T.C.
ISTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY
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ANALYSIS OF THE POLITICAL CHANGES IN THE MIGRATION OF ALBANIANS TO ITALY BETWEEN 1912 TO 2020

MASTER'S THESIS

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Political Science and International Relations Program

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APPROVAL PAGE

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my work and that, to the best of my knowledge, it does not contain any material that another individual has previously published, nor does it contain any work that has been accepted for the award of any other degree from the university, except for instances in which appropriate acknowledgment has been made in the text (03/01/2024).

Naweedullah MOHEB

FOREWORD

ANALYSIS OF THE POLITICAL CHANGES IN THE MIGRATION OF ALBANIANS TO ITALY BETWEEN 1912 TO 2020

ABSTRACT

This paper extensively examines the mutual connection between Albania and Italy, with a primary emphasis on migration policy during the 20th and early 21st centuries. The study utilises a multidisciplinary method to identify important challenges and prospects within the relationship between migration and development for both nations. The paper emphasises Italy's need to integrate migration and development strategies to produce a more coherent and effective approach. The study emphasises the pressing requirement in Albania for an administrative framework that fosters the inflow of investments and enhances collaboration with local governments. Additionally, it examines the insufficiency of current seasonal work programs designed for this specific pair of countries and supports using other context-specific methods, such as transnational entrepreneurship training. The paper provides practical suggestions to promote migration policies that support development and can benefit Albania and Italy.

Keywords: Bilateral relationship, return investments, Italy, migration policies, administrative framework, development, transnational entrepreneurship, Albania, seasonal work programs.

ÜRÜNLERİN PAZARLAMA YÖNETİMİNİ GELİŞTİRMEK İÇİN STRATEJİK PLAN

ÖZET

Bu makale, Arnavutluk ile İtalya arasındaki ilişkiyi öncelikle 20. ve 21. yüzyılın başlarındaki göç politikasına vurgu yaparak kapsamlı bir şekilde incelemektedir. Çalışmada, her iki ülke için göç ve kalkınma arasındaki zorluk ve beklentileri belirlemek için multidisipliner bir yöntem kullanılmaktadır. Makale, İtalya'nın daha tutarlı ve etkili bir yaklaşım üretmek için göç ve kalkınma stratejilerinde entegre ihtiyacına vurgu yapmakta ve ayrıca Arnavutluk'ta yatırım akışını teşvik eden ve yerel yönetimlerle işbirliğini güçlendiren idari çerçeveye yönelik acil gereksinime değinmektedir. Bunların yanında mevcut mevsimlik çalışma programlarının yetersizliğini de ele almakta ve ulusötesi girişimcilik eğitimi gibi yöntemlerin kullanılmasını desteklemektedir. Kalkınmayı destekleyen Arnavutluk'tan İtalya'ya göç politika önerilerine yer vermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: İkili ilişki, yatırımların geri dönüşü, İtalya, göç politikaları, idari çerçeve, kalkınma, ulusötesi girişimcilik, Arnavutluk, mevsimlik çalışma programları.

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I.   INTRODUCTION

In the first chapter, the groundwork for a comprehensive investigation of the intricate links that exist between Albania and Italy is laid out. More particularly, the emphasis is placed on the evolution of migration policy from 1912 to 2020. Through this study, the researchers hope to understand better the intricate interaction of political, social, and economic issues that have had a role in shaping migration policy between the two countries and the flow of individuals between them. For the purpose of enhancing our understanding of the complex historical mechanisms and current impediments that are experienced in Italian-Albanian collaboration, particularly within the context of migration, this academic endeavour is justified by the requirement to enhance our comprehension of these mechanisms. This study employs a qualitative methodology, which combines documentary analysis with extra quantitative data, in order to present a nuanced perspective on the connection between the two countries. The full review of secondary sources, which will include scholarly publications, institutional reports, and the media, will be a part of the analysis. The goal of the analysis is to provide a detailed narrative. Through the examination of the core components of various treaties, historical events, and political alliances that have affected migration policies, the study intends to improve the decision-making process in policymaking and encourage greater collaboration among nations. All of these goals will be accomplished through the study. With the purpose of this study is to provide comprehensive description of the intricate historical path that has shaped the relationship between Italy and Albania over the course of the past one hundred years, this chapter serves as a preliminary summary of the coming examination.

The proclamation of Albania's sovereignty in 1912 marked the end of Ottoman authority, yet it also marked the beginning of a turbulent age for the nation that was beginning to blossom. Because of the competition of adjacent nations for influence, the geopolitical landscape was defined by uncertainty. Albania became ensnared in the middle of competing interests due to the Balkan Wars, which took

place between 1912 and 1913. Italy, which aimed to expand its territorial holdings in the Balkans, considered Albania a valuable strategic resource of great importance. The Treaty of London, signed in 1915, was a secret agreement between Italy and the Allies. It aimed to ensure that Italy would get significant territory in exchange for taking responsibility for the cost of Albania. However, using this diplomatic strategy, the Albanian population's wishes were disregarded, ultimately resulting in political instability and the country's dissolution (Madrugearu and Gordon, 2007).

Conflicts inside the organisation and intervention from outside sources characterised the following years. At the same time that the Albanian authorities were struggling to form a nation, they were also presented with the challenging task of imposing their control over a fractured region. The Italian government substantially impacted this period to establish a sphere of influence in the region. As a result, the political climate was reshaped, and migration patterns were influenced. An important factor that contributed to the migration of Albanians to Italy was the political unrest that occurred in the country during this critical period. Attracted by Italy's expanding economic possibilities, which provided a sense of security, some Albanians sought protection by crossing the Adriatic Sea amid the unpredictable and chaotic scenario they were experiencing (Russell King,2003).

During the two world wars, Italy witnessed the rise of fascist ideology, which Benito Mussolini led. With a particular emphasis on some parts of Albania, the fascist regime had the intention of expanding its jurisdiction by integrating regions that contained a sizeable population of ethnic Italians. In the wake of the geopolitical ambitions, the situation became insecure, which accelerated the movement of Albanians who were eager to escape the political upheaval and establish a more prosperous existence in Italy. Conditions that led to a considerable increase in the number of Albanians migrating to Italy were produced by the violent events during World War I and the years that followed the conflicts. The region's borders saw considerable alterations due to the Treaty of Rapallo, which was signed in 1920 between Italy and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, which would later be known as Yugoslavia. Albania's population migrated as a result of this, which had a significant impact on the country's demographic composition (Portera et al., 2010).

It was a watershed point in the history of Albania when the nation proclaimed its independence on November 28, 1912. The Albanian people longed for

independence and self-governance during centuries of Ottoman domination. A significant contribution to the transformation of the area's political landscape was made by the Balkan Wars that took place between 1912 and 1913. In the wake of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, Albania has arisen as a sovereign nation. The Albanian people's desire for national sovereignty was a driving force behind the declaration of independence, which was a reaction to the shifting geopolitical realities (Kareco, 2010).

Regarding the larger backdrop of geopolitics in the area, the year 1923 is crucial. After World War I, the Allies and the Ottoman Turks signed the Treaty of Lausanne in July of that year, formally ending the state of war between them. It was not only the contemporary boundaries of the Republic of Turkey that were acknowledged by this agreement, but it also addressed the status of several territories, particularly those in Southeast Europe. Although the Treaty of Lausanne failed to affect Albania's boundaries immediately, it did help to stabilize the state of affairs in the area as a whole, which paved the way for the foundation and consolidation of other nations that had just been founded. The treaty influenced the geopolitical setting of Southeast Europe and the Middle East, which had far-reaching ramifications for the post-war system and played a part in these processes.

In 1912, a significant change occurred when the Albanian Republic was established under the leadership of Fan Noli. Although Noli's government aimed to establish stability in the nation, his time in office was brief, leading to subsequent internal power conflicts. The political dynamics directly influenced the migration trends, as the leadership changes and instability affected the decisions of individuals seeking asylum in Italy.

A. Background of the Study

Over the course of the last century, the migration of Albanians to Italy has developed into a phenomenon that is simultaneously complex and diverse. The purpose of this study is to investigate the political factors that have played a role in the migration patterns between 1912 and 2020, with a specific focus on the crucial time between 1912 and 1920, as well as subsequent significant events. It is necessary to have a complete comprehension of the historical and political context to have a complete understanding of the complex network of Albanian migration to Italy.

One of the most important events in the early 20th century was 1912 when Albania attained its independence. The attainment of statehood resulted in significant political transformations, which significantly influenced the socio-economic landscape and established the groundwork for subsequent migration patterns. In the aftermath of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the conflicts in the Balkans, the Albanian population experienced significant repercussions, ultimately leading to their migration to Italy, which is located nearby.

Following the country's independence, Albania experienced a period marked by political instability, territorial conflicts, and economic difficulties. In asserting its control over its territory, the state encountered difficulties, and the internal strife encouraged the infiltration of influences from outside the state. Italy exerted significant influence during this time, which affected the movement patterns of Albanians. Italy's objective was to increase its power in the Balkans, and it did so by exerting substantial influence (Frattolillo and Stocchiero, 2002).

As a result of Italy's decision to join the Allies during World War I, the Treaty of London, which was signed in 1915, altered the geopolitical landscape in a significant way. It was accomplished by providing Italy with significant territory gains. An increase in the number of Albanians migrating to Italy was a direct consequence of the diplomatic agreement, which significantly impacted Albania's physical borders. People were forced to leave their homes due to the political shifts that brought about an atmosphere of uncertainty and caused people to depart from their homes.

