

The Socio-cultural and Economic Dimensions of the Phenomenon of Illegal Immigration-Sociological Analyses in the Light of the Theory of Dominance

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Abstract

The phenomenon of illegal immigration is one of the aspects of human interaction in the North African coast, which necessitates a deep analytical study to reveal the reality of this phenomenon, especially in light of the increasing and growing influx of migrants from the countries of the South of Africa towards the countries of the North with the aim of migrating to the other side of the Mediterranean. This has made these countries a semi-permanent gateway of activity and movement for caravans of illegal immigration of various kinds. Therefore, the main challenge facing the issue of illegal immigration is fundamentally linked to the problems suffered by the countries of origin or the surrounding area, from disturbances and the weakness of their economic systems and the miserable social condition therein and the identity relational crisis that its inhabitants flounder in, contrary to the prevailing belief in the destination or central countries which promote the idea that this phenomenon cannot be controlled unless the problems faced by the surrounding countries are addressed through the establishment of peace, ensuring human rights, applying democracy, and achieving sustainable development. However, the reality is otherwise; it requires reconsideration of the relationship between the surrounding and central countries, which is dominated by manifestations of economic dependency and cultural dominance and what it has generated of problems, the most important of which is illegal immigration. This necessitates the intensification of efforts and delving into the underlying and implied causes that led to the proliferation of this phenomenon.

Keywords: *Illegal immigration, Economic dependency, Cultural dominance, Central countries, Surrounding countries.*

Introduction

The problem of migration has appeared since ancient times and continues to the present day, becoming one of the most prominent issues faced by the modern era. It is noted that the lives of individuals in the past were based on continuous traveling and moving in search of livelihood, food, and shelter. Over time, humans settled more in their lives and became less nomadic. However, there are still some motivations that affect their stay in one place and compel them to migrate to another. Therefore, the concept of this movement quickly evolved from its simple notion to a concept governed by variables produced by economic conditions, international laws, and historical transformations. Thus, illegal immigration is considered a social, political, and economic phenomenon that has formed an increasing presence and significant interest in political and media

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discourses and even social discussions, and at the same time, it has left a lot of implications on various levels and dimensions, involving multiple parties including the countries of origin and the receiving countries. This is because it is a phenomenon that reflects the process of the current social reality, which requires rethinking illegal immigration as one of the known phenomena, which is completely different from regular migration. The North African coast is considered a crossing area for migrants to the other side throughout history, with historical connections and residues that have previously defined the course of illegal immigration. From this standpoint, "Hashem Neema" in an article titled "Reading in the Book of Algerian Immigrants and Racial Discrimination in France," emphasizes that the connection of Algerian migration to France is a connection with historical considerations and roots that defined migration within this society towards France even after independence, because migration processes were historically and complexly linked with Algerian migration to France, lying between factors of repulsion and attraction and continuing to this day.

"Abdel Malik Sayad" also affirms that the history of the Mediterranean basin is a history of continuous migration (Abdelkader, 2012, p. 82). Following this argument, the North African coast region has been and still is a destination of subordination and dependency at the individual level, represented in cultural dominance, through individuals undergoing a process of erasing their cultural historical memory, resulting in individuals unquestionably following Western ideas that reflect on their thinking and behavior, and at the level of countries, represented in economic dependency. Therefore, illegal immigration in the coast of North African countries is a phenomenon with a tangible impact on societies facing the Mediterranean Sea. From this point, another justification for illegal immigration emerges, linked to the historical dimension of economic dependency and cultural dominance, crystallizing in the following question:

Is illegal immigration a historical inevitability extended from the economic dependency and cultural dominance of central countries over peripheral countries?

Based on the foregoing, this research paper addressed the following elements:

- A conceptual reading.
- The dimensions of illegal immigration.
- Illegal immigration in light of the theory of dominance.

