Unwanted People and Desired Citizens

Contemporary Attitudes, Challenges and Perceptions of Migration and Integration

Edited by
**Cezary Smuniewski, Andrea Zanini,
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Migrations and Their Meaning for State (In)security. Outline of the Problem

Abstract

The purpose of the article is to characterize the meaning of migration for state security. For the purpose of the narrative to be achieved, the essence of migration, its basic classifications and causes have been presented. The analysis leads to the conclusion that migration in itself should not be seen in terms of a threat to a state. On the contrary, – this process usually provides migrants with better living conditions. In a host country, on the other hand, they usually do jobs that are not popular. They also contribute to reducing the demographic decline, thus consolidating the security of that country. However, the nature and scale that migrations are capable to achieve means that this process may have a number of consequences that threaten the security of a state. In counteracting this state of affairs, a host country's migration policy is important, which should enable development of personal, voluntary and unforced interactions in pursuit of the common goals of migrants and indigenous people of a given country. This reduces mutual stereotypes and prejudices, thus eliminating the likelihood of adverse phenomena.

Keywords: security, threat, migrations, state

1. Introduction

The phenomenon of migration – despite the fact that it has existed since the beginning of human history[1] – has gained clear specificity in recent years. Individuals from poorer countries with the largest natural growth are moving to those that are richer. The reasons for changing residence or temporary stay are mainly related to the desire to improve the standard

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[1] The first migration noted down in a source of European culture, namely the Bible, took place when languages were confounded, as a result of human race was scattered around the world (Gen., 11: 8–9).

of living of migrants, finding better jobs, educational opportunities or escaping from ethnic and religious conflicts, wars or natural disasters. Unfortunately, although highly developed countries need the support of migrants, they are unable to accept them all. Meanwhile, in recent years in Poland and the entire Schengen Zone, the number of immigrants from outside the European Union has significantly increased.[2] This situation is related to international events and the accompanying consequences.[3] As a result of these processes, the issue of ensuring security, understood not only as maintaining the existence, but also providing development opportunities individuals, groups and entire societies, both migrants as well as those from host countries, is particularly important. This position is confirmed by the content of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland (2022), which indicates the need to counteract an uncontrolled movement of people, strengthen the importance of border services, prevent the deteriorating demographic situation of the state and conduct appropriate migration policy in this respect.

The purpose of the article is to characterize the meaning of migration for state security. In other words, the narration answers the following questions: What is the meaning of migration for state security? In this study, the problem has been considered within the cognitive category; hence, the methods of analysis, synthesis, inference and abstraction have been used. In order for the goal to be attained, the essence of migrations and the basic categories of their classification have been presented first. Then the causes of migration have been discussed, indicating the factors affecting the departure of a migrant's place of residence, i.e. the push factors and those that decide on the choice of a specific destination, i.e. pull factors. The presented narrative is followed by a summary.

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[2]   For example, it is worth pointing out that by the end of September 2022, 7.4 thousand applications for international protection in Poland were submitted by foreigners. This is 40% more people as compared with the same period of 2021. In addition, almost 1.4 million Ukrainian citizens obtained PESEL statistical numbers confirming that they enjoyed temporary protection. See Dziudziak 2023.

[3]   Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, escalated since February 2022, caused the largest migration of refugees in Europe after World War II, estimated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at 5.2 million people. By the end of April 2022, over 3 million war refugees crossed the Polish border, of which over 95% were Ukrainian citizens, see *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* 2022.

2. The essence of migration

Owing to its complex nature, the essence of migration requires an interdisciplinary scientific approach. Depending on the purpose of the research, migrations can be analyzed from the viewpoint of: geography, history, sociology, political sciences, demography, psychology, economics or security studies. On the one hand, research is conducted on large sets of numbers (macro), taking into account the conditions, consequences, types and course of the migration process. On the other hand, the study of the phenomenon in question may take the individual character (micro), describing migration motivations, personal benefits and losses, problems of assimilation and the relationship of a migrant with the milieu (Castles, Miller 2011: 40).