Between the wars, Italy experienced a rise in fascism, which significantly impacted the migration patterns that occurred during that period. When Mussolini was in power, the Italian government actively pursued expansionist strategies to integrate territories that ethnic Italians inhabited. It included certain regions in Albania. During the time that the fascist government was attempting to assimilate Albanians and establish authority over the newly acquired land, political ambition had a direct impact on the migration patterns of Albanians (Elisabetta, 2015).

The migration narrative was further influenced by the turbulent events that occurred during World War II. During this time, Albania was under Italian occupation from 1939 until 1943, and there was a significant amount of political and social unrest. The subsequent communist takeover in Albania, which Enver Hoxha

led in 1944, resulted in the establishment of a repressive system that restricted freedom of movement, which in turn affected migration patterns.

During the time that Hoxha was in power, Albania went through a period of isolation during the Cold War, which affected the migration patterns observed towards Italy. As a result of the communist state's stringent restrictions, which severely limited opportunities, a significant number of Albanians travelled across the Adriatic Sea in the hope of finding a better life. As a result of political shifts that opened up new opportunities for migration, the fall of communism in 1992 was a significant turning point.

After the conclusion of the Cold War, there was a substantial surge in the migration of Albanian individuals to Italy. The political and economic shifts in Albania served as a catalyst, motivating many of the country's citizens to look for better opportunities in other countries. As a result of Italy's proximity to Albania and its membership in the European Union, it became an appealing destination for Albanian migrants, which led to an increase in migration during the 1990s and early 2000s (Pedersen, 1994).

The political shifts that have taken place during the period beginning in the early 1900s and continuing up until the present day have been closely linked to the migration of Albanians to Italy. Migration patterns have been influenced by the developmental period of Albania's self-governance, which began during the interwar period and continued until the Second World War. The communist era and the post-Cold War era followed this. An in-depth comprehension of the factors that have prompted Albanians to look for a fresh start in Italy over the last century can be attained by investigating the historical and political circumstances surrounding the situation.

The strong connection between Albania and Italy stems from the fact that they are geographically close to one another and have a complex web of historical ties ranging from Roman dominion to the effects of colonial rule. Considering the reciprocal influence of migration policies and the effects that these policies have on Albania as a source country, the bilateral relationship provides a compelling perspective from which to examine the situation. The connection between Italy and Albania can be traced back to some historical periods, such as the Roman era, the Ottoman invasions that occurred in the 16th century, and the migration of Albanians

to southern Italian territories like Calabria and Sicily. Despite this, it is quite obvious that massive migrations have a significant impact on the formation of the dynamics that are currently in place (Hammond, 1974).

It is important to remember the historical significance of ethnic Albanian groups in southern Italy, which originated from emigration in the sixteenth century. Despite this, their significance concerning the contemporary migration policies that Albania is implementing is essentially nonexistent. During Italy's fascist occupation of Albania, which lasted from the 1930s until the end of World War II, these policies were significantly influenced by how they were implemented.

The Italian government has engaged in various geopolitical manoeuvres to safeguard its strategic interests in Albania. It has been thoroughly documented that the following activities took place: the Treaty of Monza with Austria in the year 1897; the Secret Treaty of Rome with Austria in the year 1913; the Secret Treaty of London with Russia, France, and the United Kingdom in the year 1915; and the Titoni-Venizelos Treaty with Greece in the year 1919. The fact that Italy successfully assumed the role of guarantor for Albania during the Versailles Conference in 1920 is a significant accomplishment (Portera et al., 2010).

1925 marked a significant turning point in Albanian history when Ahmet Zogu took control of the country. When Zogu made the diplomatic overture to Benito Mussolini, it was a defining moment in the history of the bilateral relations between the two countries (Selmani, 2008). Despite Mussolini's initial reservations regarding Zogu's previous collaboration with Yugoslavia and his participation in the War of Vlora, Mussolini responded positively by pledging "amicable cooperation" (Shkencave, 2000). It was a particularly noteworthy development because Mussolini had expressed his positive response. According to Di Nolfo (2008), Mussolini put into action diplomatic strategies to sever Zogu's ties to Yugoslavia and advance Italian interests.

Furthermore, during this time, Mussolini was afforded a favorable opportunity to broaden the scope of his domestic program on a global scale. It was made possible by eliminating political opponents within the country, such as Matteotti. Italian policy toward Albania during this period oscillated between two paradigms: one focused on fostering peaceful economic expansion, while the other was motivated by imperialistic ambitions and a more long-term outlook (Bakalli,

2001). Both of these paradigms were distinct from one another.

Over the period from 1912 to 2020, this study aims to analyse the complex political and socio-economic factors that have influenced the discourse on migration between Italy and Albania. This research aims to investigate the interdependent development of these factors, which in turn shape migration policies and the subsequent effects those policies have on both countries.

In the beginning of their relationship, Italy under Mussolini and Albania under Ahmet Zogu focused primarily on investigating resources and diplomatic discussions simultaneously. It was decided to send Ugo Sola, an Italian ambassador, to Albania for approximately two months. AIH, A.V.16 (Busch – Zautner, Albania under the regime of Zogu). Smirnova (2004) states that the mission's objective was to evaluate regions rich in resources, particularly oil and mineral deposits. Furthermore, during a meeting with the British Foreign Minister Chamberlain in Livorno in September 1925, Mussolini secured the support of the United Kingdom for his strategies regarding the Balkans. The British government aimed to cultivate a friend in the Balkans who could serve as a strategic balance against France.

The legal framework governing the relations between Italy and Albania was developed through a series of agreements reached between parties. The First Secret Sea Treaty was initially implemented on January 20, 1912, although it did not receive official approval from the parliamentary body (Fischer, 2004). It wasn't long after that the Consular Services Treaty (Giannini, 1940) was put into effect, and it was accompanied by a memorandum that formally sanctioned the relocation of agricultural labourers, also known as colons, to specific regions in Albania (Fischer, 2004a). Zogu, on the other hand, has demonstrated a reluctance to officially acknowledge the decision made by the Conference of Ambassadors, which entrusted Italy with the responsibility of becoming the guarantor for Albania (Borgogni, 2007; (Fischer, 2004b).

Italy's economic influence in Albania was significantly strengthened by establishing the Bank of Albania in 1925, primarily carried out with the assistance of Italian capital. Concurrently, a specialised fund, La Società per lo Sviluppo Economico dell'Albania (SVEA), was established to direct investments into Albania through Italian businesses (Trani, 2007). The Italian government paid three million gold francs to President Zogu in exchange for these financial arrangements (Milo,

2013).

The Treaty of Friendship and Alliance, also referred to as the First Treaty of Tirana, was signed on November 27, 1926, and the document established the political ties between the two countries. According to Shkencave (2000) and Biagini (2000), the five-year pact outlined the particulars of a military coalition and was formally documented with the League of Nations. It would be considered a violation of Italy's and Albania's interests to violate the established territorial status quo in Albania, and any such violation would give rise to this perception. Under the terms of this agreement, Italy was given the authority to take action in Albania to preserve the existing state of affairs and, as a result, significantly increase its political influence. Due to this transaction, Zogu was granted additional financial incentives and offered significant economic privileges to Italian businesses (Puto, 2009).

This study aims to investigate the intricate interplay of diplomatic, economic, and political forces that have played a role in shaping the relationship between Italy and Albania. The purpose of this study is to specifically investigate the impact these factors have had on migration patterns and policy over approximately one hundred years.

The Treaty of Alliance was ratified on November 22, 1927, approximately one year after the initial Treaty of Tirana was signed. The unstable internal environment had a significant influence on the diplomatic manoeuvring that took place in Albania. According to Smirnova (2004), the frequency of civil unrest and demonstrations was rapidly increasing, particularly in the northern regions. This made President Zogu susceptible to the possibility of violence and made him vulnerable to the possibility of violence. Mussolini could assert control over the strategically significant Otranto Strait by entering into the contract, strengthening Italy's dominant position. At the same time, a formal military endeavour was initiated, which included the construction of defensive structures and the reorganisation of the Albanian Army under the direction of the Italian government (Jacomini, 1965). However, to gather intelligence and establish a prominent Italian influence in Albania's political and economic sphere, the mission required the deliberate deployment of military experts from various sectors (Besciani, 2013). In contrast, Zogu ensured the longevity of his administration by protecting it from potential dangers originating from Yugoslavia and Greece (Attoma, 2014). This

allowed his administration to remain in power for decades.

According to the diplomatic records of Italy, the idea of establishing a monarchy in Albania was initially proposed by Italy. More specifically, Italian minister Ugo Sola was the one who sent this suggestion to Zogu in September of 1927 (Meta, 2011). Mussolini's meticulous and far-reaching strategy to enhance Italian supremacy in Albania was aligned with Sola's suggestions (Documenti Diplomatici Italiani (DDI), VII/5: 390). Sola's suggestions included several different ideas. Italy came with many advantages. If Zogu continued to serve as president, holding another election by 1932 would be imperative. Italy would be required to provide additional financial assistance to candidates running for parliamentary seats. In addition, Italy committed a significant amount of its financial and diplomatic resources to exert influence over Zogu's political trajectory. It would be a significant waste of both money and effort to succeed him in his current role. In addition, Italy perceived Zogu as a suitable leader who could be readily manipulated and governed by them, a perspective that was also endorsed by Edit Durham (Vickers, 2008). The precarious economic situation in Albania was the primary source of Zogu's concern. However, Zogu's decision to adopt the monarchy was alleviated by Sola's assurances that Italy would continue to provide financial support.

