Impact of International Migration on the Internal Security of the State

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Abstract

International migration now constitutes an influential element of the emerging international order and an important factor in the internal and external policy of many states. The complexity of migration processes determines their positive and negative consequences. International migration gives rise to several events that can be confidently considered threats to state security. The article aims to identify the most prominent threats to the state's internal security stemming from international migration. Using theoretical summarization and structural-logical analysis, the study identifies the leading threats to internal security that emerge due to international migration and their interrelations. The authors conclude that examining migration processes from the standpoint of state security poses a challenging and multifaceted problem. In the context of migration flows, the most prominent contemporary threats to internal security are illegal migration, organized crime, terrorism, extremism, ghettoization, threats to national identity (for the recipient state), and the consequences of human capital outflow (for the donor state).

1. INTRODUCTION

As a global phenomenon, migration now covers virtually every state in the world, making them either sending, receiving, or transiting organizations for persons involved in migration flows (Geiger & Pécoud, 2014). In this context, several benefits of migration appear, such as promotion of economic growth (Zhang et al., 2023), counteraction to the negative consequences of society's aging (Zinatullina et al., 2021), increased power of the state, improved quality and level of life (Zorina et al., 2022), creation of conditions for development, exchange of knowledge and technologies (Chumakova et al., 2023; Korableva et al., 2020 a,b), and cultural exchange (Doomernik, 2013). Nevertheless,

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especially in the last decade, public debate has increasingly focused on the negative aspects of migration, such as problems in the labor market (Csanyi, 2020), access to social benefits (Baird & van Liempt, 2016), difficulties in the assimilation and integration of migrants (Andersson, 2016), threats to national identity (Baele & Sterck, 2015), and the development of organized crime and terrorism (Khlebushkin et al., 2021; Borichev et al., 2022). In this respect, there is a noticeable evolution of threats associated with migration.

In particular, the EU-Turkey agreement of March 18, 2016, had the goal of reducing the number of migrants entering the EU across the Mediterranean Sea. Statistics for 2021 indicate that the inflow of migrants into the EU did reduce, but researchers are investigating the exact reasons for this change. The 2016 agreement was the culmination of the dominance of the security system and reflects the ongoing externalization of the EU's responsibility for refugee protection and responsibility sharing. Essentially, the discussion is notionally brought down to the choice between the humanitarian component and the need to enhance security. "EU has started treating refugees as a security problem rather than a humanitarian issue, breaking the normative fabric of the refugee regime in the process" (Jäntti & Klasche, 2021). After the onset of hostilities in 2022, EU leaders recognized that they did not have all the resources for people fleeing from war. For this reason, the EU introduced norms to regulate the provision of humanitarian aid, emergency relief to civilians, support to migrants at the border, and protection for those forced to flee armed hostilities.

An urgent problem faced by Russia is intensifying the retention of migrants. On the one hand, the outflow of labor migrants from Russia is caused by its strict migration policy, a sharp drop in salaries compared to the EU, and an increase in intolerance towards migrants on the part of law enforcement authorities. On the other hand, from 2020-2023, migrant crime in Russia increased by 25%. The bulk of the offenses relate to robbery, violence, fights, and drug trafficking.

Thus, the need for labor resources (Ignatieva et al., 2023; Dinh, 2019) and the scale and potential of threats associated with the movement of people (Meshcheryakov & Abdigaliyeva, 2022; Tarman, 2019) have greatly influenced the nature of social and political debates on migration.

The activation of migration processes currently constitutes a major problem. The optimization and harmonization of migration policies and stopping the wave of illegal migration have become priorities not only for European countries but also for the Russian Federation.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

International migration has started to be viewed as a problem for state security relatively recently. Showing the impact of migration on internal security is an extremely difficult task for several reasons.

