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Behind The Mask: Italy

Introduction

Through the seven different committees – Economic, Governance, Security, Foreign Affairs, Migration, Cross-Border, and Identity and Integration – We are closely examining the effects of them in order to delineate to readers that our country has adapted to the changes presented in Europe. However, massive economic and governmental issues along with external pressures are being introduced, such as the transatlantic trade and various political parties in the country. From the Christian Democratic political party point of view, we hope to represent the diverse views of Italian citizens. The group focuses primarily on advocating for programs such as social reform. One outstanding issue Italy faces is the lack of unity amongst Italian citizens regarding their political beliefs, such as communism. Beliefs such as these have sprung controversy amongst the general public to all sectors of political parties in Italy, both large and small. The future of the Euro currency is another factor which plays into the economic aspect of the country, along with the instability of fiscal policies. Integration is also a huge issue in Italy,

many immigrants have been coming from the Middle East and Africa. These immigrants are often met with hostility and racism, deterring not only economic opportunity in Italy but destroying the cultural fabric of the nation. Insufficient integration systems are currently being used which fail to truly adjust people to the new setting or accept new denizens altogether. With more and more immigrants flooding Italian territory, anti-immigrant sentiment is on a constant rise. This sentiment represents hostile feelings towards incoming refugees which causes conflict on Italy's society. Due to Italy's geographic shape, it is left in a vulnerable state for refugees to target.

After requesting assistance from the European Union, we are left to face this migration crisis by ourselves. Italy is experiencing an overwhelming amount of migrants entering our country, which has led to negative consequences on the health of many citizens. Although it is understandable that these immigrants are escaping war zones, as a result of their migration Italian citizens are being infected with diseases such as Hepatitis C and Scabies. Migrants are freely entering some of the European Union Member states, many officials from other states want to reconsider the Schengen agreement, which allows free travel within 25 countries in Europe. Since the Agreement is so loose migrants and immigrants are able to enter Europe without major security checks and identifications. Due to an increased urge of spreading democracy among European nations, strengthening the global role of the EU as an institution is the first step towards progression. As Italy, we have revised and reinstated laws such as the Treaty of Rome with member states over the years in order to promote integration and unify our diverse council. Italy also maintains foreign relations through diplomacy and foreign policy, such as with the United States being our major commercial ally. Through fostering these relationships,

Italy will grow in political influence and promote all forms of integration with member states. Italy Fear that attacks will be made on our soil like the paris attack; our nation is the center for many old and evolving religion. Italy seems to have many site sites that are prime target to ISIS due to their historical background. Italy Fears that will lose influence in the world due to new countries taking power. As new countries are being allowed into the European Union it gives Italy less power. We believe the greatest fear is losing our power in the European Union to Russia. Italy lately has had an economic crisis. We have increased funding for many of our organizations worldwide. Alongside that, we have moved to focus on problems within our broader.

Background of Italy

There are many different things which adhere to the change in institutions and the evolution of the population in Italy, however one key issue consists of lack of unity amongst the citizens of Italy in regards to our political beliefs, such as the different small and large political parties which are prevalent in the country. Ultimately, the governance of the country, as a whole has a lot of controversy in respect to political views of the citizens. Unlike many other nations, Italy has more than one or two political parties, but rather small and large forms of different parties which have the attention of many voters. In retrospect, Italy has attempted to isolate itself, however due to lack of resources, has decided to be apart of the European Union in order to distinguish our views best in something that the European people, altogether are best being recognized. Furthermore, the population has evolved significantly over time, along with the political institutions of the country in regards to the postals service to the trains, to the health care and ultimately these different examples emphasize the challenge which Italy's political system

faces everyday. Especially when the actions of bureaucracies, whom tend to ultimately “be on the other side of a coin”(Link-Book) do not relay the voices of the citizens. Ultimately as the people begin to realize that the government is ineffective to their needs tension among the government and citizens erupts.