Beyond the realm of politics, Italy's profound influence extends to the economic infrastructure of Albania, where it exerts a significant amount of influence. Historically, Italian businesses have been the most successful foreign corporations in Albania, particularly in industries such as the energy, cement, agri-food, and banking industries. Businesses like these are extremely important to Albania's manufacturing sector and significantly contribute to the country's labour force. Considering that Albania's geographical alignment with Italy is not only the result of political strategy but also the result of necessity, it is an extremely important point to understand. The potential for Albania to form broad geopolitical alliances is hindered by the country's physical limitations, particularly its borders to the south, east, and north.

B. Study purpose

This research will examine the political transformations in the migration of Albanians to Italy from 1912 to 2020. This research aims to shed light on the intricate dynamics of the relationship between Italy and Albania, with a particular

emphasis on the historical treaties, political manoeuvres, and subsequent economic ramifications between the two countries. Beginning in 1912 and continuing through the year 2020, the purpose of this study is to analyze the factors that have influenced migration policies and patterns among these neighbouring countries.

C. Study objectives

1. To examine the historical trajectory of migration interactions between Albania and Italy.

2. To examine the immigration policies implemented in Italy from 1912 until 2020.

3. The objective is to examine the political transformations associated with Albanians' migration to Italy from 1912 to 2020.

4. The objective is to evaluate the political transformations in the collaborative relationship between Albania and Italy by analyzing migrations from 1912 to 2020.

D. Research Questions

1. What is the historical background of the migration relations between Albania and Italy?

2. What are the immigration regulations governing entry into Italy from 1912 to 2020?

3. What political transformations have occurred in Albanians' migration to Italy between 1912 and 2020?

E. Study rationale

The impetus behind the research being conducted is to precisely delineate and investigate the historical complexities that have influenced the cooperative and migratory relationships between Albania and Italy. The study's findings will enrich the existing information on the intricate historical connections and policy difficulties that characterise interactions between Italians and Albanians, particularly in the field of migration. This makes the study extremely relevant. In addition, the investigation

intends to analyse the numerous policies that have regulated this cooperation, particularly regarding migratory systems. This research is being conducted to provide information that can enhance decision-making processes, which may ultimately result in enhanced cooperation between the two countries.

The years 1912 through 2020 were chosen for this study so that a comprehensive analysis of the political shifts that affected Albanians' migration to Italy could be carried out. This period encompasses significant events in Albanian history, such as the country's declaration of independence in 1912, its years of integration with fascist Italy during the interwar period, its communist era from 1945 to 1990 under the leadership of Enver Hoxha, the transition from communism in the early 1990s, and the years that followed, which were characterised by attempts to integrate into the European Union. As we examine this spectrum, we may be able to obtain a more nuanced understanding of the numerous political factors that have an impact on migration patterns. These factors include periods of political unrest, authoritarian governments, economic shifts, and aspirations to become members of the European Union. The chosen period, which spans over a century, sheds light on the shifting dynamics of Albanian migration to Italy under various political circumstances.

F. Research Methods

1. A Strategy for the Collection of Data

In order to conduct the investigation, a qualitative research approach will be utilised, and a comprehensive analysis of relevant materials will be conducted. The study will make use of secondary data sources, which include academic papers, published books, reports from national and international organisations, and news media, to gather information that is pertinent to the changes that have occurred in political connections and migratory policy between Albania and Italy between the years 1912 and 2020.

2. Review of the Sources

It is planned to conduct a thorough review of publications produced by reputable national and international institutions, with a particular emphasis on the frameworks and procedures relevant to the study's scope.

3. Quantitative Components

Even though qualitative data will be the primary focus of the research, quantitative data will also be included in the study wherever it is applicable. The research will use statistical databases to ascertain the number and characteristics of individuals affected by these policies, as well as to evaluate the efficiency of the actions taken by the policymakers.

4. Analysis of Decision-making Processes

To acquire a comprehensive understanding of the political, social, and economic issues that have impacted collaboration and migration between Albania and Italy, it will be essential to use both qualitative and quantitative data analysis when conducting research. This all-encompassing strategy aims to provide pertinent perspectives that can be utilised to create choices that are well-informed in the context of interpersonal interactions between two parties.

To construct a comprehensive narrative that considers the intricate interplay of historical, political, and socio-economic factors that have influenced Italian-Albanian relations, particularly in the context of migration, this study intends to use a robust methodology. The period covered by this study is from 1912 to 2020.

II. ALBANIA AND ITALY RELATIONS

A. Introduction

This chapter evaluates the historical connection between Albania and Italy in the 19th century, including the history of Albanian migration to Italy. Additionally, it provides a concise overview of the historical aspects of Albanian emigration, the Albanian Diaspora, and the exodus of Albanians following the decline of socialist dictatorship. In addition, it analyses Albanian emigrants' experiences during the transition era and offers a comprehensive review of Italy's migration policies.

B. Albania and Italy's relation

Albania and Italy have a long-standing and complex connection that spans political, economic, cultural, and diplomatic aspects. This relationship is considered to be historically rich and multidimensional. There have been centuries of engagement and cultural exchange between the two countries, with historical links dating back to the Roman and Byzantine eras. As a result of the geographical closeness, these interactions and exchanges have occurred (Pedersen, 1994). Almost immediately after Albania proclaimed its independence in 1912, diplomatic contacts were established. When Italy pushed its influence during the interwar era, it resulted in a personal union under the rule of King Zog. Following the conclusion of World War II, diplomatic upheavals occurred due to the development of communism. During World War II, Italy occupied the region. Following the collapse of communism in the early 1990s, both nations have made efforts to deepen their political connections, with Italy supporting Albania's efforts to become a member of the Euro-Atlantic community (Zolo, 2002).

There was a dramatic shift in the emigration patterns of Albanians to Italy during the turbulent interwar era (1912–1945). Even after declaring independence in 1912, Albania was rife with political unrest and boundary disputes, including internal strife. During the years between the wars, a power vacuum developed, which gave

birth to authoritarian administrations and ultimately led to Italy's conquest of Albania in 1939. Many Albanians emigrated to Italy during this time, hoping for better economic and political conditions. Many sought sanctuary there due to economic hardships, political persecution, and the wider effects of regional geopolitical changes. Later waves of migration were shaped by interwar migration, which in turn impacted the sociopolitical dynamics between Albania and Italy and set the stage for an intricate connection between the two countries (Portera et al., 2010).

Italian investments have been a key contributor to Albania's economic growth, and the two countries' commercial connections have grown significantly over the last several years. Italy is an important partner economically. It is important to note that migration has had a significant impact since many Albanians have relocated to Italy throughout the economic and political transformation. Because of the sizeable Albanian diaspora in Italy, both countries have benefited economically and culturally from the contributions made by this group. The integration of Albania into the European Union has been supported by Italy, which has also fostered cooperation in improving governance and institutional changes. Security cooperation comprises the two countries working together to fight organised crime, human trafficking, and illegal migration. Both countries are interested in preserving peace and security in the Balkans. I want to summarise the dynamic connection between Albania and Italy. This dynamic relationship reflects a shared history, economic interests, and a commitment to regional stability. Additionally, there is modern cooperation on European integration and economic growth (Achilli, Olivieri and Pala, 2007).

The long connection between Albania and Italy is defined by resiliency and adaptation, allowing them to navigate through historical hurdles and fluctuations in geopolitical power. Rather than being limited to political and economic relations, the connectivity between the two countries encompasses a profound cultural affinity cultivated over the course of many centuries. The current character of their partnership is shown by the fact that they both recognise the importance of European integration and maintaining peace in the area. Not only does the Albanian diaspora in Italy contribute economically, but it also enriches the cultural fabric of both nations. This is a witness to the continuing people-to-people relationships between Albania and Italy. The Albanian-Italian connection continues to be a dynamic and growing

collaboration, reflecting shared values, common interests, and a collective vision for a successful and linked future. With both nations continuing to develop in the 21st century, the relationship between Albania and Italy remains unchanging (Walter, 1994)

Italian-Albanian relations were shaped by several treaties and accords signed in the late 19th and early 20th century, reflecting the increasing political importance of Italy in Albania at the time.

1. Treaty of Monza (1897):

Recognising Italy's interest in Albania, Austria-Hungary and Italy signed the Treaty of Monza in 1897, recognising their separate domains of influence in the Balkans. It signalled Italy's regional political aspirations at an early stage. The 1897 Treaty of Monza between Austria-Hungary and Italy recognized Italy's interest in Albania. Reflecting Italy's growing regional political aspirations, this crucial pact defined separate areas of influence for the two countries in the Balkans. The pact sought to avoid confrontation and rivalry between the two countries by acknowledging the validity of Italy's interests and ambitions in the Albanian area. Consequently, the Treaty of Monza is an important historical landmark because it shows how Italy actively participated in defining the early 20th century geopolitical scene and how it paved the way for later events in the area (Dushku and Qesari, 2023).

2. Secret Treaty of Rome (1913):

Italy joined the Allies in World War I in return for territory, as described in the Secret Treaty of Rome, signed in 1913 between Italy and the Triple Entente (France, Russia, and the United Kingdom). One benefit was the assurance of dominion over certain regions of Albania. An important factor in Italy's decision to join World War I as an ally was the Secret Treaty of Rome, which was signed in 1913 between the country and the Triple Entente, which consisted of France, Russia, and the UK. The pact guaranteed Italy territory in return for its military help. Italy was promised a certain amount of influence and authority over several regions in Albania. Reflecting the intricate network of diplomatic manoeuvring that defined the early 20th century, this covert accord highlighted the geopolitical tactics used by the Allies to gain support throughout the conflict. An example of the complex power

dynamics and territorial concerns that molded the alliances of World War I is the Secret Treaty of Rome (Elisabetta, 2015).