1. A Conceptual Reading

1.1 Illegal Immigration

Some researchers consider illegal immigration a crime, while others view it as a victimless violation of the law. From another perspective, illegal immigration reflects the state's weak control over its legality, a matter that stems from international law. There are those who see international migration as one of the outcomes of capitalist expansion. There are many criteria through which illegal immigration can be defined, including the following: Focusing on migrants, some define them as those who enter a country to seek work, usually without the necessary documents and permits. Others define them as those who enter any country without official immigration documents, as well as those who enter without a permit, those who enter with forged documents, or with temporary entry permits but have overstayed their duration. Others define them as people who enter a particular country illegally, or those who have assumed certain identities as tourists, and refer to them as undocumented workers, or illegal aliens (Hassan, 1998, pp. 8-9). Others define them as foreigners who enter, reside, or work illegally in a country. In light of these concepts, it can be said that there are five forms of illegal migrants:

- Migrants who cross borders hiding in trains, cars, trucks, or crossing the sea by boats.

- Legal entry with a short-term permit for tourism or health reasons and overstaying afterwards.
- Entry that appears legitimate with forged documents, which are purchased in the country of expulsion.
- Entry as asylum seekers, then not leaving the country when their asylum request is denied.
- Legal entry into one country and then sneaking across its borders into another country.

Thus, the concept of illegal immigration encompasses all forms of unauthorized entry from one country to another or from one continent to another without adhering to the regulations and official procedures for lawful presence in these countries (Abdelfattah, 1979, pp. 109-110).

This type of migration is divided according to the rules of international law into two types (Hassan, 1998, pp. 220-231):

- The first type: Those who do not possess the necessary documents for migration and exit from the origin country through illegal and undefined immigration routes or ports.
- The second type: Those who possess the necessary documents and exit through legal border crossing points from the origin country to the immigrant country but stay longer than the permitted period and attempt to adjust their status and obtain the necessary documents allowing them to stay for a longer period.

Although migration is generally an optional process undertaken by individuals for specific purposes (work, seeking better living conditions, residence), it can also be compulsory in certain cases where individuals are forced to leave their homeland and migrate to another place under the threat of wars or for religious, political, or economic reasons (George, 2008, p. 364)

Illegal immigration can be defined as a movement conducted outside the regulatory frameworks of the source countries, transit countries, and destination countries. From the perspective of destination countries, illegal immigration means illegal entry, stay, or work in a country. From the perspective of source countries, illegality lies in cases where a person crosses international borders without a valid passport or travel document, or where administrative conditions for leaving the country are not met. However, there is a general trend to consider illegal immigration primarily in terms of human trafficking or migrant smuggling only (Perruchoud, 2004, pp. 34-35).

The guidance issued by the International Organization for Migration in 2011 provides more detail, stating that illegal immigration generally refers to migration conducted outside the regulatory frameworks of the source, transit, and destination countries. In destination countries, an immigrant is considered illegal if they stay or work without the necessary documents. In source countries, an immigrant is considered illegal if they cross international borders without a passport or other valid document, or if they do not comply with administrative requirements for leaving the country. However, there is a general trend to try to limit illegal immigrants to those who are the result of smuggling or human trafficking operations (International Organization for Migration, 2011, p. 77).

It is also defined as the departure of citizens from the territory of the state through unauthorized outlets or legitimate outlets using forged documents. It is also defined as "the transfer from the home country to the host country for continuous residence, contrary to the rules governing migration between countries according to the provisions of international and external laws" (Al-Rais, 2017, p. 08).

The Algerian legislator also defines illegal immigration as the departure from national territory in an unauthorized manner by choosing one of the land, sea, or air border crossing points using fraudulent means such as forged documents or leaving the national territory through non-border crossing points (Tayebi, 2009, p. 21).

1.2 Concept of Economic Dependence

The concept of dependence emerged in the 1960s as an attempt to explain the economic backwardness characterized by the economies of third world countries. Proponents of the economic dependence school view it as a relationship between the dominant party and the subordinate one, where this relationship expands one (the dominant) at the expense of the underdevelopment of the other (the subordinate). The economic relationship between the underdeveloped and the capitalist is not only due to external exploitation and oppression but also stems from the alignment of interests of the ruling classes and their Western allies. Hence, economic dependence is a relationship in which the subordinate country controls the economy of the subordinate country in various forms.