Italy has been told to step up its efforts to help integrate immigrants, many of whom “are among the working poor”, while children of immigrants must also be better integrated. Even though immigrants of working age are more likely to be in employment than their Italian counterparts, they are among the country’s lowest earners. In Italy, where 50,000 migrants have arrived in 2015 alone, anti-immigrant feelings are running dangerously high. Xenophobia is on the rise, and it channels a general unrest in Italy an anger over a withering economy, and anxiety about Italy’s future. Right-wing parties have spearheaded the anti-migrant revolt, from openly neo fascist groups like CasaPound and Forza Nuova to the mainstream Northern League, a separatist party whose racism is more or less an open secret. This summer, CasaPound activists led citizens from the town of Casale San Nicola in an anti-immigration protest that turned violent, leaving fourteen government agents injured. Italians on the left have had their hands full combatting the wave of xenophobia and racism. In a country with a deep and abiding Catholic tradition, they find a powerful ally in Pope Francis, who makes a moral argument urging Europeans to show greater hospitality toward the migrants and refugees.

After the attack in Paris Italy has taken many serious action to prevent such a widespread attack. Italy have been using every military resource we acquire to protect our country. Organizations such as NATO have limited the influence Italy has in the world. With threats by

Russia to join NATO, Italy feels threatened by Russia's power. Italy has been many world military organization trying to fight important causes. Although Italy is very committed to NATO lately it has been restricted due to the country's spending option being limited to issues within its boundaries because of the country's commitment to the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. Although many of the military organization have been disassembled it still maintains military influence in many countries. Italy is currently part of a force that works in Iraq to train Iraqi soldiers for them to fight off ISIL. We do not produce our own energy so depending on other countries mean that they must maintain good relationship with our providers. Italy is currently facing many financial hardship, decreasing its influence in the world.

Since the end of the World War II, Italy has been transformed itself from an agricultural nation to a major industrial economy. Italy offers economic incentives which stimulates entrepreneurial initiative. Its autonomy has led to the development of creativity and foreign investments. The law governing incentives is based on community provisions on State Aid to enterprises. Businesses are differentiated between large, small, medium and micro-enterprises. The small and medium enterprises are the main recipients of incentives. Financial incentives consist of capital accounts, the low interest rate for financing the business and tax relief with the aim of reducing the fiscal burden. Central Bank of the Republic of Italy, a part of the Eurosystem, is a public-law institution that works to maintain price stability and the efficiency of the financial system. National Economic and Social Council initiates legislation and contributes to policy making in the economic and social field. There is also Center for Research on Pensions

and Welfare Policies which is research centre that focuses on pension systems design, reform, evaluation and retirement patterns.

Although some member states of the European Union view Italy as non influential, the nation has disproven this notion by advocating for increased democracy within Parliament and member integration in order to create a more unified Europe. With the European Union, strengthening the role as an institution is necessary for promoting democracy in the world. Revisions have been made over the years to keep up with ever changing interests, such as with the Single European Act. (1992) Reform has also occurred through the negotiation of treaties. The Treaty of Rome was Italy's first step at reiterating the role these groups play, as politicians would eventually propose direct elections for the European Parliament. Lastly, maintaining relationships with countries such as the United States is not only essential for trade, but useful in deciding how to shape one's democratic society.

In terms of population, Italy can be determined as one of the most 'diverse' places in Europe. Due to it's welcoming domestic policy not only are immigrants able to enter the country freely but they are also free to live comfortably without much opposition. Prior to the beginning of these new influxes, Italy was not seen as a real destination for most migrants looking for better opportunities until the late 20th century. In fact this same country that is experiencing an extreme migration crisis in today's society is the same country that has experienced a lack of population about 20 years ago. Population within the nation has grown to its current level due to traditional factors of modernization and also the immigration factor. When the population numbers were very low within the late 1900's, migration into the land was actually encouraged. Formulating this generous type of base in Italy has impacted this nation today, where Immigration is a huge

problem. This type of immigrant influxes has a huge effect on Italy's society. It has created a strain on the economy, the spreading of several diseases, hostility amongst Italian citizens and at a bigger level; lack of trust in the E.U.

Due to Italy's encouragement of migrants who are constantly crossing its borders, many European Unions have been discussing ways to make the Schengen borders more strict and regulated for Europe's safety and security. European Union states are supposed to help one another with issues and share burdens, however when Italy and similar states asked for help with the influx of migrants in our borders, many are refusing these calls for aid because they fear that some of these migrants could be terrorists and criminals, since most are coming from the Middle East and other war-torn countries. Because of this Italy's population is changing, the Italian citizens are the ones that use their tax money to pay for the aids of immigrants. Italy has more immigrants who cannot obtain work than citizens, and therefore our economy is not as productive. However, different committees and aspects play into the key points which make our country what it is in the current world.

