the likelihood of being caught by the authorities was also high; and migrants were able to rely on the support of a southern Tunisian diaspora based mainly in France that funded their journeys through money

transfers, making the longer West Balkans route more affordable. While there are no figures available for the number of migrants, observers from Tataouine have estimated that thousands of people from the region took this route in 2022. Southeastern Tunisians make up 12.7 percent of the Tunisian diaspora, while over 7 percent of the population of the southeast lives in the diaspora. The Tunisian state was a main beneficiary of the Serbia route, which offered it several major advantages. First, it gave thousands of dissatisfied youths an exit route at a time when the central Mediterranean passage had become more difficult due to tighter security. These migrants' remittances represent a source of much-needed hard currency for Tunisia. In the decade between 2011 and 2021, remittances in foreign currencies were higher than both tourism revenues and foreign direct investment, making them one of the major sources of hard currency for the country. Moreover, the trend was on the rise during that period. In 2021, remittances were 28 percent higher than in 2020, accounting for 4.7 percent of Tunisia's GDP. The Tunisian migration wave caused concern in the EU (<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/tunisia-migration-europe/>). Between 2018 and 2021, over a third of the illegal migrants reaching Italy by sea were Tunisian. More importantly, of the more than 25,000 people of all nationalities who were held in Italian detention centers in 2020, almost half were Tunisian. With the intensification of migration flows, European demands increased on Tunis to control its borders and implement fast-track procedures to repatriate illegal migrants. Italy and Tunisia concluded a migration agreement on August 17, 2020, after a visit by Italy's foreign and interior ministers to Tunis. The details of the accord were never made public. According to a document published by Italian investigative journalists, however, the migration deal included multimillion-euro funding for Tunisia in exchange for a commitment to repatriate its illegal migrants. This financial deal allegedly included €8 million (approximately \$9.1 million) for Tunisia's Coast Guard and the creation of a €30 million (about \$34 million) fund over a three-year period (2021–2023) to help Tunisia combat illegal migration (Mourad Teyeb, *New Arab*, February 10, 2022, <https://www.newarab.com/features/whats-behind-tunisia-and-italys-phantom-migration-pact>).

Since 2015, EU member states have been focused mainly on “extinguishing fires” when it comes to migration issues—dealing with crises by closing routes and striking deals. The EU-Türkiye agreement in 2016 and the threats that forced Serbia to close the West Balkans route were temporary measures meant to buy time. In fact, the EU sought to replicate the strategy it had adopted with Türkiye by implementing it elsewhere. It would externalize the solution to illegal migration by ensuring that the governments of transit countries would compel migrants and refugees to stay in place. The EU signed agreements with Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Senegal along these lines. Much the same thing was done on the