First, both the concept of migration and security and their interaction are largely subjective. In this study, international migration is understood as the movement of people from one country to another. Internal security is defined as a condition of the functioning of the state that ensures that threats to the constitutional order, internal order, and peace are countered, eliminated, or limited and that the public interests of individual communities and each citizen are protected (Demirkol, 2022; Solovev et al., 2022).

Second, when investigating the relationship between these two categories (using the subjective criterion), researchers speak of the influence of migration on the security of local communities (Messina, 2014), individual states (Cusumano & Villa, 2021), and state

associations (EU), as well as the effects of migration on international security (Lavenex, 2019).

Investigation of the impact of migration on state security can focus on various changes in security: internal and external (Balzacq et al., 2016; Pogosyan, 2021), economic and political (Bartram, 2011), technological (Mokofe, 2022; Gromova & Ivanc, 2020), or cultural, social, and demographic (Beňuška & Nečas, 2021). Furthermore, international flows of people can strengthen a state's security in one area while weakening it in another (e.g., an influx of immigrants can increase economic and demographic security while decreasing cultural security) (Akhmetshin, et al., 2018; Saenko et al., 2020, 2021).

Analyzing the relationship between migration and security, researchers state that international flows of people generate various challenges to the security of both the countries of immigration (receiving immigrants) (Bello, 2022) and the countries of emigration (sending emigrants) (Pastore & Roman, 2020). In practice, it is very often that a profit or benefit of the receiving country simultaneously constitutes a loss or cost for the sending country, and vice versa (Koch, 2014).

Given the complex nature of interactions between migration and security described above, this article aims to identify the most significant threats posed by international migration to a state's internal security.

3. METHODS

The present study attempts to answer the following research question: What are the threats to the internal security of the state for both the recipient state and the donor state of international migration?

Due to the novelty of the studied phenomenon and the explorative nature of the posed research goal, the study employs the qualitative approach and the basis of the article consists of a review of the literature on the research topic.

To achieve the set research goal, we established the following tentative set of theoretical research methods: theoretical summarization to define the threats to a state's internal security posed by international migration and structural-logical analysis to establish relationships between different threats to internal security generated by international migration.

Our search process met the rigorous standards set by the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines.

The PRISMA methodology is a structured flowchart consisting of four separate steps. The steps include the identification of relevant articles, a thorough screening process, rigorous determination of the study's eligibility, and finalization of the shortlist of studies for inclusion in the systematic review.

Selection	Records returned from the search (n= 1,417)

| First stage | Screening of records for compliance with the criteria |
| | Screened records (n=287) | Records excluded through screening (n=124) |

| Second stage | Screening for the correspondence of full texts to the research topic |
| | Studies included into bibliometric analysis (n=73) | Excluded full texts (n=41) |