Thus, defining and classifying migration is an equally complex issue.[4] Most generally, this term means mass movement of people, usually in search for better living conditions. To describe migrations in greater detail, they can be defined as a relatively constant change of location taking place in the geographical space within one's own country (horizontal migration), most often from rural areas to cities (internal migrations) or involving crossing the state border (external migrations). It is noted, by the way, that along with a different place of residence this phenomenon is accompanied by a change in the social position – so-called vertical migration (Kawczyńska-Butrym 2009: 11). This involves both leaving a country of origin, abandoning the bonds that link one with it, including family and friends, and coming to a new, previously unknown place, where a cultural shock, a sense of strangeness and other fears, including the fear of exclusion may occur. It is worth adding that the status of a migrant in a new place is usually inferior to that in their country of origin. They usually perform less prestigious jobs. However, there are opposite situations, whereby the social position does not change and can even improve. This applies above all to specialist, whose services are always in demand. There are also situations that the departure from one's current place of residence is associated with greater opportunities and better living conditions (Kawczyńska-Butrym 2009: 15).

When discussing the essence of migration, it is also worth considering individual conceptual varieties of this phenomenon, such as: immigration (arrival in a new country), emigration (departure from one country to

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[4]   For more insights in this context, cf. Smuniewski 2021: 119–132.

another), re-emigration (return to the country of origin), repatriation (return to the country when it has been left notwithstanding the will of migrants) or deportation (forced displacement of people), the use of which generally depends on the geographical point of reference that has been adopted (Kaczmarczyk 2015: 8). All the more so the essence of migration should be all the time seen on many levels. The dimensions necessary for these considerations could be as follows:

- human factor, that is the migration subject;
- geographical space;
- purposefulness of migration;
- duration of stay;
- causes (Lubiewski 2016: 14).

Migrations therefore constitute a process that goes far beyond making a decision to leave and the very change of one's place of residence. Depending on the type of migration and its duration, this process has a different impact on further lives of migrants. Settling oneself in a new place, especially in the case of the existing language barrier and significant cultural differences, is not easy. The waning or limited ties with the milieu that has been left behind neither are indifferent to the migrant. On the other hand, migrations can significantly contribute to expanding competences and skills as well as gaining necessary life experience (Domalewska 2020: 41–43).

The essence of migration concerns not only migrants themselves, but also their families and entire societies, both of the countries of destination and migrants' countries of origin (Castles, Miller 2011: 39). It should be therefore concluded that migrations are primarily a collective phenomenon. This assumption can be confirmed by the concept of migration networks, according to which there is a link between the current and future waves of migrants (Lubiewski 2016: 36). The essence of this concept is a sense of community and belonging to a group of migrants, as well as ties with the family and the country of origin. These networks provide support to new arrivals and explain, among others, the practice of sending money transfers to native countries (Jaskułowski, Pawlak 2016: 137–138). Migration networks are also a manifestation of a kind of social capital, thanks to which it is easier to adapt to new living conditions. They also facilitate acquiring knowledge about other countries and information on finding a flat, a job, and establishment new acquaintances and other organizational issues facilitating the migration process (Castles, Miller 2011: 49).

3. Selected migration classification criteria

Migrations are characterized by a multitude of factors that can be taken into account when analyzing them. To this end, it is crucial to separate the criteria within which it is possible to identify individual types of migration. Therefore, it is worth pointing to the following criterion of:

- time – regarding the duration of the people in a place other than their place of residence, which makes it possible to distinguish migrants from tourists, who stay in another place mainly seasonally and at a precisely defined time;
- activities – related to the performance of activities in the new place of stay;
- space – indicating the movement of people over a distance;
- stay – relating to the change of the place of residence permanently or temporarily, where the nature of migration may be forced, voluntary, external or internal (Kaczmarczyk 2015: 7–8).

Interesting criteria for the classification of migration are presented by Zofia Kawczyńska-Butrym (2009: 22). In this approach, mentioned should be the criterion of:

- legality;
- voluntariness;
- purpose;
- duration;
- access to information.