The emergence of this concept initially originated from studies by some researchers in Latin America as an attempt to explain the phenomenon of economic underdevelopment in developing countries that have dependent relationships with advanced countries (Mohammed, 1986, p. 62). The concept of economic dependence focuses on the unequal relationship between advanced and developing countries based on exploitation and unequal exchange, as well as the investment and aid methods that constitute a new form of colonization (Ahmed Mohammed, 1979, p. 64). According to dependency theorists, the division of global capitalist systems at the global level affects the economies of many developing countries, reducing growth and economic development and exacerbating internal disparities, which in turn affects societal prosperity (Wimberly & Bello, 1999).

Dependency, in general, entails the subjugation and influence of a country's economy by external forces, due to the control capabilities possessed by these forces over the subordinate economy. This allows the dominant economy to reap the maximum benefit possible from the resources of the subordinate economy without considering the latter's economic interest. Consequently, the outcomes of dependency relationships ultimately favor the dominant economy.

1.3 Cultural Hegemony

The concept of cultural hegemony is a broad concept that varies depending on the perspective from which the researcher defines the elements it relies on. Marxism sees cultural hegemony as the dominance of the ruling class over a culturally diverse society, whereby the culture of that class becomes the accepted social standard. Cultural hegemony has implicit derivative connotations that denote leadership and governance in politics. Therefore, if we attempt to give a concept to cultural hegemony, we can say that it is a phenomenon aimed at spreading the culture of the dominant party, striking local and national cultures deeply with the purpose of imposing a different mode of thinking, which acts as a foreign culture on individuals in the original country.

1.4 Core Countries

Core countries are those that control the process of making political, military, and economic decisions as a result of their control over the global economy, technology, and media. They achieve this through controlling the manufacturing processes of medicines and weapons and dominating raw materials. This enables them to impose intellectual, cultural, and economic hegemony on other countries. Core countries strive to remain in the center, which they see can only be achieved by keeping peripheral countries marginalized.

1.5 Peripheral Countries

Peripheral countries, also known as margins, dependencies, or peripheries, are all terms used for the formerly colonized countries. Their economy primarily relies on exporting raw materials. They are the weak point that solidifies the economic dependence of core countries.

2. Dimensions of Illegal Immigration

There are many intertwined reasons behind the phenomenon of illegal immigration, which reflects unauthorized migrants who have broken the law by bypassing the regulatory frameworks and laws governing the migration process from one country to another. However, this phenomenon, which has proliferated and spread in recent decades, occupying both local and global public opinion, can be approached through two dimensions, considering that they represent the most revealing perspectives capable of providing explanations for individuals' resorting to migration through illegal means.

2.1 The Socio-economic Dimension of Illegal Immigration

Illegal immigration can be approached from a socio-economic perspective that reflects the living reality of individuals within their societies. Especially since the primary driving factor for migration abroad is primarily economic, manifested in the pursuit of improving the living conditions of the individual by searching for sources of income and wealth, not only for themselves but also for their families. The low living standards, reflected in poverty indicators, collapsing purchasing power, and the inability to meet living requirements, indicate a deteriorating economic situation with social implications. Individuals, especially the youth, strive to affirm their existence and achieve practical successes such as marriage and securing a stable job or livelihood. However, under deteriorating economic conditions incapable of accommodating these goals and roles and creating a stable conducive environment for their achievement, this situation becomes a driving force for individuals. It is among the primary reasons that make them aspire to a better life in economically more advanced countries than their own, which contribute to raising the standard of living and achieving social welfare for those living there. This leads to a complete conviction and firm belief among individuals that the way to escape from the deteriorating social situation under failed economic policies is through migration, especially illegal migration, as the former - legal migration - requires strict administrative and legal procedures and funds, all of which are necessary and indispensable conditions that many cannot fulfill.