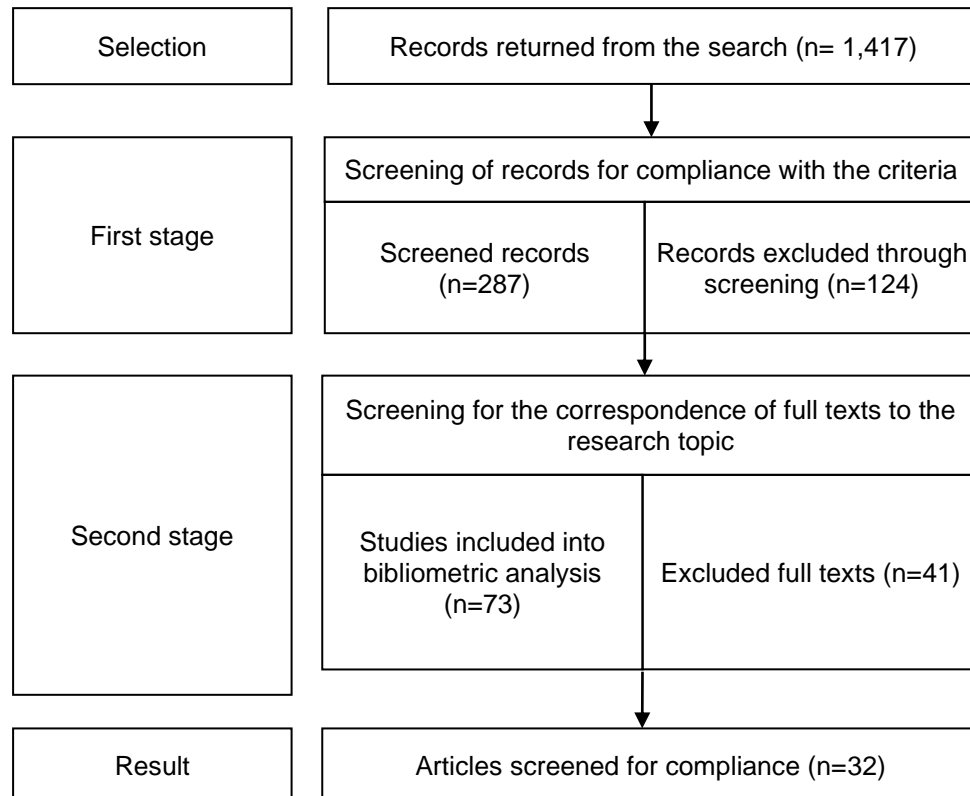| Result | Articles screened for compliance (n=32) |

Figure 1: PRISMA flowchart of the process of selecting bibliographic sources for bibliometric analysis

Stage 1. Data collection.

In accordance with the purpose of the study, we performed a selection of analytical data sources. In addition, the selection of scientific sources was performed in the international databases Web of Science and Scopus using the keywords "international migration", "national security", and "state security". Relevant content was also examined on the https://scholar.google.com.sv/scholar webpage. Finally, the study covered official websites with important international legal documents, legal precedents, and social surveys devoted to the impact of international migration on internal security. As a result, the first stage of selection delivered 1,417 publications in several categories.

Stage 2. Filtering data based on selection criteria.

Studies were selected based on the following criteria:

1. The authors have at least three publications on the topic in the last 10 years;

2. Numerical preponderance of more than 50% of studies on economic topics in the total number of the authors' publications;

3. The authors' profiles indicate that their publications are thematically related to the topic of our study;

4. The publication date of the paper is between 2012 and 2023.

Through this approach, 287 articles were preliminarily selected for analysis.

Stage 3. Refinement of data through full-text analysis.

To make sure that the publications selected were as relevant as possible, we conducted a comprehensive analysis of their full texts. After careful sampling, a total of 40 papers were selected.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The review of scientific literature suggests that major threats to the internal security of the state in today's world include terrorism, organized crime, political extremism, and other crisis phenomena that can sever or weaken social ties. All these threats are commonly closely interconnected. Moreover, illegal migration poses a special challenge to the internal security of the state (Table 1).

Table 1: Threats to the internal security of states

№	Threat		Source
1	For the recipient country	transnational organized crime	Baird & van Liempt, 2016; Khlebushkin et al., 2021; Cusumano et al., 2021
2		illegal migration	Doomernik, 2013; Csanyi, 2020; Andersson, 2016; Baele & Sterck, 2015; Cusumano & Villa, 2021
3		terrorism	Reinares, 2009; Huysmans & Buonfino, 2008; Balzacq et al. 2016; Bartram,2011
4		extremism	Lavenex, 2019
5		ghettoization (creation of cultural and ethnic neighborhoods) and threat to national identity	Bartram, 2011; Koch, 2014
6	For the donor country	no reimbursement of costs incurred for training	Bartram, 2011
7		increasing disparities in wealth between countries	Beňuška & Nečas, 2021; Pastore & Roman, 2020
8		loss of highly qualified workers	Bello, 2022; Pastore & Roman, 2020; Koch, 2014

