

Beat: Politics

EUROPEAN MUSLIMS TOLD TO BE PART OF FUTURE OR TO STAY A THREAT BETWEEN CONDESCENDING & PATRONIZING WAY

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USPA NEWS - There is nothing impossible about a sharp growth in one population relative to another. It is also predictable to realise the truth in the saying that "demography is destiny". In all European nations there are small minorities, but they will rise sharply even without immigration...

In all European nations there are small minorities, but they will rise sharply even without immigration because Muslim populations, like all immigrant groups, are much younger than average. This is not a solely Islamic phenomenon. What's more, sharp cuts in immigration will probably not happen. Europe's native population is ageing and declining. Some wonder what the continent will look like if demographic drivers remain as they are. Some claim that Muslims will increasingly integrate and leave Europe's culture largely unchanged. Here intermarriage is arguably the best barometer of assimilation.

An alternative route to integration is secularism, but at what costs? Let's notice that the most notable is the rapid decline in the Muslim birth rate. This is partly due to plummeting fertility rate in immigrant source countries and partly because of assimilation to host society norms. So, what does the future holds?

Some projections for many West European countries find that Muslims will make up between 4 and 14% of the population by 2030.

The thing is that we are given some figures, within the perspective of fast growing anti-muslim sentiment helped by domestic and foreign policies regarding this specific religion. We easily tend to forget that the Muslim fertility is falling (notably Turks and North Africans) and, secondly, non-muslim immigrant groups are growing fast, making Europe more plural and less Islamic.

Even if higher Muslim fertility rates do not persist, Islam will make a significant imprint on European life. It seems that the bigger worry by the second half of the 21 century will be what is already considered as a "culture war" between fundamentalists of all faiths and those who back the secular status quo. Theological differences within faiths come to matter more than the ethnic differences between them.

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