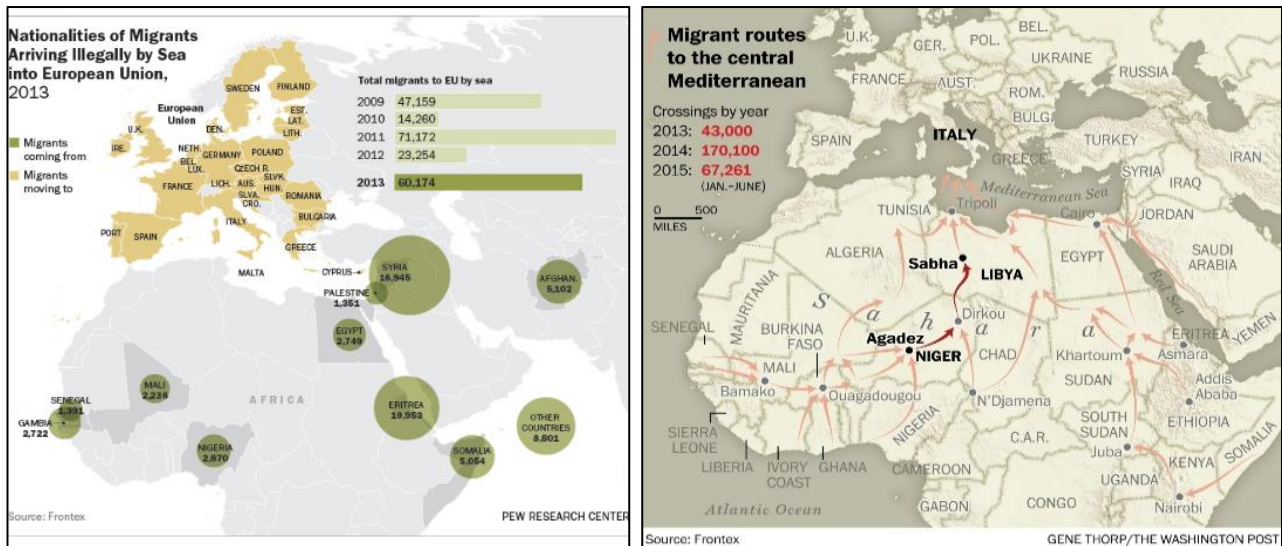
central Mediterranean maritime route as well. After a wave of illegal migration from Libya between 2014 and 2019, Italy agreed to fund militia-run detention centers inside Libya, where thousands of African migrants who were trying to cross into Europe were held. However, such arrangements are only effective for as long as there is an alignment of interests between the EU and these countries. What is certain along potential migration routes into EU member states is that the transit countries may continue to look the other way on illegal migration if it helps them to achieve political, financial, or geopolitical aims that would otherwise be difficult to secure (Kyilah T., April 8, 2021, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/eu-turkey-deal-five-years-on>). Whether it is Türkiye, Belarus, Serbia, or weaker countries such as Tunisia or Libya, all understand this reality. That is why the EU needs to offer a broader strategic horizon to these countries. Among the ideas that can be explored are job creation measures in Europe's southern and eastern neighborhood, such as the establishment by European companies of manufacturing facilities in nearby countries that are prone to migration, rather than in East Asia. The rationale here is that shared prosperity will reduce migration. Another is expanding legal migration through temporary working permits in certain sectors, which could allow circular migration, where workers rotate between home and host countries. A third is forming strategic partnerships that facilitate economic integration, again to stabilize countries to the EU's east and south through heightened prosperity. However, these measures only target push factors, without addressing pull factors in Europe. At a time when Europe is divided over crucial issues related to the enlargement process, manipulating migration is likely to remain a wild card that many countries will be tempted to use again (Kyilah T., April 8, 2021).

To that effect, the diverse methods were carried out on the question of illegal migration. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and European governments are working together to stop illegal journeys to the UK. The UK has been working closely with the French and Belgian governments to do everything possible to stop illegal migrants before they reach the UK. In 2022, French and UK authorities prevented nearly 33,000

attempts to travel illegally to the UK, nearly 40% more than in 2021. Some of the ways that governments are working to stop illegal journeys to the UK are described below. Advances in surveillance and strengthened intelligence cooperation to step up efforts to disrupt and deter crossings, the UK government, police and international organisations are arresting and prosecuting people relating to small boat crossings, since the UK-France Joint Intelligence Cell was established in July 2020, the UK and France have dismantled 76 organised crime groups and secured over 500 arrests, since the start of 2022, UK government investigations have led to over 179 convictions for immigration crimes resulting in a total of nearly 170 years in sentencing, since 2020, there have been 779 convictions for immigration crimes resulting in a combined total of over 900 years in prison and since 2020, UK government investigations have led to 340 convictions relating to people smuggling cases; this includes 130 small boats related convictions and 210 convictions for facilitating migrants in vehicles (Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development). In addition, UK and French border officers search and check lorries at all EU checkpoints before they reach the UK; officers use dogs, monitors and scanners that can detect people breathing inside lorries, the UK, France and Belgium are sharing technology such as drones to detect people trying to get to the UK, in a new agreement between the UK and France, we have increased the number of officers patrolling the beaches in northern France by 40%, increasing early detection and the disruption of illegal journeys to the UK, laws from our Nationality and Borders Act have resulted in over 184 people convicted to over 115 years in prosecutions. In addition, the Prime Minister of the UK and the Prime Minister of Albania, Mr Edi Rama, recently agreed to enhance cooperation in 3 main areas of common interest with the main focus on the fight against organised crime and illegal immigration (Malcolm B., *et al.*, 7 August, 2023; Risks of illegal migration to the UK 17 June 2022).

