

INTRODUCTION

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, xenophobia is defined as a “*fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign*”. In the context of world affairs, xenophobia denotes hatred towards members of different communities, nationalities and cultures than one’s own. Xenophobia is often confused with racism. However, they are two different ideologies. Racism refers to discrimination and ostracization of people on the basis of physical attributes, such as the colour of one’s skin, height, etc. Xenophobia deals more with complex and behavioural aspects, such as cultural and national beliefs. As cultural roots and national roots of persons are usually the major factors that shape up their physical attributes, the two ideologies are misinterpreted to be the same most of the times.

Globalisation refers to the interlinking of national economies. With ever-evolving technological advancements, creating a global network is no more of a herculean task. When there is a network of business and economical transactions on a global scale, it is natural for cultural and social exchanges to occur too. Human capital began gaining utmost importance. There were better opportunities for every field of work in some part of the world which were now accessible through the medium of globalisation. This paved the way for migrations for work.

Globalisation also meant that there was cultural integration on a global scale. Many traditions and cultures that were restricted only to nations were brought out to the world, thanks to globalisation. Food, language, music, travel and business was no longer contained inside the walls of a nation. The whole world could experience the cultures of other nations at the click of a button.

However, this was not welcomed by all. People developed a sense of insecurity. The fact that other persons were working, earning and spending the resources of their homeland couldn’t be accepted by many nations. This insecurity fuelled a form of dissent towards anyone who the nationals could frame as foreign- foreign to their culture, religion, nation, etc.

Xenophobia hence became a consequence of globalisation. Nations felt that these “outsiders” were a threat to their own people. The hatred and intolerance towards persons from different international communities was expressed in both verbal and physically abusive manner. Refugees and migrants were debarred from the host countries. Social ostracization, i.e. segregation of these people from the general public, was another result of the growing xenophobia. With the option of anonymity in social media platforms, verbal abuse and hate speech

flourished and were focused at certain sections of people. Thousands became victims of hate crimes, physical abuse and violence due to stereotyping of persons against their religious, national or cultural origins.

Political parties, too, began sowing this poisonous seed through their mandates into the minds of people. The already agitated sections only needed this push to believe that their nations were at risk. This led to the leading nations of the world today to be governed by xenophobic parties or leaders.

Xenophobia has resurged in the presence of globalisation. It defeats the purpose of globalisation, which is to unite the globe in all facets. It also directly violates the humanitarian well-being of persons across the globe and it is of immediate need to find a solution to this issue.

HISTORY

The etymology of the word xenophobia originates from a combination of the Ancient Greek words *xenos* (meaning “strange” or “foreign”) and *phobos* (meaning “fear”). Hence, it is clear that from a very early stage in civilisation, people have felt that their rights to benefit from their respective governments are being subverted by other people’s rights.

Throughout history, there have been quite a few instances where xenophobia touched its optimum heights. They encompassed heavily violent actions, some even resulting in as much as the mass massacre of an entire race; the trauma of which is still an unforgettable nightmare for many.

• The Ancient Greeks and Romans

The Ancient Greeks and Romans believed that they were the most culturally evolved civilisation and believed that they had superiority over any other community in the world. To them, anyone foreign to their culture was to be denigrated as “barbaric”, which also fuelled the notion that such barbarian needed to be naturally enslaved. In a speech, Roman consul Manius Acillus claimed that communities like the Syrians and the Asiatic Greeks were “the most worthless peoples among mankind and born for slavery”.

• The Europeans in America

The USA was first occupied by a community known as the American Indians. However, on European invasion (and further colonization), the indigenous inhabitants were enslaved and nearly reduced to 5%. The surviving population were displaced to under-developed ghettos. Colonists also made records justifying their acts, stating that the American Indians had no religion, no governments and were to be considered as uncivilised savages.

The African-Americans were a community massively exploited by the Americans. They were chained and shipped like cargo to work in American plantations. However, they were not welcome in America too. They were subjected to slavery, illegal migrations and were forced to conform to European religious beliefs.

- **The USA**

The Americans have shown intolerance towards quite a few communities like the African Americans, the Chinese Americans (there was even an exclusion act against them), the English and Scottish Americans, the German Americans (who were detained without executive trail orders), the Indian Americans, the Italian Americans and the Japanese Americans to name a few.

- **The Nazi Regime**

The Nazi party and their anti-semitic policies ended up with the greatest massacre and genocide of the German Jews. The death of 6 million innocent Jews is by far the most tragic example of xenophobia that the world has seen.

- **The Ku Klux Klan**

This Klan, identified by their white robes and hooded cloaks, were pro-white Protestants who were also anti-Catholic. They were notable for the lynching and murders of whole African-American families in the early 1900s.