3. Secret Treaty of London (1915):

The Secret Treaty of London, signed in 1915, promised Italy more territory, including portions of Albania, and paved the way for Italy to join World War I. As a result of these clandestine accords, Italy's regional power increased. Italy was enticed to join the Allies in the battle via the Secret Treaty of London, which was implemented in 1915 and was a pivotal diplomatic move during World War I. This clandestine pact promised Italy more territory than it had previously promised, including parts of Albania. Not only did the treaty's terms strengthen Italy's commitment, but they also greatly increased Italy's regional power. The Secret Treaty of London, which emphasized the strategic and pragmatic reasons for wartime alliances, demonstrated how territorial enticements were crucial in determining the war's dynamics and the post-war geopolitical landscape by promising more territory (Walter, 1994).

4. Titoni-Venizelos Treaty (1919):

1919, Italy and Greece signed the Titoni-Venizelos Treaty to settle territorial issues after World War I. Although unrelated to Albania per se, the geopolitical climate of the period impacted regional dynamics, which in turn affected Italy's position in Albania. In 1919, the Titoni-Venizelos Treaty was formally signed by Greece and Italy to settle territorial issues that arose after World War I. Although unrelated to Albania, the treaty's geopolitical implications affected regional dynamics, which in turn affected Italy's stance in Albania. One factor that altered the geopolitical landscape following WWI was the general reorganization of alliances and boundaries. The complex web of diplomatic maneuvers and territorial realignments during a pivotal era in European history was reflected in this shifting terrain, which had knock-on effects for Italy's involvement and interests in Albania. When trying to make sense of the complicated geopolitical realignments that occurred after the war, the Titoni-Venizelos Treaty becomes an important piece of the puzzle (Lutfiu and Hasani, 2018).

5. Versailles Conference (1920):

In 1920, during the Versailles Conference, the goal was to determine the postwar territorial arrangements. Although the boundaries of Albania were deliberated, the decisions reached did not quite satisfy the aspirations of the Albanian people, and Italy persisted in displaying its dominance in the area. The borders of Albania were among the topics discussed during the 1920 Versailles Conference, which sought to define postwar territorial solutions. Unfortunately, the results did not live up to the expectations of the Albanian people. It was reflective of the complicated geopolitical circumstances of the period that Italy persisted in establishing its supremacy in the area notwithstanding disagreements. After the summit, there was a fight between national ambitions and the strategic interests of big countries, with Italy continuing to exert its influence as an example. The events leading up to the Versailles Conference highlight, in especially for Albania, the difficulties of bringing together competing national interests and goals in the wake of World War I (Sharp, 2013).

The interwar era, which began in 1918 with the conclusion of World War I and ended in 1939 with the beginning of World War II, was marked by significant developments on a worldwide scale extending from 1918 to 1939. The immediate aftermath of the Great War, economic instability, and geopolitical realignments were all challenges that nations had to contend with. Although it had a significant impact on postwar Europe, the Treaty of Versailles was not without its flaws, which led to political turmoil. The decade of the Roaring Twenties was marked by significant cultural and social shifts, while the Great Depression was the culmination of prolonged economic difficulties. It was the failure of diplomatic attempts, the rise of nationalism, and the militarization of the world that laid the groundwork for the Second World War. During the years between the wars, there was a delicate balance between the process of recuperation and the planting of the seeds for future warfare (Cornell, Moller and Skaaning, 2017).

These accords and conferences strengthened Italy's political clout in Albania at a pivotal time of geopolitical realignments. The treaties mirrored the larger setting of the power struggles and territorial realignments in Europe that ensued after WWI, with smaller states like Albania losing territory to larger powers like Italy.

C. Albania in the 19th Century: A Historical Overview

Being at the crossroads of the Ottoman Empire's Balkan expansion in the nineteenth century, Albania saw enormous transformation. Converging factors such as political revolutions, cultural renaissances, and the ever-shifting dynamics of empire characterised this century. A thorough familiarity with this dynamic era is necessary to completely comprehend the circumstances that precipitated Albania's proclamation of independence in 1912.

A precarious balance between central authority and regional autonomy existed in Albania throughout the nineteenth century under Ottoman rule. The user's input field is blank. The Ottoman Empire may be gone, but it left an indelible mark on the region's economy and society. During this time, most Albanians lived off the land as peasants or as part of a feudal system that included landowning beys (Elisabetta, 2015).

A shared awareness of Albanian national identity emerged among the population in the nineteenth century. In contrast to the Ottoman millet system, which valued religious affiliation over national identity, the Albanians started cultivating a feeling of shared identity and uniqueness via their language and culture.

Amidst the difficulties of Ottoman rule, the Albanian Renaissance—a period of intellectual and cultural revitalisation—rose in the nineteenth century. Albanian thinkers, authors, and teachers did their best to preserve and spread their language and culture, which allowed their national identity to flourish. In 1889, the first newspaper written in Albanian, "Shqipëria e Re" (The New Albania), was founded, symbolising the cultural revival (Zolo, 2002).

Modifications to the Balkans' geopolitical landscape in the nineteenth century had far-reaching effects, including on Albania. Alba had to do with the 1878 Congress of Berlin, which reorganised territory following the Russo-Turkish War and attempted to solve the Eastern Question. Redrawing borders regularly, without considering ethnic or cultural factors, led to friction and conflict (Frattolillo and Stocchiero, 2002).

The ambitions of the Albanian people for greater independence and autonomy were met with resistance from powerful neighbouring nations. Geopolitical dynamics became complicated due to nationalist movements' ascent in Serbia and Greece and

the aspirations of the leading nations. As Albanian nationalism rose, a political group known as the League of Prizren emerged in 1878 to advocate for Albanian self-governance (Hammond, 1974).

The formation of Albania was also impacted by the economic transformations of the 19th century. Social dynamics and land ownership changed due to the rise of capitalist economic systems to power and the fall of the Ottoman Empire. The socioeconomic dynamics of Albanian society were significantly influenced by the rise of a capitalist elite after the Ottoman feudal system collapsed.

The Republic of Albania is the official name of the Southeastern European nation known as Albania.

A Mediterranean nation on the edge of the Adriatic and Ionian seas nestled in the heart of Europe, while Greece, North Macedonia, Kosovo, and Montenegro are all geographically adjacent to the country. Along with other important cities like Durrës, Vlorë, and Shkodër, Tirana's lively capital is the country's dynamic centre. Alternating with sunny shores along the Adriatic and Ionian seas, Albania boasts snow-capped high summits like the Albanian Alps, Korab, Skanderbeg, Pindus, and Ceraunian Mountains (Adhami, 1958).

Greece, the Illyrians, the Thracians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Venetians, and the mighty Ottomans are just a few of the many civilizations that have left their mark on Albania's rich history. The Albanians founded the independent Principality of Arbër in the 12th century and expanded it into the Kingdom and Principality of Albania in the following centuries. European historical sources attest to Skanderbeg's valour in fending off the Ottoman conquest of Europe in the fifteenth century (Hammond, 1974). Many Albanians achieved greatness in the Ottoman Empire's political and administrative spheres during the nearly 500 years of Ottoman rule. A remarkable upsurge in intellectual and cultural activities known as the Albanian Renaissance began in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. According to Zickel et al. (1994), Albania formally declared its independence in 1912 following the decline of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkan Wars. Italy invaded Albania militarily in the 1900s, which coincided with the rise of the People's Socialist Republic under Enver Hoxha and the establishment of Nazi protectorates. It was in 1991 that communism collapsed in Albania, leading to the formation of the modern Republic of Albania.

D. The Development of Albania Through Time

Albania can look back on a long and fruitful history, beginning with the ancient Illyrian civilizations and continuing all the way up to its establishment as a modern nation-state in the twentieth century. Various tribes with unique cultures comprised the Illyrians, who lived in the area in ancient times. Artifacts discovered during excavations attest to the Illyrians' prosperous agricultural, trade, and craftsmanship practices (Walter, 1994)..

In the second century BCE, a watershed moment in Illyria's history occurred when the Roman Empire invaded the region. The region of Illyria was essential to the development of both the Roman Republic and the Byzantine Empire. The region's cultural and theological landscape was profoundly and eternally shaped by the Byzantine era's rapid Christianization, which continued for centuries afterward.

Foreign invaders such as the Bulgarians, Normans, and Serbs appeared during the medieval era. Nevertheless, unique cultural aspects were preserved due to the tenacity of the indigenous inhabitants and the difficult landscape. Ottoman rule over Albania began in the 15th century and lasted more than 400 years. The Ottoman Empire was taking shape at this period (Diamanti, 2016).

The Albanians witnessed a mingling of cultural influences during the Ottoman era, incorporating Western and Eastern traditions. The intricate Ottoman administrative structure and unwavering commitment to religious tolerance profoundly affected Albania's social structure.

The rise of Albanian nationalism in the 1800s sparked a passionate desire for independence. The Congress of Berlin in 1878 and other geopolitical upheavals in the Balkans laid the groundwork for the rise of Albanian nationalism. The 1878 League of Prizren represented the group's independence and official acknowledgement aspirations.

In the early 20th century, there were many wars and major shifts in global power dynamics. After the Ottoman Empire collapsed in 1912, Albanians declared independence. But there were additional problems for the young nation at home and abroad, such as territorial disputes and the influence of Italy's might (Uruçi and Gedeshi, 2003)..