The legality criterion concerns the legal status of foreigners. The first variant of this criterion refers to the case where all procedures have been kept and the foreigner has got a permission to stay in the country. Illegal or otherwise unregulated migration is the opposite. This type of migration concerns essentially closely related aspects of entry, stay and work in the territory of a country other than the previously inhabited one (Szulecka 2016: 197). In addition, a third type of stay should be indicated in terms of legality, which can be described as "the in-between status." This status refers to a situation whereby arrival in the country may have been unlawful, but there are ways to legalize one's stay. This may apply to, among others, persons who apply for protection in the territory of another country and have submitted an application to the competent authorities in this matter (Kawczyńska-Butrym 2009: 22). According to Polish regulations (Act 2023/103), foreigners who are waiting for a decision on granting

them protection are entitled to, among others, additional social assistance and medical care, except for the situations when they stay in a guarded or detention center for foreigners or when they are temporarily arrested or serving a prison sentence. The purpose of the ongoing proceedings for protection is to determine whether there has been any abuse as regards true reasons for the arrival of the foreigner in a new country. Separating actual refugees from fictitious ones requires dedication of both time, diverse means and resources, which in turn hinders the entire process of granting protection (Szulecka 2016: 229–230). To avoid this, an additional legislative solution has been introduced for Ukrainian citizens in connection with the migration caused by the present Russian aggression (Act 2023/103). "The Act sets out special rules for legalizing the stay of Ukrainian citizens who have come to the territory of the Republic of Poland directly from the territory of Ukraine in connection with the hostilities conducted on the territory of that country, and Ukrainian citizens who hold the Polish Charter, who have come to the territory of the Republic of Poland with their immediate families because of these hostilities." (Act 2023/103: Article 1(1))

The next migration criterion can be divided into two main areas. The first group includes voluntary migrations, when the decision to leave is usually taken individually or by a family in order to improve their current standard of living or gain new experiences and competences. Forced migrations can be distinguished as the second area. The decision to leave in this case is a result of political, religious or ethnic oppression experienced in one's own country or fear for one's own life and health (Kawczyńska-Butrym 2008: 28). Forced migration also includes human trafficking, the victims of which are abused, often forced and kidnapped by criminals (Hołdyńska 2021: 71).

The third migration criterion refers to the reasons why people decide to leave their current place of residence. The overwhelming majority of migrations are of an economic nature. Therefore, economic and non-economic migrations can be distinguished most broadly. As regards economic migrations, two types of migrants can be distinguished. The former are people who migrate to secure for themselves any subsistence. They are migrants in a very bad economic situation, who are hardly able to meet their basic life needs. This may also apply to the situations where the state is unable to meet the expectations of its citizens regarding the minimum standard of living. In the new country such migrants take up the simplest jobs and often live in very bad conditions. It is significant that they usually send most of their earnings to families in their country

of origin. The second type of economic migrants are people who leave to improve their current standard of living. This is connected the desire to put aside a certain amount of money for future plans, such as a larger house, a newer car or investments. Moreover, non-economic migrations can be identified as part of the migration purpose criterion. This type of migration is not directly geared towards obtaining only tangible benefits. Such issues as gaining life experience, new competences, learning, increasing a sense of security or improving the standard of living, e.g. thanks to a more complex social care system, come to the fore (Kawczyńska-Butrym 2008: 28).

The fourth point of reference is the criterion of migration duration. Basically, migrations can be divided into permanent, i.e. those that are supposed to last for the rest of migrants' lives, and temporary ones. In the case of temporary migration, the matter is less obvious. They are additionally divided into long-term migrations, usually over one year, and short-term, usually lasting several months. However, it is not possible to indicate exact time limits, because entities using statistical data for their research may take different values depending on the nature of the issue being addressed (Wójcik-Żołądek 2014: 14). In fact, with the exception of strictly leisure and tourist trips, trips lasting less than a few months can also be described as short-term migration. Such a condition could be met by cases where migrants, against their previous plans to settle in a new place significantly reduce the duration of this stay for various reasons. Another type of migration – with a view to the duration of stay abroad – are circular migrations, i.e. short-term and repetitive trips at certain intervals and seasonal trips, which usually take place during the summer and are related to the performance of a specific seasonal type of work (Wójcik-Żołądek 2014: 12).