Committee on Governance

Italy was a monarchy from its unification in the second half of the 19th century until 1946, when it became a parliamentary republic following a national referendum. However, as time went by, our government has begun to resemble one which the United States has so fondly upheld thus far, democratic. Italy utilizes the three branches of government which are relevant in the United States, executive, judicial, and legislative. Ultimately, these three branches sustain the same meaning as is in the United States. Italy supports the United Nations, NATO, and European Union operations. The Italian Government seeks to obtain consensus with other European

countries on various defense and security issues within the European Union as well as NATO. European integration, the development of common defense and security policies will continue to be of primary interest to Italy. The country adopted a constitutional charter during the mid 1900's, which "defines the political and civil liberties of citizens and the principles of government"(Just Landed).

The Italian government consists of a President, who appoints a Prime Minister, the elected head of government. The president is to be elected every seven years by a college, which consists of parliament and three representative from each region. After the end of World War II, the political party to which the government adhered by was a multi-party system dominated by two parties, the Christian Democratic Party, and the Italian Communist Party. Although Italy is known for those two particular parties, there are other small influential parties such as "neo-fascist Italian Social Movement" and the "Italian Socialist Party" indicating a challenge amongst the citizens of the nation. At the fall of communism, the party system was drastically changed, and there was a prosecution of corrupt officials in the Italian governmental personnel. The Italian political spectrum quickly changed from previously being dominated by the centre, to a polar one based on the political parties on both sides of the spectrum. Italy has overcome many different challenges after the Second World War, they have attempted to establish themselves as an independent nation; however they still seek aid from the European Union and NATO. The political party which will be represented at the conference will be the Christian Democratic Party due to the open yet conservative views to which the party is affiliated, rather than the Italian Communist Party, which focuses primarily on leading without being overshadowed by nations such as the United States, and focusing on formulating a non-democratic nation.

A democratic deficit seems to be clouding over the European Union's institutions and works in order for these institutions to meet their basis and goals, however nations such as us are distinctly relaying a strong usage of a democratic government. Italy utilizes many of the different practices which the United States acquires, such as the mayor, president, two chambers, Italian Constitution, etc. In 2001, the Italian Constitution was mandated to better fit the needs of the citizens, it was based on "hierarchical supremacy" which has shifted over time. Ultimately, the governance aspect of this country is a huge basis on the citizens, and that their needs are ultimately being met through contensive programs. However, governance and cross border issues play a key role, as migrants from foreign nations attempt to enter European territory, in particular Italy.

Committee on Cross Border

Italy joined the European Union and has become a member state, which many migrants have crossed the Mediterranean Sea to reach Italy for a more secure living situation in order to escape war and poverty. However many European Union states are concerned that too much migrants entering these borders are not good because they are increasing Europe's population and are not helping with the economy. Switzerland wants to close Italy's border because they believe Italy is not respecting their obligation as a European Union member and the Dublin regulation; which states, "Member States are responsible for the examination of an asylum claim in Europe" (Dublin Regulation). Many European Union states have refused to help Italy on the issue of migrant crisis. As of May 2015 over 100,000 migrants have entered Europe. The European Union wants to distribute these immigrants among its states proportionally of 60,000, of these 40,000 are in our country, Italy along with Greece. 20,000 more immigrants are on their

way to the Mediterranean. However, states like the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark are refusing these proposals. According to Norman Gobbi, Ticino president, “the number of asylum seekers and illegal immigrants crossing into Switzerland over the Italian border has doubled from last year. The huge increase is due in part to France's decision to enforce tighter controls on migrants on its border with Italy” (Capon). The Ticino government president wants to pressure us into respecting our agreement to the European Union.