2. Illustration of Traumatizing Images of Clandestine Migrants crossing the Sahara and Mediterranean Sea

Those illustrative images includes pathways, different channels of crossing and psychological consequences of the migrants looking at the photos.



Map 1 and 2: Estimated total number of African Illegal Immigrants to Selected European Countries and Mediterranean tracing routes 2009-2013

Source: Phillip Connor, April 30, 2014, *Illegal immigration by boat: A dangerous, but common way of entering Europe*

The location of deep Mediterranean Sea Tracing African Entering Routes above Libya is not a signatory to the 1951 International Refugee Convention Al-Masoudi pointed out that Libya is not a signatory to the 1951 International Refugee Convention, and that the debate was organized, and all parties gathered so that there would be cooperation to find a solution to this crisis. She stressed the need for concerted efforts as a civil society and as a state to draw up future measures and policies to protect Libyan society from the repercussions of this phenomenon. As European Union foreign policy Chief Joseph Borrell stated in 2020, Europe’s political, economic and security interests are at stake in Africa, especially in migration. The economic impact of migration, for both origin and destination

countries, generally tends to be positive. However, as Europe struggles with aging populations and African countries face the challenges of demographic growth, irregular migration flows – and how a growing share of the electorate perceives them – have fueled political tensions across the EU. A win-win outcome will be difficult to attain. In the short and medium term, the EU will likely address irregular migration by readjusting (and in some cases reducing) the “pull” factors that incentivize migration, increasing border protection measures and establishing partnerships with third countries. But Europe could also play an important role in supporting export-based growth across the African continent, thus reducing migration’s “push” factors in the long run (Malcolm B., *et al.*, 7 August, 2023).



Figure 3: Nigerian Migrants in the Sahara Desert heading to the Mediterranean Sea

Source: Lisa Schlein, *Thousands of African Migrants Die Crossing Sahara Desert*, December 23, 2018. www.voanews.com/africa/thousands-african-migrants-die

According to the United Nations reports, migrants and refugees in Libya faced horrific abuse. A U.N. report documents a litany of violations and abuses committed against migrants and refugees in Libya. The U.N. Human Rights Office indicated that state officials, armed groups, smugglers and traffickers have been

known to subject the migrants and refugees to "unimaginable horrors." These include unlawful killings, torture, arbitrary detention, gang rape, slavery, forced labor and extortion. U.N. monitors visited 11 official, government-run detention.



Figure 2: Security men versus migrants loaded in a transportation truck.

2. The Mediterranean Crossing with Thousands of African Migrants Deposited in the Waterways for Tilapias



Source: Tom Wyke, Up to 70 migrants killed as boat capsizes in Mediterranean Sea; Thirty-Nine African Migrants Drown in Mediterranean Shipwrecks. [www.breitbart.com > immigration > 2021/03/09. Up to 70 migrants killed as boat capsizes in Mediterranean Sea...](http://www.breitbart.com/immigration/2021/03/09/up-to-70-migrants-killed-as-boat-capsizes-in-Mediterranean-sea...)[globalnews.ca > migrants-drown-boat-Mediterranean-sea.](http://globalnews.ca/migrants-drown-boat-Mediterranean-sea)



Sources: Over 500 African Migrants Drown In Mediterranean Sea •... ‘Deadly sea crossings’: 41 migrants drown in the Mediterranean |...www.aljazeera.com › news › 2021/2/24. www.breitbart.com › immigration › 2021/03/09. Up to 70 migrants killed as boat capsizes in Mediterranean Sea...globalnews.ca › migrants-drown-boat-Mediterranean-sea.