The next migration criterion is the criterion of access to information. According to Zofia Kawczyńska-Butrym (2009: 23) access to information is a factor that favors and, consequently, makes it easier to function in a new society. This involves establishing relationships between state institutions and NGOs and immigrants. This allows identifying the needs of immigrants, mitigating conflicts and developing appropriate directions of action under a migration policy. In turn, problematic access to information or lack of information can significantly impede the functioning of foreigners in the new country and be a kind of prelude to a sense of isolation, tensions and radicalization of attitudes due to negative experiences, and consequently – the immigrants willing to separate themselves from the new society (Castles, Miller 2011: 63). Access to information is therefore associated

with the existing language and cultural barriers, the type and scale of contact with institutions dealing with immigration matters. It is equally important for foreigners to communicate with each other, thanks to which information reaches people who, for various reasons, experience difficulties in accessing official transmission channels (Kawczyńska-Butrym 2009: 23).

Other criteria not mentioned so far may also be indicated. They may relate to issues such as distinguishing among the decisions to migrate the following: individual, family or group, spontaneous or planned, and the already mentioned internal and external migrations and others, which will result from the issues covered (Wójcik-Żołądek 2014: 15).

4. Causes of migration

Among the causes for making a migration decision, the concept of push–pull factors may be pointed out. This theory assumes confronting the factors that affect abandoning one's current residence, i.e. push factors, and those that influence the choice of a specific destination, i.e. pull factors (Wójcik-Żołądek 2014: 27). The decision to change the country of residence is essentially based on comparing losses and potential benefits from migration that can relate to various aspects of life, going beyond strictly economic motivations (Kawczyńska-Butrym 2009: 51). Broadly understood deficiencies and inconveniences felt in the native country can be realized and recompensed in a new place. Thus, the attractiveness of the country of destination may ultimately outweigh the costs associated with migration as such, making the decision to leave the family home easier. However, the decision to leave cannot be perceived as a simple comparison of benefits and losses. A strong impulse is needed here, thanks to which an individual considering migration would break the innate reluctance to leave the place where they were born and raised (Lubiewski 2014: 35).

The factors pushing one from the current country of residence directly include such problems as: poverty, unemployment, overpopulation, poor medical care and educational systems, conflicts and other threats, discrimination, lack of respect for human rights, or corruption. The factors that attract to the destination country are, in turn, higher earnings and standard of living, social security, development opportunities, safety, freedom, and the possibility of personal development (Mróz 2017: 288). The author of the *pull–push factor theory*, Everett S. Lee (1966: 50–51) also pointed to the existence of other factors influencing migration decisions.

These are the personal factors of the migrant, i.e. their personality and temperament as well as indirect obstacles. Indirect obstacles, in turn, concern such issues as legal regulations arising from migration policies of individual countries and cultural differences between the societies of the host country and the sending country (Wójcik-Żołądek 2014: 27).

Making a decision on migration is the result of an assessment of individual factors in a subjective manner. Nowadays, despite considerable opportunities to obtain information, a migrant is unable to have full knowledge of all the benefits and losses as well as other effects that result directly or indirectly from migration. This situation is due to the fact that people make decisions based on the knowledge resources they have at their disposal, which are constantly exposed to omnipresent misinformation and manipulation. There are also errors resulting from universal information overload that makes it difficult to extract true and relevant information. Consequently, a migrant can only rely on fragments of information that are often contradictory. It should be noted that people are not always guided by rational arguments. Personal feelings and impressions as well as accompanying emotions play an important role in the migration process. Basing on the knowledge acquired from various sources, created is the image of individual target countries, whose conditions may nevertheless differ in reality from those initially anticipated (Castles, Miller 2011: 43).

Paying more attention to the reasons for choosing a specific migration destination, in addition to the information resource used by a migrant, interesting is the welfare magnet hypothesis, which assumes that "migrants choose target countries with a high level of social well-being, providing them with an opportunity to take advantage of, among others, attractive social benefits." (Andrejuk 2017: 107–108) This applies to such aspects as the condition of the educational and medical care systems, availability of various types of benefits and other types of assistance that would allow adjustment to a new society. However, there are no unequivocal empirical studies confirming the validity of this hypothesis. This may result, inter alia, from the fact that such factor as a system social of welfare is usually not an essential argument determining emigration from one's own country (Giulietti 2014: 37). On the other hand, a high level of social security is characteristic for highly developed countries, where such aspects as access to the labor market and the level of wages may come to the fore (Andrejuk 2017: 109). As a motivating factor for migration, social security is also limited by such criteria as acquiring subsequent benefits over the time

of stay at a given place or the period of commencement of payment of social contributions, access to information, as well as linguistic and cultural barriers. It is also important that individual countries have a different propensity of the people to make use of social benefits (Giulietti 2014: 37).