We are part of the Schengen Agreement, which means that there are no routine immigration checks when travelling to or from another Schengen country. This agreement gives migrants free travel across Europe’s 26 states for up to 90 days. The Prime Minister of Italy states, " I don't think there are tensions between us... sometimes ministers can let themselves go with statements, it's like engaged couples who have been together a long time," he said during a press conference in Milan (Capon) Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. The Italians are failing to identify these people and distinguish economic migrants from refugees (Farrell) and Italian citizens are angry because their tax money of €35 day is used to pay for these migrants. There is no control on the amount of immigrants that enter Italy and there seems to be no governmental control as well because they want to respect their human rights. However some of these migrants could be terrorists and criminals since they are coming from a war torn country or politically unstable government. There are no records for these immigrants except the ones they obtain from Italy’s welcome centers or other Schengen borders. The Dublin Regulation, a European Union law that determines the European Union Member State responsible to examine an application for asylum seekers seeking international protection under the Geneva Convention and the European Union Qualification Directive, within the European Union. It is the cornerstone of the Dublin

System, which consists of the Dublin Regulation and the EURODAC Regulation, which establishes a Europe-wide fingerprinting database for unauthorised entrants to the EU. The Dublin Regulation aims to “determine rapidly the Member State responsible people who are seeking asylum. Our country intends to best help suffering nations, however due to the economic aspect of our nation, we are extremely limited.

Committee on Economics

Italy is the world's ninth biggest economy. Our economic structure relies mainly on services and manufacturing. The country is divided into a highly-industrialized northern part, consisting of 75% of the nation's wealth production, and a less-developed southern part. As a result, unemployment in the North is lower and per capita income is higher compared to the South. In 2013, the unemployment rate reached 12.5%, which is the highest level on record. Our country is in a dangerous situation because the unemployment rate is above the eurozone average which places us in the bottom three of worst employment with Greece and Spain. The percentage of the working age population who do have jobs in Italy is 55.6% which is below the eurozone average of 63.8%. Spain and Greece are the only eurozone countries with a figure below Italy. This high unemployment rate highlights the weaknesses of the Italian labor market and the growing global competition amongst foreign nations.

Since the introduction of the euro in 1999, the European Union binds 19 nations into a single Euro currency that is overlooked by the European Central Bank, however this leaves each country responsible for handling budget and tax policies internally (Alderman). In a more indigent country, the currency value would be lower if the unemployment rate is high; however in a wealthy country, the currency value would be high to encourage people's purchasing power

with a low rate of unemployment. The Eurozone economics has seen the cost of servicing in regards to debt rising dramatically, and suffering from very slow growth. Our country suffers from debts and unemployment therefore, we cannot boost our power to repay the debt. Over the next year we need to borrow about €360 billion which goes to repay its debts (Kirchgaessner). However, the markets fear that we will not be able to afford to do this as investors demand higher rates of return for buying debt. The fixed Euro currency is the root of Euro crisis problem. Our country has the membership of the euro which means that it cannot devalue our currency to make their economy more competitive internationally. Although the members in European Union integrate economically, they are always hesitant in the proposal of transferring funds to help weak countries. This problem is called “half-built house”.

Italy is the third largest economy in European Union, and the most indebted country after Greece. Our public debt has risen upwards 2.2 trillion euros. Italy was hit by the financial crisis in 2007. Since then, the economy has underperformed. Italy's debt is now at 132 percent of GDP, compared to Greece's 175 percent ("The Euro's Future Is Secure"). Italy has a deep division between the wealthy North, and the dependent poverty-stricken South. It is an employment system protecting the old at the expense of young workers leads the talented graduates to move to Germany and France in search of better opportunities. They suffer from an overall failure to implement reforms. Because of the inability to lift the economic growth, Italy is unable to boost our national earnings to handle our debts. Along with the large levels of debt, Italy is seen as vulnerable, especially if Greece decides to leave the euro. The European debt crisis is a challenge to the European unity. Most foreign investors tend sell the bonds of the country that has weak economy therefore, they are no longer vulnerable to the prospect of the

collapse of the economy. The reluctance of other members states to boost the Eurozone bailout fund is also another threat to unity.

The Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) are designed to support sustainable economic growth and high employment through economic and monetary policy-making. Our four main economic activities are implementing an effective monetary policy with the objective of price stability, coordinating economic and fiscal policies in Member States, ensuring the smooth operation of the single market, and lastly monitoring financial institutions. Decisions on monetary policy in the euro area can only be taken by the Governing Council of the ECB. These decisions are made free from outside influence. European Union Member States outside the euro area coordinate their monetary policy with the ECB within the European System of Central Banks (“The Euro's Future Is Secure”).