Fascism had a major influence throughout the First and Second World Wars because Italy wanted to increase its dominance in the surrounding area. In 1944, a communist government was established in Albania under Enver Hoxha's leadership due to the presence of occupation and opposition following World War II. For a long period, Hoxha's government was known for its isolationism and severe persecution of its citizens.

With the fall of communism in 1992, Albania entered a new age. The nation enthusiastically adopted economic reforms and switched to a multiparty system. After the communist regime fell, many difficulties, such as political unrest and economic hardship, plagued the post-communist period. In its pursuit of EU integration, Albania relentlessly pursued closer relations with the bloc.

Efforts by Albania to modernize in the 21st century have run into problems with leadership, economic growth, and regional collaboration. Its continuous advancement as a sovereign nation in the global setting is built upon its complicated history, molded by diverse influences and resilient people.

There is a close relationship between European history and Albanian history. The Ardiaei, Albanoi, and Amantini were just a few of the Illyrian tribes that converged here in classical antiquity. There was a heavy concentration of Greek colonists and Thracian and Greek tribespeople along the Illyrian coast (Miranda, 1999). After becoming a part of the Roman Empire in the 3rd century BC, provinces like Macedonia, Moesia Superior, and Dalmatia were responsible for overseeing Albania. Until the Slavic migrations in the 7th century brought about major changes to the region's population makeup, the region remained under the dominion of the Roman and Byzantine empires (Pallottino, 2009).

The establishment of the medieval Kingdom of Albania was caused by the rise of the Principality of Arbër and its union with Sicily during the Middle Ages. It was under the control of the Serbian and Venetian empires. Several Albanian kingdoms emerged between the middle of the fourteenth and the end of the fifteenth century, only to be conquered by the Ottoman Empire. When Albania officially became an Ottoman province in Rumelia, where it stayed until 1912. Zickel, Iwaskiw, and Walter (1994) noted that the region did experience brief periods of self-governance under native Albanian kings. The late 19th-century surge of nationalism throughout the Ottoman Empire was the direct cause of the rise of

Albanian nationalism (Frattolillo and Stocchiero, 2002).

The twentieth century was a turbulent one for Albania. Before the first Albanian Republic lasted from 1925 to 1928, there was the Principality of Albania, which lasted from 1914 to 1925. Then, from 1928 until 1939, the Kingdom of Albania was born. Before the start of World War II, Italy seized the country. Following the war, Enver Hoxha imposed a communist regime on Albania known as the Socialist People's Republic of Albania, which he ruled until he died in 1985. The fall of the Eastern Bloc in the late 1980s ended the dictatorship led by Ramiz Alia (Achilli, Olivieri and Pala, 2007).

Many Albanians emigrated to North America, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, and Germany after the fall of communism in 1990, ushering in a period marked by severe political and economic instability. In 1997, during the Albanian Turmoil, the situation was at its worst. Throughout the 21st century, Albania's political and economic spheres have witnessed consistent advancement. Currently, Albania is attempting to join the European Union, and it reached a major milestone in 2009 when it joined NATO (Portera et al., 2010).

E. History of Ottoman and Albania relations

The history of ties between the Ottoman Empire and Albania is marked by a complicated interplay of collaboration and conflict over many centuries. The Ottoman Empire, led by Sultan Mehmed II, conquered Albania in the latter half of the 15th century. Although Albania was a part of the Ottoman Empire, many sections of the country retained a small degree of autonomy, and local authorities exercised some degree of self-administration in their governance. In addition, Albanians were recruited to serve in the elite Janissary Corps of the Ottoman Empire, where they made substantial contributions to the empire's military and administrative services.

Uprisings and resistance movements served as a defining characteristic of this relationship. During the 15th century, Gjergj Kastrioti, also known as Skanderbeg, led rebellions against the Ottomans. As a result, Albania often became a battlefield during hostilities between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Venice.

The 19th century began the emergence of nationalist sentiments in Albania, ultimately resulting in uprisings against Ottoman control. Significant individuals,

such as Ismail Qemali, contributed to the development of Albanian national identity. As a result of the Ottoman Empire's decline in power as a result of the Balkan Wars, Albania made its declaration of independence on November 28, 1912. Certain districts that Albanians inhabited continued to exist outside of the newly constituted state throughout the era that followed World War I, which resulted in revisions to boundaries. In addition, people of Albanian ethnicity found themselves existing inside the limits of the Republic of Turkey, notably in locations such as Istanbul and Anatolia. In this way, the connection between the Ottoman Empire and Albania developed through a combination of cultural influences, periods of peace, and occasional wars, culminating in Albania's fight for independence and the foundation of the state in 1912.

F.   Italy's Historical Development: From Antiquity to the Present

The reflection of the intricacies and achievements of European culture, Italy's history is a complex tapestry. According to archaeological evidence, the Italian Peninsula was inhabited by anatomically modern people about 43,000 years ago (Madrugearu and Gordon, 2007). Coppa Nevigata's identification of Cardium Pottery marks the beginning of the Neolithic period, which began around 6000 BC; around 1500 BC, the Bronze Age began, which may coincide with the arrival of the Indo-European speakers who would later become the Italic tribes of the Iron Age. According to Achilli, Olivieri, and Pala (2007), the Etruscan civilization in central Italy and the Greek colonies in the southern regions had prosperous periods between the eighth and fifth centuries BC.

The Italic tribes were greatly impacted by the Latins, who had originally settled in the Latium area. When the Roman Republic was established in the third century BC, their military victories reached their pinnacle. A formidable empire, the Romans ruled Italy for hundreds of years and greatly impacted Western European culture. As a result, Christianity was formally sanctioned and spread widely in the late fourth century.

Late Antiquity ended with the collapse of the Western Roman Empire in the fifth century AD, which coincided with the establishment of the Lombard Kingdom. The Lombard provinces were assimilated into Francia and the Holy Roman Empire over time, even though Byzantine influence lingered in certain areas until the

eleventh century. The medieval political landscape was highly fragmented due to the rise of powerful city-states and maritime republics. After the catastrophic Italian Wars, several European countries, including Austria and Spain, divided the peninsula. Napoleonic France thus conquered the area.

Italy's history is intricate and long, spanning millennia and including elements of ancient times, civilizations, and the expansion and decline of empires. The ancient Etruscans, Ligures, and Italics were among the indigenous peoples who lived on the Italian peninsula. The southern region of Italy is rich in cultural diversity, thanks to the Ancient Greek colonies that spread across the region. The Romans left an indelible mark on Western culture when they rose from a small city-state in 753 BCE to a powerful republic and, later, an expansive empire.

Italy had tremendous influence over law, architecture, and government during the height of the Roman Empire. Unfortunately, internal problems like political unrest, economic downturn, and foreign invasions led to the Western Roman Empire's downfall in 476 CE and the ensuing era of fragmentation (Zolo, 2002). During the Middle Ages, Italy was divided into numerous city-states and regions, each with distinct political and cultural traits. The Byzantine, Lombard, and Carolingian empires shaped the intricate geopolitical scene.

During the fourteenth through the seventeenth centuries, Italy experienced a remarkable Renaissance that was defined by a renaissance in art, literature, and science. Famous thinkers like Galileo, Machiavelli, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci found inspiration in Italian cities like Florence, which served as hubs for invention. The Renaissance established Italy as a hub of intellectual innovation and set the stage for its enduring cultural legacy.

The early modern era was characterized by the political impact of Spain, France, and Austria over Italy. When it began in the 19th century, the Risorgimento sought to unite Italy. In 1861, this movement reached its pinnacle with the establishing of the Kingdom of Italy, ruled by King Victor Emmanuel II. Although the objective of consolidation was achieved, creating a united nation from disparate lands continued to face obstacles.

A major actor in global politics, Italy rose to prominence in the turbulent twentieth century. The Italian involvement in both World Wars and the rise of Benito

Mussolini's fascist regime in the 1920s significantly impacted the country's course. Mussolini wanted to make Rome look like ancient Rome again, but his policies contributed to Italy's downfall during WWII and the fall of fascism (Portera et al., 2010).

After WWII ended, the Italian monarchy was abolished, and the country became known as the Republic in 1946. A period of economic growth and prosperity for Italy dubbed the "Italian Economic Miracle," allowed the country to become an industrial powerhouse. Political instability continued owing to the succession of coalition administrations taking power, even though economic progress was present.

Italy had to deal with modern problems in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. European integration, the country's participation in the EU, and global economic trends all impacted the country's trajectory. Issues such as economic transformations, geographical disparities, and immigration became prominent. Italy's rich history, which spans from antiquity to the present, reveals a never-ending march toward modernity, with the country's complex social fabric bearing the marks of its rich past (Roos and Zaun, 2016).

When Italy was finally united in 1861, nationalist sentiment reached its zenith in the nineteenth century. Quickly expanding its colonial empire in Africa and the Mediterranean, the newly formed Kingdom of Italy began a modernization process. However, the Italian diaspora was influenced by notable regional differences, particularly in the rural South. After defeating their long-time enemies in World War I, Austria and Italy were overcome by intense social unrest. Because of the upheaval, Benito Mussolini and the Fascists were able to install an authoritarian regime. 1943, Italy's turbulent Civil War began following the country's alliance with the Axis powers during WWII. When the Fascist group fell in the spring of 1945, the war was at its peak.

The Constitutional Referendum in 1946 was a watershed moment in post-war Italy, leading to the dethroning of the monarchy (Pallottino, 2009). A new era in Italian history began on June 2, 1946, when a republic was formally declared. The "Italian Economic Miracle," a time of massive modernization and sustained economic growth in Italy, mostly occurred in the 1950s and 1960s. During this extraordinary economic prosperity period, they allowed Italy to reassert itself as a leading Western democratic power on the world stage.