In the case of Poland, Katarzyna Andrejuk (2017: 110) notes that the recurring issue during her surveys of migrants was that "before coming to Poland they did not know anything about the Polish system of social welfare or their knowledge in this area was insufficient." One of the main reasons for migration is the desire to improve one's material status. This also applies to the situations where a trip can only in the long run indirectly contribute to improving the living standard owing to skills and competences in another country acquired (Kawczyńska-Butrym 2009: 50).

The opposite of economic migration are forced migrations, the motivations for which oscillate around a sense of discrimination, violation of human rights, the consequences of wars, political conflicts or natural disasters (Castles, Miller 2011: 55). It is this type of migrations that most often assume a sudden and massive scale (Mróz 2017: 289). The vast majority of forced migrants stop in nearby countries, the characteristic of which feature is the fact that they are equally classified as poor and underdeveloped countries. A trip to more distant places requires appropriate connections or contacts with the country of destination and significant financial outlays that not every family, especially in the face of an experienced tragedy, is able to gather (Castles, Miller 2011: 55). According to the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (2022), around 85% of refugees in the world are admitted to developing countries, and one third stay in least developed countries.

The causes of migration can also be seen from the perspective of a host country. Open borders and free movement of people around the world is not a common phenomenon. A selective migration policy model is more popular in developed countries. In practice, this translates into attracting people for whom there is a demand, and thus limiting other unwanted migrant groups (Tyrowicz 2017: 30). The decision to allow foreigners to come to a country, with the exception of family reunification, is usually based on economic or demographic considerations. In this situation, host countries assume that the benefits ensuing from admission of migrants will outweigh the potential costs and losses (Kawczyńska-Butrym 2009: 56). The decision to admit migrants occurs mainly in a situation of noticeable shortages in the labor market. The countries that are commonly recognized as rich and developed compete with each other for migrant workers. On

the one hand, they are highly qualified workers, who take the positions of specialists in the fields that are usually seen as less prestigious. On the other hand, there is also a demand for people who would put up with low-paid or non-prestigious jobs (Wójcik-Żołądek 2014: 18). This applies to occupations which, for various reasons, are not popular with the citizens of the host country, though are indispensable for the proper functioning of the state. Host countries are first and foremost more interested in highly qualified migrants. This is associated with a phenomenon called "brain drain" or "occupational drain." It involves creating attractive living conditions and thus encouraging people with specialist knowledge or skills in professions that require continuous training, such as doctors and scientists, or work in occupations that are not popular with local people, such as electricians or plumbers. This solution means that migrant host countries acquire valuable, experienced and prepared workforce bypassing the costs and time of education (Kawczyńska-Butrym 2009: 56–57).

It should be pointed out that the group of migrants without specialized skills or knowledge is much more numerous. They do jobs that the inhabitants of the host country do not want to put up with. Such migrants, usually treated as so-called cheap workforce, usually filling workplaces where there are constant shortages or those that are characterized by a sudden increase in demand, e.g. seasonal works (Ostaszewska-Żuk 2016: 18). This applies in particular to occupational activities related to broadly understood cleaning, care, work on a production line, fruit harvesting or help in the construction and tourism sector. The situation becomes more complicated when immigrants have a similar level of qualifications and perform the same type of work as the nationals of the host country. There is a risk of competition for employment in this case. However, due to the fact that, as a rule, migrants come from countries with a lower standard of living, they usually decide to work for lower wages. This phenomenon, although it has a positive impact on the economic situation of a country, may contribute to the increase of dissatisfaction in society, hindering not only employment of indigenous people, but also delaying an overall increase in wages in common occupations and those not requiring specialized skills (Sasnal 2015: 59).