- **Human zoos in the West**

Pygmies, gypsies and other tribes from Africa and Asian nations were often caged in zoos in the West throughout the 19th and 20th century. They were treated as mere exhibits.

- **The Rwanda Genocide**

This horrific incident saw ethnic war between the Hutus and the Tutsi minority of Rwanda. Over 8 lakh Tutsis were killed in just about 4 months time. Many women were also victims of public rape. Even their radios instilled anti-Tutsi motivation inciting people to kill the Tutsi “cockroaches” who were deemed to be unworthy of the Rwandan land.

CURRENT SCENARIO

It is shocking to note that most of the powerful nations of the world today either have a ruling government that believes in xenophobia or have a majority of people indulging in one or the other form of xenophobic expression. In the 21st century, most democratic governments across the world use xenophobic means to obtain the trust of the majority, purely to create a vote bank for their benefit. It is even more appalling that people still believe in such ideologies and are gullible to such false promises provided by leaders in power. When the

government, which is in power for the sole duty of citizens' welfare, themselves indulge in such sectarianism, it is questionable as to who the affected individuals could go and stand to for justice.

The anonymity that is provided by the internet is another source from which xenophobia hails. Intolerance has soaked too deep into people's minds and with anonymity, it has become very easy to spread hate speech. Hate speech induces people to react and even act on the threats they see online. People have taken safe refuge under the curtains of anonymity. There is n fear of getting caught easily.

The combination of governmental support towards xenophobia and a free platform to abuse persons verbally is a dreadful one. It has escalated to a range that communities believe that violence is the best solution to shoo away and wipe out the "outsiders" from encroaching their land, property and resources.

The hate crimes in Pretoria that occurred in 2017 were a tragedy to democracy itself. In this time and age, the victims underwent much torture as a pure result of political scapegoating. The government could not satisfy its promises to the citizens and the easiest solution they had was to blame it on the foreign nationals. They made statements blaming the foreign nationals for the delay and reduction in the delivery of government policies and resources to the people. The Rainbow Nation, infamous for its long-standing fight against apartheid, has now become a breeding ground for xenophobic violence. The government also indulged in denialism, ironically stating that there were indeed crimes committed against foreign nationals but they were surely not xenophobic in nature.

Globalisation has come to stay. What citizens and governments fail to understand is that in today's world, nothing would be possible without national interdependence. There is always a surplus of a certain kind of resources and a deficit elsewhere. Nothing is available everywhere. Humans are one of the most precious resources. If people are eager to live in a nation that is not their own, work for that country, earn and spend there, become a part of society and culture that is new to them, it needs to be welcomed with pride. No individual entity can survive on its own. The borders that we have drawn in our minds need to be erased. We need to tolerate and accept, if not heartily welcome, the fact that we are all humans in the end and we need to coexist to survive.

BLOC POSITIONS

The stances of some countries have been provided for further understanding of the agenda and setting up blocs.

- **The USA**

The USA, under the presidency of Mr. Donald Trump, has seen massive xenophobia. The xenophobic policies of the government include obnoxious decisions like building a wall on the Mexican border to prevent migrants. Such policies to "make America great again" have induced Americans to react violently against members of

communities. This includes the shooting of persons from the LGBT community, Indians and Muslims. The country has also withdrawn from many trade pacts as they believe that this would give leverage to those nations in many ways.

- **The Russian Federation**

The Russian government, major parties and mass media have encouraged extreme nationalism and cultivation of an enemy image of outsiders in the country. This resulted in migrants from Central Asian and South Caucasus countries undergoing a lot of ostracization. The migrants have become an easy target for these parties to promote xenophobia in the name of nationalism. The Ukrainian conflicts, incidents of abuse against Africans, French and other national athletes and widespread homophobia in the country show that the citizens have gotten used to being intolerant, which is horrifying.

- **Europe**

Their ideologies of Islamophobia, homophobia and hatred towards refugees and asylum seekers has victimised quite a lot of people in the Europe. Alternative for Germany (led by Ms. Angela Merkel) is the ruling party and it is the same party that has been reported to be in the list of organisations who have committed nearly 90% of the hate crimes in the country. France's National Front is another example of how xenophobia is used as a political tool to obtain citizen's trust. The party demonises Jews, Muslims and members from historical ethnicities. Italy's intolerance towards refugees and Muslims has been further assured under Mr. Salvini's governance.