In order to secure the stability of the future of Euros, the commission needs more unified representation of the Euro area in international financial institutions. There should be an advisory european fiscal board. The members should focus on funding the recovery to boost productivity to drive overall growth not for only paying debts, fostering greater innovation and investing more in manpower (Kirchgaessner). Cutting budget is the short-term solutions because it will causes the gradual decrease in money to invest in education and innovation which will create a domino effect.

Facing the recession, the government has passed two major austerity packages. The first one, under the administration of Silvio Berlusconi, was implemented in 2010, totaled EUR 24 billion which focused on the reduction of government spending. In December, the government

led by Mario Monti introduced a EUR 30 billion austerity package introduced a series of tax increases. On the expenditure side, measures include cuts in central government expenditure, implementation of the public spending review, reform of the tax system and welfare by way of an Enabling Act. As from 2014, the retirement age of women working in the private sector will be gradually increased from 60 to 65 in order to align it with that of men by 2026 (Austerity Measures). On the revenue side, the value-added tax rate and taxation on oil products will increase. Higher revenues are expected from lottery and excise taxes. A 3% point tax surcharge is introduced for incomes above €300,000. The structure of central and local government is simplified in order to reduce costs. A constitutional amendment is created for eliminating one layer of government such as Provinces. Competition in local public services is strengthened by limiting the direct ownership of public utilities by local authorities. There are the reduction of red tape for firms and the allowance of more flexible labour contracts in order to strengthening the company level bargaining. Although, economics stability is very fragile, security plays a massive role in the methods to which we attempt to keep our citizens secure from harm's way.

Committee on Security

After the attack in Paris, Italy issued a level two terrorist alert for the country. The attack in Paris made Italy increased security measures around the Vatican City, which is considered a target of ISIS. Due to France entering a level two terrorist attack, the nation was forced to deploy special military units. In order to increase security and prevent future attacks from happening. Random bag checks have been performed along with several army units patrolling the city streets. Italian intelligence units have been cross checking if anyone in the country is related to the attackers in s Paris as a precautionary measure . The Italian government has also

been monitoring air space as remaining vulnerable to attacks was no longer an option. Italy has special personnel studying systems to protect inhabitants from drone attacks which can be dangerous during takeoff and can be easily launched from anywhere. After the attack in Paris, the Italian government took serious action to prevent attacks on our soil.

Italy is part of the Multinational Force, a military force during the 2003 invasion of Iraq. The MF was lead by the United States and United Kingdom, is upholding responsibility for conducting and handling military operations. Italy is also part of the NATO training mission in Iraq. The coalition was established in 2004 by the request by the Iraqi government. It was to assist in the development of Iraqi security forces in training and structure. The NTM was not a combat mission it was a support system for the country. The NTM was under the control of NATO's North Atlantic council. The operation was mainly focused on training and mentorship. The mission ended about 7 years later. Italy is also in Military intervention against ISIL focusing in Iraq. The coalition is lead by the United States. Many countries are part of the coalition in which countries support militarily and financially. The countries support anti-ISIL forces in Iraq with supplies and air support. within the coalitions there are many sub programs such as the Building Partner Capacity program which is to help the Iraqi government to prepare forces for the counter-attack against ISIL and to regain territories.

Although Italy is very committed to NATO lately it has been restricted due to the country's spending option being limited to issues within it's boundaries because of the country's commitment to the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. Although Italy is at the front of NATO, Russia poses a great threat to the organization because of it's power but

NATO would certainly accept Russia as a new member. Italy invested a lot of political capital and goodwill in NATO.

Italy's energy mainly comes from fossil fuels. Italy uses petroleum for cars and other means of transportation, natural gas used for production and heating, and it uses coal and renewable energy. Most of Italy's energy comes from Switzerland and France. Although there are harmful and costly ways of getting energy solar and wind power has been on the rise since 2010. Italy produces some of its energy but most of its energy is imported from other countries.

