

Israel Isn't Responsible for Europe's Islamist Problem

The Lie:

Candace Owens claims Israel is responsible for Europe's Muslim immigration crisis.

The Truth:

Europe's large-scale Muslim immigration comes from Europe's own history and choices — its colonial legacy, its labor-market demands, its foreign policy, and its asylum laws. It is not the result of Israeli actions.

Background

- On a recent episode of the Candace Owens Show, Candace alleged that Israel caused Europe's immigration crisis.
- Europe's Muslim population grew from roughly **39–40 million in 2010** to **46 million in 2020**, a **16% increase**.
- Large-scale Muslim immigration is an existential crisis for Europe's future, overwhelming local institutions, destabilizing politics, and eroding the continent's cultural cohesion.

Truth Explained:

- **Europe's migration surge began long before modern Israeli conflicts:** Post-WWII labor recruitment and 1970s family reunification formed Europe's first major Muslim communities. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/europes-angry-muslims/>
- **Refugee waves were driven by wars in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan — not Israel:** From 2014–2016, 1.8M refugees arrived fleeing ISIS, Assad, and Taliban violence. Pew confirms **none of these flows were linked to Israel**. <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2017/11/29/europes-growing-muslim-population/>
- **Europe's own policies — not Israel — are what increased migration from outside the EU.** Brexit, looser student-visa rules, humanitarian programs, and expanded work permits all led to increased Muslim immigration to the EU. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI\(2025\)772910](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2025)772910)
- **Islamist rhetoric online reflects Europe's own integration challenges — not Israeli activity:** Clips of radical Muslim preachers discussing the “soft conquest” of Europe stem from Europe's internal struggles with political Islam. <https://www.ispionline.it/en/publication/political-islam-in-europe-challenges-and-implications-203300>
<https://www.hoover.org/research/islamism-and-immigration-germany-and-european-context>
- A viral November 2025 clip shows Muslim Brotherhood–aligned figures saying that after centuries of failed military attempts to conquer Europe, **they now pursue a “soft conquest” by taking advantage of Europe's permissive migration systems** — a vulnerability created entirely by European governance, not Israel. They emphasize that Western openness allows them to advance their aims “for free,” framing their objective as eroding and replacing host cultures. <https://x.com/realMaalouf/status/1986017308788101192?s=20>
- **No credible institution connects Israel to European immigration patterns:** The Hoover Institution notes that immigration in Europe is “*inextricably tied to questions of Islam and Islamism*” and driven by arrivals from **Turkey, Syria, and North Africa**, where many migrants come from societies with widespread antisemitic attitudes. <https://www.hoover.org/research/islamism-and-immigration-germany-and-european-context>

Quotes

- “The sharp rise in the number of regular migrants can be attributed to the liberalisation of migration laws, making it easier for non-EU migrants to work in the UK, a campaign aimed at attracting more foreign students, and the high number of visas granted to people on humanitarian grounds.” — European Parliament Briefing, 2025
- “The mass immigration of Muslims to Europe was an unintended consequence of post-World War II guest-worker programs.” — Brookings Institution, 2005
- “Today about one in five residents was born outside Germany, and of those born outside the EU, most come from Muslim majority countries, especially Turkey and Syria.” — Hoover Institution, 2024
- “In Europe, political Islam gained prominence due to increased Muslim migration, particularly after World War II, as well as the arrival of more academically educated individuals.” — ISPI, 2025

Takeaway

Europe's migration challenges are the product of Europe's own policies, demographics, and neighboring conflicts — not Israel. No credible demographic, academic, or security institution links Israel to Europe's immigration patterns. Claims that do so are conspiracy theories, not facts.