- **Asian countries**

Asian countries like China, ROK, DPRK, Japan, India and the Middle East have both faced xenophobia and have been perpetrators of xenophobia. The Koreas and Japan have had a long-standing tiff since the Korean Wars. The Chinese have an innate barrier towards the West because they had exploited them to such an extent that the Chinese still hold a grudge. India has internal issues with their caste system as well as is violently xenophobic towards Muslims, Africans and Westerners. The Middle Eastern nations house cheap migrant workers from Asia and Africa. These workers work with no labour laws protecting them and hence, the nationals have adopted superiority over them. This has led to violations of basic human rights for many such workers.

- **Latin America**

Women migrants who arrive in Latin America are subjected to high rates of xenophobia because they are either poor or the locals believe that they are a threat to their employment opportunities. They are also forced into sex work and domestic help many at times. This has also led to a misconception that women immigrants were

usually sex workers and they are still segregated from mainstream society. Hence, it is not uncommon to see Peruvian women work for Argentine household with more education than her employers.

- **Africa**

The Africans have been the one of the most oppressed communities of all time. However, even in a country like South Africa, immigrants and foreign nationals face violence due to xenophobia. The political parties of the country have convinced people into believing that their existing poverty was a result of these foreigners eating up their resources. The consequences, which included physical abuse, thrashings, displacement and even death, sadly were borne by the immigrants.

SUGGESTED MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS

- 1) Legal definitions and differentiation of xenophobia and classifying its forms
- 2) Discussing the causes of xenophobia as a consequence of globalisation
- 3) Identification of the target groups affected and their issues in light of globalisation
- 4) Developing methods to help persons who are already affected by xenophobic actions
- 5) Identifying sources for the spread of xenophobia and developing methods to curtail the same
- 6) Reviewing governmental legislations against xenophobia
- 7) Discussing the growing intolerance of countries against other nationals.
- 8) Consideration of tolerance towards other communities (if not xenophilia) as a pre-requisite to democracy
- 9) Considering United Nations sanctions against countries with high xenophobia
- 10) Developing sustainable solutions to prevent resurgence of xenophobia

RESEARCH LINKS

- 1) <http://www.iapss.org/wp/2015/04/20/xenophobia-a-by-product-of-globalisation/>
- 2) http://www.academia.edu/29045057/Global_identification_xenophobia_and_globalisation_A_cross-national_exploration
- 3) <https://isnblog.ethz.ch/politics/reasons-for-rejecting-globalisation-beyond-inequality-and-xenophobia>
- 4) <https://www.baltictimes.com/news/articles/298/>
- 5) <https://piie.com/blogs/realtime-economic-issues-watch/anti-globalization-or-xenophobia>
- 6) <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/xenophobia/>
- 7) <https://www.thoughtco.com/xenophobia-in-the-united-states-721483>
- 8) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/jan/26/trump-immigration-border-detention-migrants-catch-release>

- 9) <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-us-canada-39206844/un-says-trump-policies-are-fuelling-xenophobia>
- 10) <http://foreignpolicy.com/2018/06/13/xenophobia-meets-reality-in-italy/>
- 11) <https://www.unric.org/en/latest-un-buzz/30377-intolerance-and-xenophobia-on-the-rise-in-europe>
- 12) <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/gashc4182.doc.htm>
- 13) <http://www.booksandideas.net/The-Front-National-Still-Racist-and-Xenophobic.html>
- 14) <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/germany-conflicted-struggle-between-xenophobia-and-tolerance>
- 15) <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/03/rise-germany-anti-refugee-160331123616349.html>
- 16) <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/03/27/opinions/afd-german-enemy-within-intl/index.html>
- 17) <http://www.e-ir.info/2017/04/30/beyond-attitudes-russian-xenophobia-as-a-political-legitimation-tool/>
- 18) <http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2114144,00.html>
- 19) <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/4089/a0537ea4f06f4ae80f843c9571aca5a7ecb3.pdf>
- 20) <http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/045B62F1548C9C15C1256E970031D80D>
- 21) <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/03/xenophobic-violence-rainbow-nation-170301075103169.html>
- 22) <https://thediplomat.com/2015/07/japans-xenophobia-problem/>
- 23) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jplehmann/2015/06/03/xenophobia-is-not-the-road-for-chinas-rise-to-great-power/#68d95ec65edb>
- 24) <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/nov/18/australias-immigration-policies-have-promoted-xenophobia-un-expert>
- 25) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-02/18c-needed-for-social-harmony-southphommasane/8236122>
- 26) <http://novasiagnosis.com/no-foreigners-allowed-discrimination-against-foreigners-in-south-korea/>
- 27) <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/06/north-korea-hollowed-state-170611102638021.html>
- 28) <https://newint.org/blog/majority/2017/04/07/india-xenophobia-shame>
- 29) <http://www.twn.my/title/target.htm>