Italy and Switzerland get along most of the time. However, when it comes to Switzerland's Double Taxation Agreement there are some problems. Italy wants citizens that live in Switzerland to pay the country's tax and it wants to be able to see bank accounts of its citizens. And Switzerland is not allowing them to perform such actions. Italy and France are pretty close partners, they seem to know how to work well with each other. The only problem they have is structural. As both countries seem to not know how to properly function economically they have been in debt and recessions. France and Italy face many problems that pose a major threat, primarily to our country. We are in deep debt, our employment rate is low, our energy trading price is low, our economy is not growing, and they are not competitive in the world market. France has so much issues internally that trading with such a neighboring country does not help our debt or security crisis, primarily due to the huge migration crisis which has struck Europe, recently.

Italy has worked really hard to influence the national body. Although not always having a big influence they are able to make their mark in the world. Italy has contributed to the national community over the years so many things. But Italy has stopped funding so many organizations

because it had financial problems and hope to focus on problems within their borders boards to help our citizens.

Committee on Migration

Each year the immigration crisis within Europe (specifically Italy and Greece) has grown in significance. With an increasing amount of countries facing war conflict and even economic troubles, immigrants and refugees have been influenced to move to Europe as a result. Due to our vulnerable boot shaped peninsula, Italy has been targeted as a safe haven for these asylum seekers. Huge influx of immigration has put a great strain on our economy which has already been facing a recession for about 5 years. We, the Italian government has evidently shown generosity towards these new arriving refugees. This government has been providing these asylum seekers with resources like beds and hotels which indeed costs money.

Immigrants tend to be coming from war zones and countries that seem to be going through crises such as the Syrian Civil War, causes conflict for European societies because a lot of citizens do not feel as comfortable with refugees around them. Always feeling the constant need to make sure that the citizens in Italy are safe become a real hassle for its government. A huge conflict with integrating these immigrants comes from the feelings of the public. These citizens control this integration and so if they don't have good relations with these new immigrants, conflict will only emerge. The mere presence of these new immigrants seem to be threatening to the public in Europe itself. The governor of Veneto, Luca Zaia briefly describes his thoughts on migrants coming in, "We are totally opposed to taking any more migrants,". Zaia represents one voice of many in terms of opposition toward immigrants entering our country. Majority of these refugees coming from Africa seem to be carrying a set of several diseases that

have a large impact on citizens in our surrounding areas. Diseases like Scabies and Hepatitis C has led to an increase in Anti-Immigration supporters. In fact many regions have begun to reject any more refugees from coming as a simple safety precaution.

With our government welcoming migrants from all over (including refugees from troubling countries) the populated citizens of Italy are outraged. Many Italian citizens do not support this idea of accepting migrants from Africa and the Middle Eastern region because they believe that the Italy region is not big enough to harbor every asylum seeker or migrant who is searching for a better life. Since Our country is usually expected to receive as many as 500,000 migrants, many times migrants are simply dropped off into various cities of Italy. Although the government has planned to spread the influxes across the peninsula, the impact has been more than costly. The current system that Italy has in place in regards to dealing with immigrants from other nations is not at all efficient. Our government has implemented welcome centers in which they are able to “control” which migrants are allowed based off of identity. Although these centers may help distinguish which migrants are actually worth taking in, there is still a lot of daylight for immigrants to get pass the system. Those immigrants who are rejected a place in Italy are still able to live comfortably in the land. Laws in the country that prevent deportation to countries that abuse humans rights and a blind eye towards deportation orders allows the amount of immigrants who stay in Italy to only grow in larger numbers. To make matters worse, these welcome centres are paid off through the taxes of the citizens. This leads to outraged feelings in the public of Italy because the citizens are forced to cope with these migrants who many times are usually taking advantage of this system put before them. Obtaining an unemployment rate of about 20%, higher taxes is a terrifying sight for our people in Italy.

The European Union certainly has shown that it needs to implement better policies towards refugees that seek safety. Specifically Italy and Greece has tried to bring this issue to the attention of the European Union, however the other members typically care about the wellbeing of their own member state. Although the European Union has agreed to assist these two members (Where immigration is densely concentrated) by relocating these asylum seekers, only 272 out of the 160,000 have been moved in this past January. As a result of the failure of other member states to meet the common asylum system, the E.U commission had attempted to enforce responsibilities on other members. But in Europe it's every state for themselves, other regions don't want to deal with the burden of refugees entering the countries. We are not willing to support this union if other member states are not willing to accept migrants into their country. Ultimately, in order for this migration crisis to be improved, other nations must show their commitment to aid refugees and migrants. The migration crisis forms well with foreign affairs in the different policies and amendments which are discussed for a resolution among all nations.

