

ISLAM BEYOND TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES

VERA BATURINA, ALEKSANDR FILONIK. GERMANY
FACING MUSLIM IMMIGRATION

*Keywords: Germany; Türkiye;
poverty; refugees; integration; conflicts;
marginalization; migration crisis; illegal
migrants; displaced persons; radicalization.*

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Citation: Baturina V., Filonik A. Germany Facing Muslim Immigration // Russia and the Moslem World, 2025. № 4 (330), P. 28-42. DOI: 10.31249/rmw/2025.04.03

Abstract. Migration has been a key factor in Germany's development since the late 19th century. Initially, foreign labour was used to promote the country's industrial recovery; following World War II, however, the country faced labour shortage again, which triggered a new

massive influx of migrants. The 1973 oil crisis and subsequent economic challenges served to further aggravate the process, forcing the government to resort to using foreign sources of replenishment of manpower. As a result, the foreign population increased dramatically, including immigrants from the Muslim world, who found permanent jobs not only for themselves, but also for their family members.

With the start of the new century, Germany began to see Islam as a significant factor influencing society, adopting the Immigration Law in 2005. However, the massive influx of refugees has sparked public debate and a populist surge. That being said, by 2023, about 30 per cent of the German population was of immigrant background, while the share of Muslims was estimated at approximately 5 per cent. Poverty, social isolation and cultural differences make their integration more difficult, while the Turkish community (up to a third of the country's total Muslim population) remains particularly closed, as the civilizational gap between North and South creates challenges to solving integration problems at all levels.

Migration is one of the hallmark phenomena that have influenced the nature of the development of Germany's productive forces virtually since the formation of the German Empire in the last third of the 19th century. From the very beginning, the state's attention was focused on building infrastructure and creating industrial capacity, which were intended to embody the economic and military potential of the German state. This was accompanied by a tremendous growth in the demand for labor. The dynamics of labor potential accumulation can be traced through the movement of employment indicators from 1871 to 1910, when the number of foreign workers in the country increased from 260,000 to almost 1.3 million [1].

After the defeat in the First World War, immigration declined but was partially restored due to approximately one million settlers from the territories taken away from Germany under the Treaty of Versailles and transferred to Belgium, Czechoslovakia, and Poland.

Having suffered total defeat in the Second World War as well, Germany once again had to rebuild its economy. At the end of the war, there were 10–12 million displaced persons on its