Source: Compiled by the authors

A serious challenge for the internal security of the receiving state lies in illegal migration. Due to its unregulated nature, illegal migration is often considered the most dangerous part of migration flows (Cusumano & Villa, 2021). In this connection, control over who is entering the country is an essential part of state sovereignty. Illegal migration is seen as an encroachment on sovereignty, as it calls into question the state's ability to exercise control over its spatial sphere. Almost 4 million people are smuggled across the border each year (as estimated by the International Organization for Migration, IOM) (Csanyi, 2020). Half of all illegal immigrants are involved in smuggling or human trafficking networks, an industry that brings in about 10 billion dollars in profits each year (Khlebushkin et al., 2021).

Migration becomes illegal, first, because there are more people wishing to leave their country of residence than other countries are able to accept; second, because countries are typically not interested in accepting all categories of immigrants (for instance, they are only focused on accepting highly qualified workforce). The development of the phenomenon of illegal migration flows (as well as legal migration) is conditioned, first of all, by the desire to improve living conditions.

In this context, almost 1,300 million people live in extreme poverty (earning less than 1.25 dollars a day), 780 million have no access to safe drinking water, and nearly 2,500 million live in unsafe sanitary conditions (Pastore & Roman, 2020). This situation,

combined with numerous armed conflicts in poor and underdeveloped regions, contributes to the development of migration. On the other hand, developed countries still have a demand for low-skilled workers – cheap labor, often recruited from illegal immigrants willing to take jobs in sectors where the local population or legal immigrants are no longer willing to work.

From the point of the state's internal security, a special danger lies in the associations of illegal migration with transnational organized crime and terrorism (Antonova, 2023).

F.B. Adamson (2006) believes that perhaps the most evident link between migration and transnational organized crime is the global industry of contraband and human trafficking. Groups engaged in this practice charge high fees for their services, ranging from 500 dollars for smuggling from Morocco to Spain to 50,000 dollars for transportation from some Asian countries to the US. Illegal human smuggling has therefore become so lucrative that drug cartels are taking control of human smuggling routes along the US-Mexico border (Ewing, 2014), and in Europe, more than 11,500 intermediaries (about 30% of them being EU citizens) have been proven to be involved in the trafficking of illegal immigrants (Demirkol, 2022).

Terrorism is no less significant as a migration problem due to its cross-border nature. The relationship between migration and terrorism today should be considered in at least two dimensions. This is pointed out by A.M. Messina, who argues that terrorist organizations perceive immigration from a strategic point of view, focusing on all aspects of immigration policy to gain access to the territory of the targeted country. Messina identifies two strategies used to gain this access. The first one involves so-called strike groups entering the country's territory with a clear intent to commit a terrorist act. The second strategy boils down to using so-called sleeper cells – groups already residing inside the target country, which will be activated at the right moment to launch an attack. This is typically characteristic of domestic terrorism. This concept is associated with acts of violence on political, ideological, or religious grounds committed by people born and raised in the country of the terrorist attack (primarily by descendants of immigrants or immigrants themselves).

Apart from the direct link between migration and terrorism, international flows of people also affect terrorist activity indirectly. An inflow of immigrants often leads to a rise in radical, racist, and xenophobic sentiments and the development of various forms of political extremism, which pose a serious challenge to the internal security and public order of the country (Štefančík et al., 2021).

The presence of a large number of immigrants, especially those coming from other cultural and civilizational backgrounds and poorly integrated into the host society, can generate another threat to the country's internal security – extremism, which finds its outlet in protests and street riots that constitute serious disturbances of public order. Such cases have been observed repeatedly in countries with diverse ethnic, religious, and national compositions (Shumakova & Titova, 2023).

Both terrorist activity and street riots are manifestations of strong antagonisms emerging in multicultural societies. At one pole there are immigrant communities (often poorly integrated and assimilated into the society of the country of settlement), and at the other pole are far-right supporters seeking to preserve national, cultural, religious, and sometimes racial homogeneity. At present, such a dichotomy is the most apparent, especially with respect to Muslim immigrant communities in Western Europe.