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Italy's foreign policy, decisions are made through the framework of the European Union as well as independently. Italy makes decisions based on its preference for European Union authority to also be respected. Italy has currently invested \$14 billion euros into the European Union, those funds stimulate projects such as construction, research, and environmental causes. ("Italy in the EU"). The Treaty of Rome (1957) was lead by foreign ministers from Italy, France, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg agreeing to a common market of goods and services in order to foster political unison. The major barriers in establishing markets included border control, technical regulations, and different tax rates from member countries which

hindered the development of trade prior to the agreement. (Link 3) Not only did the law encourage trade by reducing tariffs, but it also prohibited monopolies which signified the EU's influence in this decision-making. ("The Treaty of Rome")

Italy has remained a prominent figure in advocating for democratic ideals by strengthening the EU's institution and embodying its core policies. In 1970, Italy successfully proposed a federal union as well as direct elections for those in the European Parliament. ("Italy in the EU") The Single European Act (1992), the first major revision strengthened the European Union Parliament. The SEA revised the Treaties of Rome by establishing the European Council, which gave Parliament the power to veto the admission of new member states such as Turkey, required Parliamentary consent in agreements so all parties involved are aware, and clarified existing EU powers to member states. (James) At an intergovernmental conference (IGC) in 1997, Italy was among one of the countries to discuss the "challenge of diversity" in accepting new member states into the EU. Public support, however, was the underlying critical element in achieving a democratic system rather than moving forward without public knowledge. Reform proposals included prioritizing civil rights, physical security, and economic stability within the European Union in order to garner public trust. Utilizing the European Parliament was also referenced as the entire concept of integration was reiterated. (Daniels) Public opinion surveys conducted in Italy during the 1990's concluded the general public favored "the unification of western Europe, the development of European Union policy, and integration both politically and economically". (Daniels)

When it comes to the development of a joint-European Union foreign policy, Italy is more than willing to cooperate. In September 2014, Italy, Germany, France, and Luxembourg signed a

document urging other European member states to integrate and create a democratic system. Integration would include economic, social, and foreign policies as well as engaging apathetic citizens more on the importance of the EU's committees. Another foreign policy example would be the establishment of the Council of Europe (1949), set up by ten member states. It attempted to prevent new conflicts from arising post World War II. As a member of the EU, we retain power on foreign policy decisions by virtue of being a member. Since Italy is already a close ally with the United States, having them work more closely with the European Union would only make sense since the commercial relationship exists. As an important American trade partner, our expenditures from two-way trading in 2014 alone totaled \$59 billion dollars. ("U.S Relations With Italy") European Union treaties and laws, however, take precedence throughout all of Italy's foreign activities. The U.S, U.K, Turkey, and France have partnered together in assisting Libya, Italy fully supports the EU's decision to intervene for the sake of the greater good. (Daniels) Italy has also been the host of important U.S military forces in the past, as well as maintaining 11,500 troops along with hosting NATO related events. America and Italy cooperating on expenditures have increased the level of trust between both nations. ("U.S Relations With Italy") Our nation has plenty of Western influence due to our outstanding relations with the United States, yet we struggle to unite other member nations due to cultural differences, economic barriers, and physical boundaries. Maintaining unity within the European Union has proven to be a monumental struggle, but the fight will continue on so long as injustice exists in the world. Italy has formed so many different ties amongst foreign nations, however identity and integration are still afloat amongst the citizens, internally.

Committee on Identity and Integration

Despite the 2008 economic crisis and the increase in emigration flows, immigration to Italy has continued, albeit to a lesser extent than in previous years. In 2013 immigrants stood at 7.4% of the country population. Nevertheless, immigration is still considered a problem, even an emergency: political and public attention is often focussed on illegal migration, whereas a well-structured integration policy discourse is nowhere to be seen. This paper offers an insight into this issue, giving an overview on integration policies in Italy: which social actors are involved in the formulation and implementation of these policies, and how the issue is discussed in public and political discourses. Mapping the main policy tools and social actors in migrant integration, the paper highlights how Italian integration policies are mostly concentrated on economic integration, whereas social and cultural policies remain marginal. The paper also shows that a gap between policies and practices may occur, due to failed or absent policies, which is largely compensated for by the intervention of non-state actors.