From the host country's point of view, the causes of migration along a given migration route may be blurred or unclear for various reasons. Therefore, the movement of numerically large groups of migrants at a time, which include both refugees fleeing a conflict-ridden country and other migrants, who, explicitly or under the guise of refugees, travel – in

order to improve their living conditions – to various countries, most often seen as rich and developed, can be described as "mixed movements." (*Uchodźca czy migrant?* 2016) Nevertheless, the most common factors affecting migration are differences in the level of income of residents, the scale of unemployment, the geographical distance and the functioning of mutual social networks driving migration and facilitating adjustment to and integration with the new milieu (Giulietti 2014: 37). The legal aspect arising from the adopted migration policy, regulating the rules of entry, stay, job opportunities or participation in the social welfare system, is not without importance for choosing a country of destination. Hence, the causes of migration arise from numerous conditions that have their origins in historical experiences, cultural patterns, the constantly changing situation on the international stage and interactions between individual sending and receiving countries as well as their policies vis-à-vis migrants (Castles, Miller 2011: 45–46).

5. Summary

The article presents the meaning of migration for state security. In light of the above analysis, the following conclusions may be formulated:

1. Most generally, the essence of migration goes beyond mass movement of people, usually in search for better living conditions. Emigration also changes the status of a migrant, which is usually lower in the new place than in the country of origin and usually involves less prestigious occupational activities. A different situation applies to specialists. Regardless of the qualifications of migrants, settling in a new place is not easy for them. These difficulties are exacerbated by the language barrier and cultural differences. On the other hand, it should not be forgotten that migrations can significantly contribute to expanding competences and skills as well as gaining necessary life experience.

2. The essence of migration concerns not only migrants themselves, but also their families and entire societies, both of the countries of destination and migrants' countries of origin. This regularity is explained by the concept of migration networks, according to which the relationship between the past and future waves of migrants consists in a sense of community and belonging to a group of migrants, as well as ties with the family and country of origin. These networks provide

support to newly arrived migrants in basic organizational activities that are so different from those in their current place of residence.

3. The causes of migration are underlain by many factors, such as historical experience, cultural patterns, international political situation, relations between individual sending and receiving countries, and the policies vis-à-vis migrants pursued by these countries, which regulate the rules of entry, stay, job opportunities or participation in a social welfare system.

4. The factors pushing one from the current country of residence include such problems as: poverty, unemployment, overpopulation, poor medical care and educational systems, discrimination, corruption, violation of human rights, consequences of wars, political, national, ethnic or religious conflicts. In turn, the factors that attract to the destination country are: higher earnings and standard of living, attractive social benefits, development opportunities, security, freedom.

5. In the developed countries, there is a selective model of migration policy characterized by attracting people whose competences are in demand, and thus limiting other unwanted migrant groups. The decision to receive migrants is associated mainly with a situation of noticeable shortages in the labor market. There is a demand for employees with high qualifications, prestigious professions, but also people who accept low-paid non-prestigious jobs.

6. Legal, voluntary, non-economic, permanent migrations with access to information allow not only to settle in a new place, improve living conditions or get access to education of migrants. They also contribute to their integration with the new environment. This process concerns multi-faceted and long-term activities aimed at familiarizing not only migrants, but also the societies that receive them with the newly existing reality. The essence of integration is to create conditions for coexistence, and then also to assimilate them and enrich the society with new members.

7. Dangerous are illegal migrations.[5] This threat is compounded by the fact that rejection of unwanted migrants by a dominant social group can be a cause of the rise of common offences and organized crime and may intensify attitudes of religious radicalism. As part of migration policy, it is worth paying attention in this respect to creation of actual support

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[5] Regarding the dangers of illegal migration, cf. Łaciak, Smuniewski, Boguszewski 2022: 43–61.

networks aimed at facilitating adjustment to new living conditions and improving the status of migrants.

Migration in itself should not be seen in terms of a threat to the state. However, the nature and scale that migrations are capable to achieve means that this process may have a number of consequences that that are hard to estimate and control. The phenomenon of migration is also saddled with the terms "diversity" and "strangeness," which may give rise to a sense of threat among residents of a given country. These fears are greater the wider is the cultural gap between migrants and the local community.

All these factors cause that migrants may be addressees of dissatisfaction, anger or fear of indigenous citizens. That is why so important in this respect is a host country's migration policy that enables personal interactions to be developed in pursuit of common goals of these two social groups, which reduces stereotypes and prejudices. It is important that these contacts – according to the contact hypothesis – are voluntary and unforced. Then they lead to much larger stereotypy modifications (Allport 1954), which strengthens not only the sense of security of the inhabitants of a given country and migrants, but ultimately also state security.

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