Source: Thomas D. Williams, Twin shipwrecks off the coast of Sfax, in eastern Tunisia, claimed the lives of at least 39 African migrants Tuesday including 9 women and 4 children. ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP via Getty Images, 9 Mar 2021. www.breitbart.com › immigration › 2021/03/09. Up to 70 migrants killed as boat capsizes in Mediterranean Sea...globalnews.ca › migrants-drown-boat-Mediterranean-sea.



Sources: Associated Press / Jasper Juinen and Reuters / Andrea Comasi.

Africans held by Spanish immigration authorities: Northern countries are increasingly concerned by growing flows of undocumented migrants. An aspiring African migrant on the road in Morocco, a common departure point for migrants seeking to reach Europe.



Source: Bouazza Ben Bouazza the Associated Press, May 10, 2019. Images for African Migrants Drown In The Mediterranean Sea.



Sources: Over 500 African Migrants Drown In Mediterranean Sea •...‘Deadly sea crossings’: 41 migrants drown in the Mediterranean ...www.aljazeera.com › news › 2021/2/24.



Source: FILE - Nigeriens and third-country migrants head towards Libya from Agadez, Niger, June 4, 2018. Algeria's deadly expulsions of migrants into the Sahara Desert have nearly ground to a halt after widespread condemnation and the abrupt firing of two. 2018-12-22 · New records by the International Organization for Migration find more than 6,600 Africans have die.









Sources: African migrants drown in the Mediterranean sea.

Psychosocial Experiences of African Migrants in Six European ..., https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/2020_Book_P...
 de E Idemudia, This series aims to provide a public forum for single treatises and ... African migration—with an emphasis on African migrants in general and the. Torture of migrants: 'Many are not aware of how bad it really is', <https://www.infomigrants.net/post>. Almost all the above photos of the migrants are available on the stated websites.

AFRICA MIGRATION REPORT, <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/a...>

7 juil. 2020 — which has made this first-ever Africa Feared to have died attempting the crossing so far this year. 35,000 Migrants have arrived from North Africa in 2015. Migration Report possible. ... to Europe and as host to migrants in irregular situations: IOM's DTM. Mediterranean migrant deaths: EU faces renewed pressure ..., <https://www.bbc.com/news/world>... 20 avr. 2015 —

CONCLUSION

However, the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st Centuries marked another new reflections of surviving in the contemporary World according to youths of different ages. Having unimaginable ambitions of self-slavery greener jobs in foreign countries became the most targeted options through pressurizing their parents to sell family properties and getting loans with high rate of interests to facilitate their unofficial negotiated clandestine migratory engagements. There were partially no reflections on seeing the dangers of such illegal crossing through the Sahara Desert to the Mediterranean Sea as indicated on images above with black corpses displaced or dumped on the banks of the sea as they drawn and were unable to swim in order to survive themselves. Frequently, some family members or migrants have never reached their targeted destinations and back home there were still feelings that their daughters or sons were still on the transits. Likewise, they long died in the harsh desert conditions of trekking or eating by tilapias in the Sea. They will never be seen again till the end of the World and this could have been a big lesson to those still having unexplained hopes of embarking on clandestine migrations. On the side of different African governments, one of the best solutions to prevent youths from risky their lives through illegal

migration is to facilitate possibilities for the creation of jobs through the opening of transformation industries of local raw materials to finish products ready for the consumption markets. Our finding shows that most of the clandestine migrants in the host countries are recruited in those industries whose raw materials are looted from different African Countries. This is a clear indication that most of the blue collar jobs or skills are reserved only to African migrants while the whites occupied the white collar jobs which still brings in related challenges of the era of slavery and slave trade in addition to the harsh manipulation of colonisation and neo-colonialism. African leaders should have the will to move out of the chains of neo-colonialism and take concrete decisions on micro and macro-economic policies which are adaptable to local and countries realities without subjugating to the options frequently imposed by the former colonial masters with looting agents implanted all round to the detriments of the population. In addition, African leaders should very smart to urge the Western European and Asian bilateral and multilateral partners to embark on African home transformation realistic investment projects before transported the finished products to their markets for consumption instead of looting and transforming in their home countries to the detriments of African economic development and growth. This will

therefore open series of job opportunities to African youths back home as well as European youths who could also migrate to look for job opportunities in African countries as well.