In Italy, the debate on integration started in the mid-nineties, following the development of the migratory process, the settlement of immigrants' communities and the political agenda. When immigrants first arrived in Italy, in the late seventies, the absence of a legal frame produced a sort of "limbo", in which foreigners couldn't either become regular or been expelled. Undocumented migrants could survive without a legal status, but also without the threat of expulsion. Legislation on migration was introduced slowly, from the mid-eighties onwards, responding more to "urgency factors" than to a coherent migratory policy, embracing the issue of flows control and the one of integration. In this context the incorporation of the immigrants in the Italian society has taken place mainly through a labor market that needs labor force for manual and unqualified jobs abandoned by the nationals in informal sectors (small enterprises,

construction, tourism, Mediterranean agriculture, services to private persons) in a country where informal economy counts for around 30% of the national product, according to some estimations. Immigrants are needed for heavy, precarious, dangerous, low paid and socially penalized jobs. Absence of policies and type of incorporation in the labor market has produced what a scholar has called: “subordinated integration” (Ambrosini, 2001).

Enzo Bianco, an Italian Minister of the Interior, stated “legal immigration that is integrated into the economy and social fabric...is a precious resource” while a bulletin posted by an apartment rental agency in Parma, Italy read “We don’t work with immigrants of color” (Calavita 1). The past twenty years has seen an increase of immigrants—both legal and illegal—into Italy, a nation that has resisted social and cultural changes for centuries. Since the 1980’s, Italy has had to adopt new measures to accommodate immigrants from Eastern Europe, Northern Africa, and Asia. The European Union has stressed that integration of immigrants into Italy and other European countries is a priority, they define integration as “the process of becoming an accepted part of a foreign society and of accepting that society, based on the principles of equality, human rights, diversity and inclusion” (Süssmuth & Weidenfeld XIV). However, the laws that have been set are not performing the job they were intended to do. Recent events in Libya and Tunisia have put further pressure on the Italian immigration issue. Instead of fostering integration, the current laws are further marginalizing and excluding both legal and illegal immigrants from society. The new influx of immigrants has left Italians scrambling to find an effective and efficient way to integrate these immigrants into our culture and society (Calavita 11).

Since January, over 25,000 illegal immigrants have entered through southern Italy trying to escape the Northern Africa turmoil. Italy has asked the European Union for financial assistance in trying to document and move immigrants to other European nations. It has also requested that other European countries, particularly France, assist with hosting the mostly French-speaking Tunisian population, yet most have not offered significant assistance. France has agreed to assist Italian sea and air patrols to enforce accords set forth between Italy and Tunisia, a former French colony, yet has set up detainment points in train stations along the French Riviera to check legal documentation from those coming from Italy. The large influx of people is, therefore, left almost entirely to the Italian government (Geddes 149). The central question that needs to be answered is what would be the best strategy the Italian government could pursue in order to successfully integrate non-European Union immigrants, in order to avoid racism and marginalization of illegal immigrants.

Conclusion

Nevertheless, Italy has had many different issues in the last decade, and through the different committees, we hope that other foreign nations are able to understand the position to which we stand firmly on. Alongside the internal issues our country faces everyday, there are matters involving foreign and immigrant affairs, as well. Overall, Italy understands the position of their country regarding economics, foreign affairs, security, and migration – however we work towards a better tomorrow in aiding refugees during such dire times, along with attempting to pay off the massive debt to which we have upheld in the last decade. The European Union has established themselves in a way which indicates the power to which they uphold, however some

matters such as issues in our country need to be better publicized in order to grab attention and aid from other foreign nations. We fear that Italy may become destruct, and there will be nothing left of the nation due to the direction to which the country has been heading towards recently. We would like all the other foreign nations to give thought to the position we are currently struggling with, and push for a better tomorrow for our country and the civilians.

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