A characteristic feature of modern immigrant communities is the cultivation of distinct identities and the frequently accompanying attempts to recreate native sociocultural conditions in the countries of settlement (Balzacq et al., 2016). Ghettoization is typically considered a harmful and undesirable phenomenon giving rise to several other unfavorable phenomena, which manifests itself in the creation of autonomous and

isolated enclaves operating based on their own norms and values alternative to the culture of the country of residence. This results in the emergence of so-called parallel communities that exist virtually independently from one another. In extreme cases, representatives of radical Islamic groups demand that such enclaves be given a different, autonomous status (replacing the state legal system with Sharia law) and even openly call for the construction of an Islamic state in the country of residence (Štefančík et al., 2018). The host states, concerned for their security, cannot allow enclaves governed by laws other than those generally applicable. Acceptance of the practice of immigrants' isolation and grouping into homogeneous groups causes the state to lose control over this group, perceiving it as an area of increased crime and competition with itself.

Immigrants are seen as a threat to the national identity of the accepting country that jeopardizes the values and culture of the host nation by destroying traditions and social order. Immigrant minorities are believed to be the main outsiders in this field. Iimmigrants' stay creates many social problems: areas in cities populated by immigrants are perceived as areas with increasing crime, including against citizens of the country where the migrants reside.

Nevertheless, the isolation of migrants is not a one-sided process. This process is facilitated by the lower socio-economic status of migrants (relative poverty, employment difficulties, over-representation in low-paid sectors of the economy, etc.). As a result, many immigrants and their descendants find it difficult to identify with the host country. This is being objected to not only by state institutions but also by wider social circles, especially when accompanied by accusations of job deprivation or exploitation of the social security system. In this context, there is a growing discourse about the crisis of multiculturalism policies practiced in several countries around the world.

Considering the relationship between international migration and the threat to the internal security of the donor state through the prism of human capital outflow from the donor country of international migration, we should note the following negative effects: the lack of reimbursement to countries of origin for the costs incurred for the education of emigrants, the deepening of disparities in the welfare of sending countries, and the risk of dependence on remittance income to such an extent that a decline in such income could even lead to economic collapse. Other equally important threats include the risk of losing the valuable potential of highly skilled workers, which may entail a drop in the quality of production, services, labor efficiency, or productivity (in migrants' countries of origin).

A key issue here is the movement of valuable human capital. For example, the migration of medical professionals is an example of a particularly complex problem of today (Grinin et al., 2022). This phenomenon is due to the ever-increasing demand for workers in this sector in highly developed countries, which tempt professionals not only with good salaries and social conditions but also with simplified immigration procedures. The demand for medical professionals does not decrease with technological advances (Gromova & Ferreira, 2023), since this is also the case for other highly skilled workers, such as those in the IT industry.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The conducted analysis of the links between migration and the internal security of the state allows us to formulate the following conclusions and generalizations:

1. Considering migration processes in the context of security is a difficult endeavor, as the problems are caused by the fact that migration processes affect the security of state bodies in a complex and multidimensional way. These processes can simultaneously enhance state security in one sphere and weaken it in another.

2. In the context of migration flows, the most critical contemporary threats to the internal security of the state include illegal migration, organized crime, terrorism, extremism, ghettoization, threats to national identity (for the recipient state), and consequences of the outflow of human capital (for the donor state).

3. From the point of the internal security of the state, illegal migration is the most dangerous part of migration flows. This is due to the uncontrolled nature of such migration, which enables undesirable persons to enter the state. Furthermore, in this perspective, connections have been established between irregular migration and organized crime (human smuggling or trafficking) and terrorism.

A prospect for further research is to analyze the necessary measures to mitigate migration-related risks to a state's internal security. Migration-related threats can never be completely eliminated, but at best can be limited through appropriate action strategies, methods, and tools.

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