Quickly and actively, Italy became a member of several international organizations. The nation's dedication to working with neighbouring states on political and economic matters was reaffirmed when it joined the European Economic Community, which later became the European Union. As further proof of its steadfast dedication to world peace and security, Italy joined the UN. During the Cold War, the country established military ties with other democracies by joining NATO (Elisabetta, 2015).

Italy has joined the G7, an alliance of the world's most developed nations, and its global influence has grown. More than that, Italy is now a part of the OECD, whose mission is to advance global policies that enhance people's material and social conditions. These alliances solidify Italy's position as a crucial regional player in the geopolitical arena and highlight its increasing influence and responsibility on a global scale (Zickel et al., 1994)

Because of its unwavering dedication to democratic principles and international cooperation, as well as its ability to persevere in the face of hardship and change, Italy maintains a pivotal position in regional and global affairs. The resilience of the Italian people and their ability to rebuild after devastating damage in World War II is on full display in the country's rise to prominence in several industries.

G. The Migration of Albanians to Italy: A Historical Account

The Albanian diaspora has weathered political turmoil, economic hardship, and social revolution through the ages. The phenomenon is well-established in the quest for better opportunities, often driven by political turmoil, and it stretches from neighbouring European nations to faraway continents.

The first major emigration of Albanians occurred in 1468 when the Albanian national hero Gjergj Kastrioti (Scanderbeg) was defeated. On account of the Ottoman conquest that followed the fall of his Krujë stronghold, around 200,000 Albanians sought refuge in places such as Dalmatia, Venice, Italy; Thessaly, Eubea, Beoti, and Atika of Corinth in Greece. However, migration continued throughout Albania's five-century Ottoman rule to escape the poverty, blood feuds, and oppression of the Ottoman Empire. Another name for this movement was "Kurt," it had many

purposes, including opening up trade and jobs within the enormous Ottoman Empire (Walter, 1994).

Throughout the five-century Ottoman reign in Albania, migration persisted to evade Ottoman oppression, poverty, and blood feuds. Referred to as "kurbet," this movement served multiple objectives, such as facilitating trade and employment opportunities inside the vast Ottoman Empire. In 1990, the collapse of communist rule led to a significant surge in migration, marking another major wave of movement toward the close of the 20th century. Albania experienced a time characterized by high levels of desperation, with citizens facing challenges such as unemployment, homelessness, and extreme poverty. The mass migration mostly focused on Italy and Greece because of their proximity and favourable economic prospects (Roos and Zaun, 2016).

The Arbëresh people, located in Southern Italy and Sicily, are noteworthy as they are descendants of Albanians who migrated during the Ottoman invasion. For over five hundred years, these settlements have effectively preserved their unique language and customs, serving as living demonstrations of the resilience and adaptability of the Albanian people. Many European nations, as well as the US, Canada, and Australia, are home to members of the Albanian diaspora. Political unrest and economic hardship, the primary motivators of this movement, have remained constant across all eras. The modernization, or "Europeanization" of Albanians, has significant ramifications for Albania and the nations where these groups have settled, and their integration into their respective host societies has been crucial to this process (Achilli, Olivieri and Pala, 2007).

In conclusion, migration has played a critical role in Albanian history, impacting the country's socioeconomic structure and the cultural and social dynamics of many other countries.

H. The Albanian Exile Community

A complex and diverse phenomenon, the Albanian diaspora mirrors the rich history of Albania and the many migration waves that have passed through the nation over the years. More than 40% of Albanians live outside of Albania, making the Albanian diaspora one of the largest in the world in relation to the home country's

population.

One of the longest-standing and most prominent Albanian diaspora groups is the Arbëreshë community in Italy. The migration waves that occurred in the 1500s, after the Ottoman conquest of Albania, are the primary ancestors of these peoples. They have mostly made Sicily and Calabria their home in southern Italy. They have kept their unique language and cultural heritage alive despite being physically separated from their homeland for decades. The origins of the Arvanites, a significant Greek population, lie in their migration in the fourteenth century. Their main stops are in the Peloponnesus, the area around Athens, the Ionian coast, and some Greek islands. In contrast to the Çam people, another Albanian ethnic group residing in Greece, Arvanites set themselves apart. It should be noted that Arvanitika, the language they speak, is similar to çamërishte, a South Tosk branch of Albanian (Elisabetta, 2015).

Minor Albanian diasporas can be found in Bulgaria, Ukraine, former Yugoslavia, Italy, and Greece. These groups have different origins and have integrated into their host countries to different degrees (Cohen, 1997). Genocide, nationalist violence, and war marked the tumultuous twentieth century for the Albanian people. Because of the communist Yugoslav government's aggressive policies, more than 400,000 Albanians were forced to leave their homes in Kosovo and other parts of the former Yugoslavia and settle in Turkey. Large Albanian populations settled in the Americas, Egypt, Romania, and Turkey beginning in the 18th century. The global Albanian diaspora is richly multicultural, largely thanks to the formation of these groups for reasons such as economic migration and political exile (Agostino, 1997).

The Albanian diaspora exemplifies the tenacity and flexibility of the Albanian population. Despite encountering many challenges, these diasporic communities have consistently succeeded in maintaining their distinct cultural and linguistic identities. Additionally, they play a vital role in Albania's social and economic structure by sending remittances and fostering strong connections with their country of origin. To understand Albania comprehensively, it is crucial to comprehend the diaspora, as a considerable number of Albanians reside beyond the country's existing boundaries (Frattolillo and Stocchiero, 2002).

The Albanian Diaspora is intricately connected to Albania's historical and

socio-political context. This can be traced back to the beginning of the 20th century, characterized by multiple instances of migration caused by geopolitical shifts and economic difficulties. After Albania declared independence in 1912, there was a period of internal conflict and outside pressures, causing many Albanians to flee to other countries, particularly Italy.

During the interwar period, there was a notable surge in Albanian emigration, particularly to neighbouring countries and abroad. The political transformations and financial difficulties generated compelling incentives that motivated some Albanians to pursue chances overseas. The diaspora during this period contributed to the preservation and advancement of Albanian culture, as overseas communities served as centres for cultural interactions and a way to preserve connections with the country.

World War II greatly influenced the Albanian Diaspora and the succeeding communist regime led by Enver Hoxha. The isolationist policies implemented by the communist state imposed restrictions on the mobility of individuals, resulting in lost contact with the diaspora. Nevertheless, the collapse of communism in 1992 marked the beginning of a new era, resulting in heightened migration as Albania shifted towards a more liberal society (Zickel et al., 1994).

During the 1990s and early 2000s, there was a significant increase in Albanian migration, resulting in the establishment of diaspora groups in Western Europe, North America, and other regions. Economic considerations, political instability, and the aspiration for an improved quality of life drove the exodus from their native land. These migrants frequently encountered difficulties in assimilating and adjusting to their host countries, but they played a vital part in the economic progress of both Albania and their adopted nations.

The Albanian Diaspora has emerged as a vibrant and diverse entity, enriching the cultural diversity and economic prosperity of the nations where they reside. The Albanian diaspora has cultivated an internationally favourable perception of Albania, dispelling preconceived notions and contributing to a more sophisticated comprehension of Albanian history and culture. In addition, expatriate communities have facilitated charitable efforts and made investments in Albania, serving as a connection between the homeland and the places where they currently reside (Zolo, 2002).

The diaspora's dedication to safeguarding Albanian identity is noteworthy, as seen by their efforts to maintain language, traditions, and cultural customs. Albanian community centres, festivals, and social networks overseas function as central points for cultural interchange and unification. The diaspora additionally acts as a proponent for the interests of the Albanian community residing in host nations and fosters connections with the homeland.

İ. The Albanian Emigration After the Collapse of Socialist Totalitarianism

The post-socialist era in Albania witnessed a notable phase in the history of Albanian emigration. Following the collapse of the system in 1990, a significant emigration of Albanians commenced, primarily driven by their strong aversion towards the repressive communist administration, as well as the severe economic predicament faced by the nation.

During the period from 1944 to 1990, while Albania was under totalitarian rule, any attempt to leave the nation was seen as an act of treason, with severe penalties such as imprisonment or even capital punishment. Border guards were given the legal authority to use lethal force against anybody who tried to cross the border, resulting in a climate of fear and desperation. Before the 1990s, Western Europe had limited knowledge about Albanian immigrants, which posed challenges for their assimilation into Western communities. Initially, Greece and Italy served as the primary destinations for Albanian immigration. Italy received around 50,000 Albanian refugees in 1991. The user's text is empty. Meanwhile, Greece became an important destination, as amnesties provided in 1998 and 2001 made it easier for hundreds of thousands of Albanian migrants to be officially recognized. The travel patterns were often perilous, with the Adriatic Sea witnessing numerous calamities as individuals attempted hazardous crossings to Italy, while overland routes to Greece posed similar risks (Achilli, Olivieri and Pala, 2007).

The significant emigration of Albanians also resulted in other adverse social problems. The activities encompassed the fabrication of personal documents, the illicit trade of humans, drugs, and weapons, the operation of prostitution, and the coordination of criminal enterprises. Widespread illegal border crossings were frequent, leading to the emergence of a criminal underworld that eventually formed the basis for the establishment of the Albanian mafia. These actions damaged the

reputation of the Albanian diaspora and made it more difficult for them to integrate into their host nations. The migration was undeniably a quest for liberation. However, it was not without its drawbacks. Although numerous Albanians endeavored to pursue lawful means of reconstructing their lives, the escalation of illicit undertakings emerged as a significant apprehension for Albania and the nations they visited. Many Albanians saw this period as a lost chance to transition seamlessly into democratic societies (Uruçi and Gedeshi, 2003).

