

Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

Professor John Wilton

Lecture 7

Immigration and asylum policy

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Treaty of Amsterdam, 1997

- called for measures to be introduced by the year 2002 to ensure the absence of any control on persons when crossing internal borders in the E.U.

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By middle of 1990s main sources of
immigrants into E.U. were from
Yugoslavia, Turkey, Algeria, Morocco

- Germany 1,918,000 Turks
930,000 Yugoslavs
- France 614,000 Algerians
573,000 Moroccans
198,000 Turks

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- U.K. 1,281,000 people from non-E.U. countries (included 130,000 Africans and 322,000 from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh)
- Belgium ... 145,000 Moroccans
88,000 Turks

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- Netherlands 203,000 Turks
165,000 Moroccans
- Italy 97,000 Moroccans
73,000 Yugoslavs

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2 different processes, and operating at 2
different speeds:

A) much more convergence and
harmonisation between individual E.U.
States on immigration policy;

B) a much more limited convergence and
harmonisation on citizenship policies

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2 main reasons why migration flows into most E.U. countries continue:

- A) capacity of E.U. states to police their borders effectively and maintain strict controls over immigration is limited;
- B) many E.U. states dependent on migration to meet varying requirements of internally different labour markets

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Schengen Accord, 1990

- France, Germany, Netherlands, (and later) Italy

Treaty of Amsterdam, 1997

- formal integration of Schengen Accord
- E.U. take responsibility border free area (except UK, Denmark, Ireland)

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- up to early 1980s around 100,000 asylum applications each year
- 1992 Over 660,000 asylum applications
- Post May 2004 E.U. enlargement
 - 623,000 Poles
 - 30,600 Czechs
 - 115,000 Slovaksapplied to work in other E.U. states (May 2004 to May 2006)