2.2 The Socio-cultural Dimension of Illegal Immigration

Among the most significant effective reasons for shaping and escalating movements of illegal immigration between countries is attributed to cultural invasion, aiming to occupy the mind and reshape the individual's thinking patterns, shaking their beliefs, relational connections, and identity affiliations with the home country (Abdelkader, 2012, p. 58). Media, journalism, and the increasing use of electronic media, media technology, and communication in general, have worked to promote Western culture and the advanced lifestyles experienced by others rapidly and extensively, with the most distinguishing feature being the attractive and appealing detailed depiction.

The intellectual cultural invasion, through promoting the shiny image of the advanced Western lifestyle experienced by others, led to an unconscious and involuntary tendency to imitate and mimic them by individuals living in dissimilar and less developed or civilized conditions in general. The fascination with the other's physique and way of life was a reason for generating a desire to imitate and migrate to them in search of the lost self and identity in the home country. Especially when considering the clear disparities in the level of civilization, living standards, and social welfare between countries, which can be observed as indicative signs of the inclination to follow the other's lifestyle and imitate

it, from the style of dress, hairstyle, and even the way of speaking where the individual tends to use the other's language and concepts in conversation.

Moreover, they often prefer the other's world, deeds, and ideas over what is lived and experienced in the home country. Furthermore, the language of discourse, especially among youth, the most targeted group of cultural invasion, and the most affected and immersed in the other's culture, is saturated with ideas of adventure and inclination towards adopting illegal migration as a means to reach the other's world and live a life of luxury similar to theirs. This is attributed to the individual's passion for civilization, but in reality, it does not go beyond blind imitation of the other's lifestyle and detachment from the components of the original society, its culture, and the foundations of identity that connect them to it.

2.3 Illegal Immigration in Light of the Hegemony Theory:

The concept of hegemony emerged in the 1960s, after the transition from traditional colonization to economic colonization, where hegemony is essentially based on the existence of a strong center that dominates certain peripheries in the world. This center is formed by a dominant power or a group of dominant powers that may be globally allied strategically for a common goal, which is to control and dominate peripheral countries in various aspects. Based on this, it becomes clear through the hegemony theory that illegal immigration is a result and outlet for forms of exploitation practiced by strong hegemonic center countries on weak peripheral countries. This exploitation has resulted in inequality in the living standards of individuals between countries. Therefore, the density of illegal immigration primarily returns to the continued expansion of the savage capitalist system in peripheral countries, which has led to the depletion of their resources, economic penetration, and further submergence into dependency.

From here, the issue of illegal immigration has become a subject that raises several issues and topics requiring scientific study and objective analysis. It is among the most important common security challenges in the African coastal region, especially in terms of the issues connecting the European Union with the African coast. This makes this issue a priority in both domestic and foreign policies. It is not hidden from everyone that throughout history, African coastal countries have been colonial colonies economically and culturally subject to European countries that possess control capabilities. This allows them to drain the resources and energies of the subordinate countries. Despite the political independence of these countries and the withdrawal of occupation many years ago, they remained economically and culturally dependent on the countries that occupied them through implicit agreements, establishing an economic control policy that leads to the deterioration of the economy of the colonized countries, a decrease in their living standards, an increase in unemployment, and a failure to benefit from their productive capacities and human resources.

In this context, the economic power disparity between center and peripheral countries, and the widening gap between them, highlights the factors of attraction and repulsion that are the main reasons for individual migration. According to "André Gunder Frank," underdevelopment is a historical process resulting from the exploitative economic relations of the center countries on the peripheral countries. The world is a network of relations between centers and peripheries, making the peripheries constrained by the center and unable to grow except within the interests and boundaries of the center countries. All of this made stable economic conditions, income distribution justice, self-sufficiency, and the life of prosperity that distinguishes strong and advanced center countries particularly attractive to individuals, compared to the economic, social, and security conditions they live in, which are considered factors of repulsion. This is the imaginary life that connects individuals to their real conditions, or what is known as the promised land.