The Albanian diaspora that emerged after 1990 continues to play a vital role in the country's social structure, making a substantial economic contribution through remittances. Nevertheless, Albania and its diaspora are still confronted with substantial obstacles, such as integration difficulties, organized crime, and the depletion of human resources.

J.   The Complexity of the Transition Period for Albanian Emigrants

The post-communist era in Albania, which began in the 1990s following the downfall of the socialist system, has been a period characterized by significant turmoil and difficulties for Albanian exiles. These hurdles are complex, encompassing the obstacles of assimilation in host nations and the difficulties faced in Albania.

An important concern arises from the perceived apathy of the Albanian government towards its diaspora throughout the transitional phase. Albanian immigrants have encountered difficulties obtaining citizenship and assimilating into their host nations. Additionally, they have frequently faced political disenfranchisement in their place of origin, rendering them unable to use their voting rights. Their capacity to influence cultural and political affairs in Albania has been restricted, resulting in a paradoxical situation where they make economic contributions yet face political marginalization.

From 1992 to 2006, the Albanian diaspora made a significant economic contribution during the initial 15 years of post-communist migration. Remittances have emerged as a crucial component of the Albanian economy, with almost every household in Albania relying on financial assistance from relatives residing elsewhere. The value of remittances experienced a significant increase, rising from

over 3 billion U.S. dollars in the early 2000s to over 5 billion U.S. dollars by 2007.

Due to two primary factors, the significance of these remittances has decreased over the past few years. These factors are as follows:

Economic Crisis on a Global Scale: In particular, Italy and Greece, both of which have substantial populations of Albanian immigrants, have been hit by the recession that has had a significant impact on the majority of Western Europe. As a consequence of the crisis, Albanian immigrants have experienced a decrease in their income and an increase in their unemployment rate, which has led to a decrease in the amount of money they send back to their home country.

The generational shift occurs when a new group of Albanian migrants settles down in their new countries of residence, prioritizing meeting their immediate family needs, such as housing and education, rather than sending money back to Italy.

Throughout the period of transition, Albanian emigrants have encountered a huge number of challenges. Although they have made significant economic contributions to Albania through remittances, they have also experienced political marginalization in their country of origin and struggle to integrate into the societies in which they are currently living. In addition, the global economic crisis and shifts in generational dynamics have resulted in a reduction in remittances, ultimately affecting Albania's economy. To improve the well-being of the immigrants and the nation, the Albanian government and its diaspora continue to face difficulties in effectively managing the complexities involved. It is important to provide a concise overview of the history of Italy's migration policies.

It is common practice to divide the history of migration in Italy into two distinct periods, each distinguished by its unique conditions, regulations, and obstacles.

1. The Years 1861-1915: Beginning with the Unification of Italy and Ending with World War I

North Italy was the place of origin for the vast majority of the first Italian immigrants. Emigrants included many different types of people, including artists, street vendors, small business owners, and even a few political dissidents.

Southern Italy experienced a decline in economic conditions following the

unification of Italy in 1861, which resulted in a significant influx of people leaving the region. A prominent Italian "Southernist" named Francesco Saverio Nitti came up with the slogan "Either migrants or bandits," which encapsulated the terrible situation concisely.

Individual choices were the primary impetus behind Italian migration during this period; the government did not exert significant influence or any safeguards.

The first piece of legislation that was enacted to safeguard migrants was authorized in 1888, and it was subsequently revised in 1901.

Between 1861 and 1880, the number of people migrating increased to 100,000 yearly. In 1913, the number of migrants increased to approximately 900,000 in a single year! A subsequent decrease in the number of people leaving their country of origin to settle in another country was a direct consequence of the outbreak of World War I.

2. The Years 1922 to 1942: The Temporary Interval Between the Two World Wars

As a result of regulatory restrictions imposed by host nations, particularly the United States, and the rise of fascism in Italy, the number of people migrating internationally decreased during this time.

A general opposition to the permanent migration of Italians to foreign countries was held by the fascist administration, which also sought to make use of these individuals within the existing labor force of the nation or in colonies.

Rome played host to the first-ever International Conference of Emigration and Immigration in 1912, a significant event because it demonstrated the necessity of enhancing migration governance on a global scale.

During the 1920s and 1930s, there was a notable decrease in the percentage of people who migrated. At the same time, a bilateral commercial agreement with Germany led to the migration of approximately half a million Italians to Germany in 1930.

In 1939, a positive trend in net migration began to emerge, partially attributed to an increase in the amount of money sent back to Italy.

3. The Overall Numbers Come to

Between 1922 and 1942, it was estimated that approximately 1.2 million people would have migrated from one place to another.

Between the years immediately following Italy's unification and the years between the wars, there have been significant shifts in the policies and trends about migration in Italy. An attitude of laissez-faire and a significant amount of emigration were the defining characteristics of the early phase. On the other hand, during the later period, there was an increase in state control and a decrease in international mobility, both of which were influenced by factors within the country and those originating from outside the country.

Beginning in 1946 and continuing until 1975 and continuing up until the present day, the complex situation regarding migration in Italy was described.

A significant turning point in Italy's migration history occurred in 1975 when the country went from being a nation of emigration to a nation of immigration. This was a significant event in the country's history. In recognition of the growing significance of immigration in Italy, the Italian Parliament approved the Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers issued by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The Emigration Process Experienced a Transformation Similar to That of Italian Emigration. During this period, a transformation also occurred. The phenomenon was characterized by an increase in the educational attainment of emigrants, the reunification of families, and a particular emphasis on migrating to European countries. These tendencies emerged even though the total figures were lower in comparison to earlier levels of migration.

The inaugural National Conference on Emigration took place in Rome in 1975 to evaluate current immigration policies and establish forthcoming objectives. Notable achievements comprise the formation of the General Council of Italians Abroad in 1989, the foundation of the Committees of Italians Abroad in 1985, the granting of voting rights to emigrants in 2001, and the implementation of a revised citizenship statute in 1992.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, there was a significant decrease in the movement of people across international borders, both in terms of people entering

and leaving a country. During the 1980s, the net migration figures remained stable at around 80,000, with a significant focus on European countries, particularly Germany and Switzerland, among the countries that experienced the most migration. As a result, Sicily developed into a significant hub of departure.

4. What's New in the New Millennium? New Trends

There was a steady flow of migration throughout the 1990s and 2000s, with an annual average of approximately 40,000 people moving from one place to another. During this period, however, there was a shift in migration characteristics.

A growing number of young people with high levels of education in Italy left the country in search of better opportunities in other parts of the world, specifically in Europe, the United States of America, and Asia. In common parlance, these people are called "new immigrants" of Italian descent.

Over time, Italy has evolved into a multifaceted migration landscape, where both emigration and immigration are significant factors. Previously, Italy was known for its high rate of emigration. The characteristics of migration have changed over the past few decades due to factors such as educational opportunities and economic circumstances, both within a country and beyond its borders. This is despite the number of migrants remaining relatively intact over the past few decades (Steiner, 2004). A more sophisticated approach to governance in this area is demonstrated by the fact that Italy's policies have developed over time. In general, the history of Italian migration is marked by continuous change, which reflects larger societal, economic, and political forces acting in the world.

K. Foreign Immigration in Italy: From the 1970s to Today

- Before the 1980s, the Italian public's attitude toward immigrants was largely impartial, marked by curiosity and apathy (Strozza, 2016).

- During this period, social organizations such as trade unions, voluntary associations, and the Church played a role in cultivating a more hospitable disposition.

- The government only acknowledged migration as a concern from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s. However, its response to it was typically reactive

and focused on immediate emergencies, lacking long-term planning (Sciortino and Colombo, 2004).

- The Consolidation Act on Immigration, enacted in 1998, marked substantial legal progress in migration governance. However, the public's perspective remained divided, and the measure did not garner extensive support from parliament.

- In the 2000s, there was an increase in legislative interventions that imposed tighter restrictions. Amendments were made to the 1998 Act in 2002 and 2009, reducing its scope but not eliminating it.

- There is an acknowledged requirement for a well-rounded, inclusive migration policy that can adjust to the country's shifting demographics and economic requirements (Colombo and Sciortino, 2004).

The public's viewpoint remains polarised, mirroring wider societal conflicts around immigration.

Italy's transition from being a country where people emigrated to one that now experiences major immigration inside the European Union is defined by stages distinguished by changes in how the public views immigration, how the government reacts to it, and the laws put in place. Despite experiencing an increase in the number of immigrants and acknowledging the requirement for more workers in certain industries, Italy has not yet implemented a comprehensive, enduring plan for immigration management (Levy, 2015).

Since the late 1990s, the country has achieved notable advancements in legislation. However, these have frequently encountered alterations and limitations, which mirror the divided public sentiment and political discussions regarding immigration. Italy's forthcoming immigration strategy would likely require a more equitable and all-encompassing approach to the nation's economic requirements and the social and cultural complexities of growing diversity (Bulli and Soare, 2018).

Italy's immigration policy and public perception have seen substantial transformations throughout the years, shaped by economic circumstances, societal attitudes, and political factors. Although there has been progress in legislation, there is still a significant amount of work to be done to build a comprehensive and sustainable strategy for effectively handling the intricate challenges of contemporary

immigration (Strozza and Venturini, 2002).