After all, the African Continent as a whole is adapting to changing times and wants to reap the benefits from the resources available within its huge diaspora population abroad. For instance, one of the policy goals of the African Union (AU) is to involve the diaspora more actively in its endeavours to promote democracy and development in Africa which is an appreciable effort if all member countries adopt and implement such initiatives. In so doing, the AU recognises the diaspora as a force for positive change on the Continent and is attempting to forge a partnership for the benefit of Africa. Similarly, the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), attempting to reach out to the diaspora, also calls for the establishment of a reliable and Continental database on the brain drain to determine the magnitude of the problem and promote collaboration between the diaspora and those on the Continent. An important NEPAD priority that is of particular interest to this project is the proposal to develop the human resources capacity of Africa and reverse the brain drain. (NEPAD, October 2001). Furthermore, under NEPAD, African leaders explicitly called for the creation of the 'necessary political, social and economic conditions that would serve as incentives to curb the brain drain' and the promotion of modern technological techniques for the transformation of the raw materials to finished products ready for internal and international markets can help to contain at least majority of the youths with ambitions to die in the Mediterranean can remain in their homeland. At the country level, so far a few countries in Africa such as Ghana and Eritrea have made certain policy concessions that grant the diaspora dual nationality and voting rights in their respective countries, Ghana in particular is one of the African countries in which a third of its highly educated and trained human capital live abroad (James B., 2019).

In addition, individual country's migration strategy policy initiatives should appreciate that successful migrants are the strategic actors and agents for development and should be empowered to claim the ownership and thereby play the most central role in the process. On the other hand, migrants should be in the driving seat regarding their diaspora destinations and development projects initiated in the host countries which can be beneficial to the home countries as a means of helping those back at home not to fall prey as seen about on series of illustrative photos. They should have ownership and they should be empowered through effective capacity building to exercise these ownership rights. This is because migration and development is very inevitable. It is part of their real-life experience as they are the critical strategic actors who are making it possible. It is also an issue which concerns them directly as they exercise it in practice and have already been

engaged in different forms and on multiple scales (Levitt, P.1996). Furthermore, it is also an area in which the migrants have already developed knowledge, practical expertise and experience, and constructed pathways and transnational networks which gives them a comparative advantage of a far greater degree than the traditional mainstream development organisations. In this respect, migrant groups and organisations in the host country provide the most appropriate entry points, strategic actors and organisations at which concrete activities and actions can be initiated. Moreover, migrant individuals, groups and organisations are, in practice, the most appropriate channels through which migration and development projects can be effectively implemented in their respective homelands. It should also be noted that any migration and development projects that the diasporas, as strategic partners and stakeholders, do not from the outset participate in its conception, formulation and also its practical implementation, is unlikely to achieve the expected results, even if it is correctly designed (James B. 2019). It is not yet late for African government in different countries to initiate more realistic agenda in the production capacities in the newly open transformation industries which can also attract European youths to become job seekers in African countries. The natural resources looted by the different typologies of neo-colonial actors can be urged to establish subsidiary transformation industries directly in specific African countries depending on what they are extracting from those countries. The natural existence of uranium, phosphate, coal, manganese, tin, petroleum products, crude oil, bauxite, zinc, copper, timber, palm oil, rubber, coffee, cocoa, bananas, plantains, rubber, aluminum and energy resources all contributed to foreign exploiters economic development, growth and miracles likewise African countries and their youths remain in bondage of adjacent poverty with awarded Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiatives (HIPC) which got its tentacles in the aftermath of the end of the Cold War from the 1990s. It is very clear that if proper actions are taking in the transformation sectors within African soil, those foreign looters with their respective countries can also become HIPC by the mid-21st Century.

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