The neoclassical theory, which dates back to the "dual economic development" model by W.A. Lewis, attempted to find an explanation for illegal immigration, which various economic literatures agreed with, stating that geographical disparities in wealth distribution between countries are the main factor in illegal migration towards abroad. This integrated approach to illegal migration as a facilitating factor for a better economic life compared to what it is in the home countries (Mohammed & Samir, 2007, pp. 25-26). The awareness of the sharp disparities between rich center countries and poor peripheral countries has turned from individual awareness to collective awareness in the face of miserable living conditions, making individuals seek new prospects or what the media portray as God's paradise on earth (Gharbi, Samira, & Lamia, 2008, p. 07). The center countries are ideal virtuous cities, promising a decent life, social justice, freedoms, and human rights. They are overall attractive, causing individuals to be involuntarily drawn towards them due to the deep gap between their aspirations and their capabilities and potential in their home countries. This disparity in levels leaves individuals feeling failure and frustration, weakening their self-confidence.

When we attempt to identify the currents of illegal migration, it becomes clear that most of it originates from the countries of origin of the migrants towards the receiving countries, which are often the colonizing countries. This is a result of the strong historical colonial ties between them. Thus, illegal migration reflects an economic and cultural reality entrenched throughout history. With the emergence of capitalism as a new global system after the Cold War, a heterogeneous liberal order was established, consisting of core or developed manufacturing countries and peripheral or underdeveloped countries. This created an unequal power relationship that necessarily led to the subordination of the periphery to the core, or, in other words, the domination of the core over the periphery. Johan Galtung views the world as divided into core and periphery countries, with imperialistic relationships between them aimed at absorbing and exploiting the wealth of the peripheral countries (Gharbi, Samira, & Lamia, 2008, p. 07). The core countries carry values and attitudes that govern the behavior of individuals and groups. There is no doubt about the success of the core countries in spreading cultural and civilizational values in the peripheral countries through tremendous technological advancements in communication, capable of transmitting many cultural elements, starting from food, clothing, and ending with science, curriculum, and teaching strategies. This made the people of the peripheral countries blindly embrace those hybrid cultures, primarily aimed at stripping cultural identity and thus feeling alienated due to their inability to integrate and adapt to modern technological developments and multicultural environments within their social framework, which cannot provide the minimum standards of decent living compared to core countries. This generates a kind of internal dissatisfaction, which quickly turns into resentment towards society, becoming an unconscious motive for following one of the following paths (Khattou, 2011, pp. 124-125):

- Adapting to the changes, leading to internal conflict manifested in the clash between what exists and what is hoped for.
- Escaping and illegally migrating to countries that can provide individuals with the opportunity to fulfill their potential.
- Attempting to rectify the existing situation, resulting in a conflict with the system.

However, at present, individuals prefer the second choice, manifested through illegal secret migrations, which emerged from the economic and cultural developments experienced by the core countries. These effects were reflected in the aspirations of individuals in the peripheral countries to fulfill their primary needs and aspire to satisfy higher needs within Maslow's hierarchy of needs. In case of the inability to meet those needs, individuals are driven to rebel in terms of thought and behavior. Therefore, Ibn Khaldun's famous saying, "The conquered is always desirous of following the conqueror

in his dress, his customs, his manners, and all his condition and everything connected with him" (Abdelrahman, 2002, p. 137), can be interpreted in our present era to mean that the conqueror is the economically powerful core countries. Thus, looking from their perspective allows us to talk about economic subordination. On the other hand, the conquered are the peripheral countries, and speaking from their perspective allows us to discuss cultural hegemony. Here, a strong relationship emerges, according to Ibn Khaldun, as an inevitable result of the imbalance of power between the two parties, resulting in a strong desire to imitate the stronger party.

