

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Multiculturalism in a country is a common thing nowadays. In one single country, there can be more than two cultures; hence there is multiculturalism in the country. Nowadays multiculturalism no longer can be found in certain countries. It has been globalized and can be found in a lot of countries. Not only certain countries, but a region can also be multicultural. Dealing with more than one culture is quite tricky and can get more complicated as it involves more cultures and interests. Difficulties in integrating or just living harmoniously are commonly found. Many problems are faced by the countries who are not fully ready and prepared to deal with multiculturalism in the countries. If it is not handled well, multiculturalism may cause other issues or problems to develop. One of them is Islamophobia that takes place in Western Europe, which is getting more cultures coming into their once homogenous land.

Multiculturalism itself can occur in a country (or in this case, a region) mainly because of people migration that brings the immigrants' own culture to the new place they are going. The culture, which the immigrants have, then collided with the native culture of the land that they are going to. Sometimes, they blend

harmoniously, but in some cases, they may even collide. Hence, that marked the beginning of the multiculturalism process in that particular country.

People migration or human migration has happened since long time ago as people know. It was believed that it had even started in pre-historic era when the early men who lived by gathering food move from one place to another in search for food when there was not any food left to gather in that place. The same thing still even occurred after they had developed farming as another way to get food. People still moved in order to get better land after the land they lived in was no longer productive. The early human migration started from around 160,000 to 135,000 years ago. That was how human migration started and looking at the evidences that the archeologists and historians have provided, the writer believes all shall agree that human migration have already started since that era.¹

However after the pre-historic era passed, the motives of human migration have increased. It was no longer solely driven by the search for food. Human migration has evolved from single cause to somehow – complex causes. The reasons from human migration vary from economic pressure to political and security reason. The migrants were either asylum seekers or just migrants that strived to get better economic condition. But looking at the world history, human migration usually happens a lot during war or after the war (post-war), just like when World War II, during imperialism / colonization era, and when there is economic / financial crisis.

¹ Bradshaw Foundation Website on Journey of Mankind. Available at <http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/journey/>. Accessed on March 21st, 2011.

The number of international migrants is still increasing but for different reason. Nowadays, as the world is getting more integrated and due to the technological advance that people have, human migration is not so difficult anymore. According to the International Organization for Migration's World Migration Report 2010, the number of international migrants was estimated at 214 million in 2010. If this number continues to grow at the same pace as during the last 20 years, it could reach 405 million by 2050.²

In writer's personal opinion, European region is perhaps one of the most distinctive region. Different from the others, one of them main reasons of immigration in Europe is because of the colonization era. Europeans were famous for their world expeditions and imperialism era back then. In that era, Europeans got themselves a lot of workers (or slaves in another term) and brought them into their countries. And that marked the early immigration in Europe.

A real example of immigrants due to colonization is the number of both native Indonesian and mixed European (Netherland)–Asian (Indonesian) in the Netherlands. They were descendants of the Indonesians who worked for the Dutch government and company during their colonization era in Indonesia and had to leave as they didn't fit into the mainstream of Indonesian society who desired independence after Japan's lost in the World War II. It was estimated that 300,000

² *World Migration Report 2010 - The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*, International Organization for Migration, 2010. Available at http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=37&products_id=653&language=en, retrieved on March 22, 2011.

people of Indonesian, European, and mixed “Indo” ancestry left Indonesia for the Netherlands following “formal” independence of Indonesia in 1949.³

In economic sector, although European countries as the main leading actor during the war (both World War I and World War II), experienced such a great loss in the war, they were known for having great economic condition before the war. Even after the World War, European countries were able to survive through all the devastating impacts such as debts and crisis due to the war. They were also able to once again emerge as a great power in economics post-war, especially in Western Europe.

Western Europe is a region of developed countries that have high level of economic development and stability. In fact, Kenichi Ohmae, former chairman of McKinsey & Company Japan in his book “Triad Power” stated that West Europe, along with Japan and the United States are called the Triad for representing the dominant economic center of the world with nearly 75% of world income measured by GMP is located in Triad.⁴ This shows how promising Europe is in economic sector and how powerful it is.

Because of the opportunities offered by Europe as one of the biggest economic power in the world, European countries have become destination place for many people to go. And this factor becomes another reason for people to keep

³ Multicultural Netherlands Website. Available at <http://dutch.berkeley.edu/mcnl/history/immigration/colonial/the-indos/>. Retrieved on March 22nd, 2011.

⁴ Kenichi Ohmae, 1985. “Triad Power”, in Warren C. Keegan & Mark C. Green (7th edition) *Global Marketing*. Pearson Education Inc, p. 91.

coming to Europe. The immigrants who searched for prosperity combined with the asylum seekers resulted in the explosion of immigrant population in Europe. As the effect, European countries that were once homogenous countries (region) with Caucasian race, has now turned into multicultural countries today. However, the indigenous Europeans still become the dominant group in their respective countries and let the immigrants be the minority group in those specific countries.

