

Europe:



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## **whither the fortress around the Mediterranean and Africa?**

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# Introduction



- Approximately 1, 5 million migrants illegally crossed EU's external borders in 2015
- Migrants from Africa contribute to increased numbers of migrants to Europe
- Increased migration has intensified desire to strengthen restrictive European immigration regime
- African refugees & migrants to Europe originate from West Africa & the Horn of Africa—migrate through the Sahara Desert to Libya through Mediterranean Sea to Europe
- \*Valletta summit & EU relations with migrant-sending African countries

# Objective & Research Question



- Paper focuses on & tests EU's immigration measures in the context of EU-Africa relations vis-à-vis migration
- Therefore, whither the fortress around the Mediterranean and Africa?

# Theoretical consideration: context of EU-Africa relations on migration



- Borders, Boundaries & Frontiers
- Mediterranean Sea as ideal natural **geographic boundary** & **Frontier**
- Border effect of Mediterranean Sea vs. Advancements in transportation, ICTs & globalisation
- \*To what extent does a border, boundary or frontier *actually* exist between the EU & Africa?
- \*Is it sustainable to attempt to cut off migrants from Africa headed for Europe?

# EU Borders: Sites of closure & contradictory logics of migration, neoliberalism & development



- Several cases of EU countries unilaterally, directly or indirectly erecting 'fences' & 'walls' to keep away African migrants
- Action is unsustainable deterrent to migration in the long run
- Draconian & exclusivist immigration regime violates human dignity, rights & escalate deaths
- Stricter border security has fueled illegal methods of entry & changes in migratory routes in the Mediterranean Sea
- Draconian & exclusivist measures against migration from Africa are an antithesis of sustainable development
- Markets & functional linkages may transform the nature of cross-border interaction leading to a 'new' borderland, predicated on new found values & identities

# Withering fortress Europe & possibility of sustainable engagement with Africa



- Continuing migration crisis on European shores suggests African migrants will continue flowing to the EU
- Exclusion will not deter migrants from migrating to Europe
- Restrictionist & draconian immigration regime against African migrants misses opportunity for sustainable solutions & engagement with African countries
- European immigration policies need an overhaul to integrate African migrants for mutual sustainable development of both regions
- The strength of 'space of flows' suggests that the EU & Africa should devise more effective & sustainable mechanisms to deal with migration
- Fortress Europe is not a sustainable way to deal with migrants



Thank you for listening