Ibn Khaldun's approach in our current time highlights the reciprocal and strong relationship between economic subjugation and cultural hegemony as historical outcomes of colonial policies. Thus, economic power and control become the attributes of the dominant, while imitation, cultural detachment, and emulation become the attributes of the dominated. Ibn Khaldun combines the socio-economic and socio-cultural dimensions of dominance in his book "The Introduction." According to him, the dominant is the one who is superior and followed, while the dominated is the one who is inferior and follows. Therefore, what can be deduced from Ibn Khaldun's statement is the superiority of the dominant over the dominated in various aspects of life. The dominant's life has materialistic characteristics, such as clothing and living conditions, which indicate the advancement of economic aspects of life. This is viewed as superior and more refined by the dominated. On the other hand, Ibn Khaldun indicates that the dominated always imitates and emulates the dominant in various aspects of their lives, affirming that the dominated are culturally dominated by the dominant.

The dominance of the dominant over the dominated, economically and culturally, has a significant and dangerous impact on the social fabric within these countries, especially at the level of traditional relationships that regulate all aspects of human behavior and thinking patterns. Cultural hegemony "deeply affects the degree of social cohesion imposed by traditional society (Abdelkader, 2012, p. 154)." Additionally, economic dominance creates a low economic status that generates unemployment problems, lack of job opportunities, or stable professional activities, and the inability to meet living standards, leading to a lower standard of living (Mohammed A. , 2017, p. 233). All of this inevitably deepens the individual's motivation for illegal migration to the other side in search of salvation and hope for a completely different reality from what prevails in their home country.

The ability of central countries to achieve dominance, both economically and culturally, over their dependent peripheral countries has significantly weakened the social ties within these countries. Especially among the youth, values contradictory to citizenship and identity have emerged. This indicates a dissolution and detachment from affiliations, identities, and cultures in favor of the desired country to live in. Individuals find themselves involved in their social circumstances, such as food, clothing, housing, and life projects. In this existence, life becomes a curse rather than a blessing, and the social situation becomes tragic, forcing them to embark on the adventure of illegal migration in search of a better life (Mohammed A. , 2017, p. 232). Consequently, the crisis of identity relationships with their home countries as a result of the dominance practiced by central countries over them has created a readiness for migration fueled by alternative cultural ideas and the dire social conditions they live in. This has led to the prevalence of illegal migration among individuals towards central countries that attract them.

In this regard, Karl Marx emphasizes that there are objective factors inherent in society that push individuals towards migration. Oppression and alienation resulting from the absence of peace and equality, injustice resulting from the lack of justice, unemployment, and poverty resulting from the irregular distribution of wealth are all consequences of capitalism as an economic system, which, according to Marx, deeply contradicts human values and nature. This is because it creates imbalance in the distribution of resources among societies, thus escalating migration from one country to another. According to

Marx, capitalism constitutes a factor in wasting human resources (Abdelkader, 2012, p. 49). Individuals, according to Marx, move in migration processes based on the reality of power relations, production, and its requirements between advanced and backward countries, making the analysis of illegal migration phenomenon start with uncovering the living conditions in the context of dependency and economic domination of center countries over peripheral countries, and the social conditions it has produced, which collectively constitute factors of expulsion from peripheral countries, in contrast to the attraction factors created by the powerful capitalist economic system in center countries. Meanwhile, Antonio Gramsci links cultural hegemony to the needs of capitalism, which in his view go beyond power, money, and authority, to the formation of acceptance factor that requires, according to him, the production of alternative culture among the oppressed social classes.