Most immigrants in Europe blend well into the new environment and make Europe quite a stable place to live in. However, not all immigrants have done so. Among all other immigrants, Muslim immigrants were not as adaptive as the others, which can be seen later on Chapter IV of this research paper on Data Findings. Muslim immigrants have been known as being solitary, quite introvert to the “infidel”. This sole uniqueness of Muslim immigrants has distinct them from integrating and blending into the European community, the new environment they want to make a living in.

Along with the way, by their “distinctiveness” and the terrorism activity that have been linked to their belief, Muslim population in European countries has begun to raise an attitude of so-called Islamophobia among the Europeans. Some Europeans have felt the fear and perhaps a bit of paranoia about how the teaching of Islam can give huge influence to the Muslims. And seeing how the Muslim population is so discreet and “socially-closed”, Islamophobia has begun spreading, not only into the mainstream society, but even into the heart of European politicians. Some noted Europeans who have become quite

Islamophobic includes Theo van Gogh and Geert Wilders from the Netherlands, who have worked to oppose Islam both inside and outside of their country.

In writer's personal opinion, it is actually interesting to see how such Islamophobia can grow in such democratic and liberal countries such as in Europe. It is actually a bit odd because Europeans are usually very much welcome and opened to other things. European countries have been widely known for its moderate attitude and shows opposition of discrimination and work hard in human rights enforcement. So, it is interesting to see how Islamophobia can take place in European countries.

Other interesting things to see in this issue are the Islam's uniqueness as a faith (spiritual personal belief) that has tremendous power to influence the Muslims, even into the smallest practices conduct in their everyday lives. Muslims usually dedicate themselves fully into the teachings of Islam, more than other religion (in writer's point of view) and much stronger than the sense of nationality.

Besides that, it is also interesting to find out how the diplomacy works between European countries and Islam-based countries (or countries with dominant Muslim population) in this wave of Islamophobia. However, in this research paper, the writer shall focuses on describing the phenomenon of Islamophobia in the region, without further explaining about the relation between the countries (European and Islam-based countries).

The points mentioned above are the reasons why the writer believes that it is necessary and indeed important to discuss about the recent and interesting phenomenon, just like The Development of Islamophobia in Western Europe. Unlike the other International Relations events, Islamophobia is a “new” phenomenon that makes people need to use some different perspectives in analyzing it. Islamophobia needs a new approach to be explained, something that can not be explained simply by the classical International Relations theories such as realism and liberalism. The information and analysis regarding this topic will then be gotten by reading some important topic-related sources and some concepts to analyze the development of Islamophobia in Western Europe.

1.2. Research Questions

A research needs to provide explanation and answer to some questions emerged regarding the topic. However, topic-related questions can vary a lot so the writer of the research needs to limit the questions into several questions that will be the base of the research. The main questions that will be discussed throughout this research paper are:

- 1) “How can the perception of Islamophobia escalate in Western Europe?”
- 2) “How is Islamophobia being manifested in Western Europe?”

In this topic of Islamophobia in Western Europe, the specific research questions are limited to the following:

- 1) What are the manifestation forms of Islamophobia in Western European countries?
- 2) What are the factors that encourage the development of Islamophobia in Western European?
- 3) Why can the perception of Islamophobia be perceived in West European?

1.3. Research Goals

This research paper is made to serve two purposes, which are the general purpose and the specific academic purpose. The general purpose of this research is to give the readers additional information and knowledge regarding this topic, which is The Development of Islamophobia in Western Europe. This research will try to describe what Islamophobia is and how it can develop in West European countries.

Meanwhile the specific purpose of conducting this research is to serve as the Thesis or Final Project, which is the last project assigned in order to get a Bachelor Degree of Social Science in the Faculty of Social and Political Science Universitas Pelita Harapan, majoring in International Trade Relations.

1.4. Research Significance

There are two significant points from the research, namely:

1. Theoretically: This research is intended for more contribution in International Relations scope, especially in Islamophobia which is still rather new discussion in International Relations area.
2. Practically: This research will give benefit in term of additional knowledge and information for the readers. The readers who have interest in the relation between beliefs and politics, the international politics current trends, and other related issue may find this research useful to give broader explanation and understanding related to their interest. Besides giving more information about the latest trend and data, this research is also expected to give understanding about the Islamophobia in the Western Europe so that the readers may understand the issue and may as well participate in getting familiar and analyzing the current trend in the international relations scope.

1.5. Organization of Research

To access easier way to further perception of the material being discussed in this research, the writer compiles the literature systematically as follows:

CHAPTER I BACKGROUND

This chapter contains the background of the issues, the research problems, the goals, the significant points, and the literature systematic of the research.

CHAPTER II ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

As the framework of the problems, this chapter will explain the literature reviews to give further explanation on the issues pertaining to the literature reviews of Islamophobia, Multiculturalism, Constructivism, and Globalization.

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD

This research contains a research method generally used by a writer in a compilation, which covers the type of research, data collection techniques, and analyzing techniques.

CHAPTER IV DATA AND ANALYSIS

This chapter contains the analysis of what Islamophobia is and how it can develop in West European countries.

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter is the final chapter of the research which consists of conclusion and suggestions related to the issues of the research.