Based on the reality of Algeria as one of the peripheral countries under France, considered one of the central countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region, Algerian youth are the most affected by their circumstances and the most affected by their social problems. This has made them the oppressed class, to use Gramsci's term. They are the most susceptible to penetration and occupation of the mind. They are the most inclined to follow European French culture and eager to live their lives. According to Gramsci's idea, for the continuation of economic dependency, there must be cultural hegemony, or what is commonly referred to as the soft dominance of center countries over peripheral countries. The cultural invasion of center countries appears in the social structures of peripheral countries, causing changes in all aspects of human behavior within them, especially among the youth. This expresses the transcendence of traditional and social frameworks within these structures, to imitate Western European lifestyles. This is evident in their clothing, hairstyle, and even celebrating Western holidays like New Year's Eve and Valentine's Day. Even their way of speaking, where Algerians now compare what is European, cultured, modern, and advanced with what is Algerian, uncultured, backward, and old-fashioned. All of this stems from a passion for modernization, but reality confirms that it is nothing but blind imitation resulting from admiration for the lifestyle of others, which has led to detachment from the components of the original country and dissolution of identity and cultural ties with it.

The bright and glamorous image of Western and European life, especially the European paradise, has had an irresistible magical effect on the inhabitants of peripheral countries, including Algeria, especially the youth, the class most fascinated and passionate about modernization. This has made them dream of living a life similar to that of Europeans in their countries, as it represents the highest levels of decent living in their view. The charm of this life has also extended to shaping a youth discourse carrying ideas of sacrifice and adventure in order to reach the promised land in their view. With youth possessing their own subculture within the social structure, reflecting their orientations, aspirations, and goals, and seeking to achieve them through interactive processes, as the discourse serves as a means of interaction and communication, Algerian youth have begun to use words and phrases in public places, social gatherings, discussions, and even in sports arenas and protests, expressing their passion and satisfaction with the idea of illegal migration to Europe. Among these expressions are phrases like "the sea swallows me, but the worms don't in this country", "the shoe and the burn", "escape is no longer a living here", and others, which youth repeat in public places, discussions, and gatherings, and even in stadiums, protests, and paint them on walls. Moreover, these words and phrases have become a kiss for artists in producing songs and videos encouraging and promoting illegal migration, which has attracted youth to listen to them. This has had an impact on shaping and increasing the desire for illegal migration to Europe. Consequently, it can be asserted that illegal migration from Algeria to France is the result of the intertwined interaction between attraction and repulsion factors, which is a historical extension of a series of sedimentations left by colonial culture.

Conclusion

It can be said that illegal migration is a global phenomenon with diverse sources and directions. It is a human and social phenomenon perceived by illegal migrants as a journey towards achieving a better tomorrow with a dignified life. However, it has left behind a global tragedy deeply rooted in the crises experienced by migrants in their home countries, especially due to the prevalence of poverty, hunger, unemployment, and deadly epidemics.

Moreover, illegal migration from African countries across the North African coast to the Arab Maghreb countries is the most active and dynamic, relied upon by individual migrants or groups towards Europe. Among the most recorded destinations for illegal migration movements globally, the strategic importance of the Arab Maghreb countries as a link between Europe and Africa has made them one of the most prominent transit points for illegal migrants to various European countries, especially those overlooking the Mediterranean from their other coast.

On the other hand, the phenomenon of illegal migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region has multidimensional aspects, with economic and cultural dimensions reflecting European dominance over African countries. This dominance reflects the form of European colonization of Africa in its modern guise, especially since most of these latter countries were colonies with a historical connection to European countries during the colonial movements witnessed by the world.

The continuation of the rampant exploitation of the wealth of African countries, which forms the basis for the continuity and development of the European capitalist economy, against the economic decline of weak African economies, which are peripheral countries compared to European countries, has further exacerbated the economic disparity between them. The unit of cultural hegemony resulting from intellectual invasion has worked to shape alternative cultures within the social structures of African countries.

All of this has had negative consequences on these countries, where economic and cultural dominance has produced a low economic status accompanied by a miserable social situation. It has also created a crisis of identity and identity among the peoples of African countries, weakening social ties, especially at the level of relationships with the original country in favor of the European country where they aspire to live. Illegal migration is thus one of the most important consequences and manifestations of the dominance of central countries over peripheral countries.

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21 *The Socio-cultural and Economic Dimensions of the Phenomenon of Illegal Immigration- Sociological Analyses in the Light of the Theory of Dominance*

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