L. The "Foschi Law" (943/1986) and Its Impact on Regulation of Labour and Immigration in Italy

Italy's constitutional framework, outlined in Article 10, prioritizes the legal control of foreigners' status following international regulations and agreements. The Constitution also enshrines the right to seek asylum, subject to strict criteria, especially for individuals deprived of democratic liberties in their countries of origin. Before the enactment of the 1986 law, the nation depended on the 1931 legislation concerning public security, which granted significant administrative discretion in subjects of residence and employment. In Ruling No. 46 of 1977, the Constitutional Court emphasized the necessity of having thorough and coherent legislation regarding the admission and stay of foreign individuals (Colucci, 2022).

The number of foreign residents residing in Italy experienced a demographic growth, rising from 300,000 in the 1970s to 450,000 in 1986. Concurrently, there was a decline in the proportion of EU nationals among them, indicating the increasing heterogeneity of Italy's immigrant community.Italy formally endorsed the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Convention No. 143/1975 in 1981, five years after its initial approval. Despite having the power to issue decrees to implement the duties of the Convention, the government opted to introduce a regular bill for a thorough discussion in parliament instead, as stated in the ratification statute (No. 158). The 1981 murder attempt on Pope John Paul II and the subsequent increase in irregular migration flows caused public anxiety and resulted in stricter border controls. It had minimal impact on reducing irregular migration and primarily led to a rise in illegal presence (Salis, 2012).

1. The "Foschi Law" (Law No. 943, 1986)

In December 1986, the Italian Parliament enacted the "Foschi Law" to oversee the placement and treatment of non-EU foreign workers and address the issue of irregular migration. The law was named after the Member of Parliament, who advocated for its enactment. It received support from prominent political groups such as the Christian Democrat Party, the Italian Communist Party, and the Italian Socialist Party. The enactment of the "Foschi Law" marked a substantial

advancement in restructuring Italy's immigration and labor laws. It addressed an increasing demand for a thorough legislative structure despite being a component of a broader, fragmented strategy for managing migration in Italy (Foschi et al., 2016).

The enactment of the "Foschi Law" represents a notable, albeit delayed, advancement in the Italian government's strategy towards labor and immigration legislation. The law emerged due to the imperative need and a progressively developing understanding of Italy's shifting position as a target for global migration. Nevertheless, it also revealed the intricacies and difficulties of developing a unified immigration strategy in the face of increasing public concerns and a dearth of strategic foresight. The bill's enactment can be interpreted as a significant achievement; however, it also illustrates the ongoing conflicts and concessions that define Italy's stance on immigration and labor regulation (Colucci, 2022).

M. The "Martelli Law" (39/90) and Its Impact on Regulation of Stay in Italy

The Martelli Law was established as a response to the insufficiency of Italy's previous legislative framework, including the Foschi Law (943/1986), to deal with the intricacies of immigration effectively. The Foschi Law primarily focused on employment matters and was deemed inadequate for regulating the immigration and residency of foreign individuals. During this time, there was an increasing recognition of racial conflicts, as demonstrated by the murder of Jerry Essan Masslo, a South African laborer, in 1989.

Minister of Social Affairs Rosa Russo Jervolino and Vice-President of the Council of Ministers Claudio Martelli championed the legislative development. Jervolino endorsed the complete enforcement of the Foschi Law, while Martelli campaigned to enact new, all-encompassing legislation. Martelli sought to implement an inclusive immigration strategy that adhered to European norms. His legal perspective encompassed legislation on immigration, such as entry and residency requirements, job regulations, housing provisions, and aid programs for foreign nationals. Additionally, he advocated for a more comprehensive approach to recognizing and supporting asylum applicants from countries beyond Eastern Europe (Parati, 1998).

Given the pressing nature of the situation, the government chose to enact a

law decree, which subsequently became known as the Martelli Law (Law No. 39 of 1990). This legislation aimed to achieve equilibrium by integrating both progressive and traditional components. As an illustration, although it introduced improvements in the immigration system that were more systematic and compassionate, it also incorporated measures that limited access, such as visas, and enhanced the presence of border police. These concessions were mostly made to satisfy the Republican Party, which was against the new direction.The law garnered widespread support upon its implementation, with 90% of the political spectrum voting in favor, except the Republican Party and the Italian Social Movement. The law received backing from several social organizations, trade unions, entrepreneurial groupings, and the Catholic Church (Carchedi and Ferri, 2016).

The Martelli Law marked a pivotal moment in Italian immigration policy, implementing a more holistic strategy to address the complexities presented by immigration. The act addressed both employment and social and humanitarian problems, setting the stage for later laws to strive for a greater equilibrium between Italy's obligations and its status as an increasingly popular destination for migrants.The Martelli Law played a major role in determining Italy's immigration policy. With a focus on a range of concerns, including employment and social welfare, the objective was to establish a comprehensive policy that could effectively respond to the changing demographic landscape of Italy. Nevertheless, the legislation also brought attention to the difficulties and conflicts in developing a consistent and universally accepted immigration policy within a societal and political strain background (Poudin and Pavlov, 2023).

N. Turco-Napolitano Law" (Consolidation Act 40/1998)

Law 39/1990 was inadequate regarding integration procedures, and the "Turco-Napolitano Law" (Consolidation Act 40/1998) had a rocky passage. The government subsequently introduced many reception measures covering healthcare, education, vocational training, and recognition of educational qualifications in Bill No. 5353/1992. Unfortunately, the legislative session ended without this bill being approved. In keeping with this approach, a Study Commission presided over by Fernanda Contri was established by a decree issued by the Minister for Social Affairs (September 8, 1993) during the Ciampi administration to draft a thorough law

regarding the legal status of foreigners. In 1994, the Commission finished its work and sent a proposed bill to the prime minister before the legislative session ended. The concepts of openness in the European setting, different from Italy's, informed this proposed legislation. The European Union Member States' Ministers of Justice and Interior met in Luxembourg on June 24, 1994, and they passed a resolution defining entries as "extraordinary occurrences." This resolution deserves mention. With the help of religious organizations and groups gathered by the National Council of Economy and Labor (CNEL), Mr. Contri's Commission proposal was fine-tuned (Zincone and Caponio, 2006).

Under Berlusconi's center-right administration, on June 13, 1994, Alleanza Nazionale party member Vincenzo Nespoli proposed merging several bills presented to the Chamber of Deputies. The goal was to give top priority to the strictest regulations. Because of the negative connotation associated with immigration, the Church's response was to call for more stringent border controls and less protection of basic human rights. But the fall of Berlusconi's government meant the plan couldn't go forward. Nonetheless, it highlighted the stark differences in immigration policy between the two main categories (Zincone, 2006).

Under Dini's successive "technical government," a series of measures were put into place by Law Decree No. 489 of November 18, 1995. These measures included the duty to receive migrants, the protection of employment, and the granting of legal status. However, there was also the possibility of tightening border controls and deportations, which raised concerns about legitimacy. Both centrist and left-wing political groups, including the Lega Nord, had input into these policies. The 60-day deadline for the enactment of this legal decree, however, was missed (Zincone and Caponio, 2006).

. Under Mr. Prodi's leadership, the new center-left government introduced a new comprehensive migration law and only accepted the regularization clauses. At the same time, over a million people immigrated. Signed into law on March 6, 1998, Law No. 40 is subtitled "Provisions concerning immigration and the condition of third-country nationals." Government Bill No. 3240, introduced to the Chamber of Deputies on February 19, 1997, served as the basis for this law, with certain revisions. Members of the Italian government, including President Romano Prodi, Minister of Social Solidarity Mrs. Turco, Minister of the Interior Mr. Napolitano, and

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Dini, were the first to sign this bill. Many people call it the "Turco-Napolitano Law." This law recognizes migration as a basic and systematic phenomenon, calling for careful planning by the highest political authority (the Presidency of the Council of Ministers) over three years, with plans being implemented each year through decrees (Bello, 2022). Working with home nations (via forming bilateral agreements and developing migration plans in response to job opportunities) is an integral part of this process. Appreciations to the regulatory flexibility, the government was given the green light to make the necessary changes within two years to conform to the law's principles and ensure they're put into practice effectively.

1.   Maroni Law" (94/2009)

In the "Maroni Law" (94/2009), commonly known as the "security package," stricter regulations on public safety were imposed, along with significant changes about migrants, by Law No. 94 of July 15, 2009. Unauthorized entry and stay is now a crime punishable by up to ten years in prison and a fine of five thousand to ten thousand euros. Just because someone pays a fine doesn't mean they're no longer guilty. Nonetheless, it should be noted that the European Court of Justice has rejected this issue. The rules outlined in Articles 361 and 362 of the Penal Code also punish public servants and officials responsible for public service when they do not fulfill "the duty to report a crime they became aware of." It was in 1998 in Italy that the first inquiry into Cuban visas was initiated. Iran, Algeria, Albania, Argentina, Belarus, Croatia, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Romania, Russia, Somalia, Turkey, and Ukraine were the subjects of many follow-up investigations in the years that followed. The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs worked together to confirm that many of the visas issued were fraudulent (Maroni, 2022).

O.   Nazi The Albanian Monarchy and Italy's Approach: A Complex Web of Diplomatic Relations and Influence

As a key, it strengthened its grip over Albania during the interwar era, specifically in the 1930s AIH, A.V.42 (The domestic policy of Albanian Monarchy, Alqi Kristo). The Friendship and Security Pact and the Treaty of the Defensive Alliance were among the many political and economic agreements Italy and Albania

entered into. A transit point for its expansionist ambitions in the Balkans and the East, Italy sought to.

Italy and Albania were already on edge in 1931 due to the pact's impending expiration. King Zogu I, Prime Minister Pandeli Evangjeli, and Minister of Economy Mehdi Frashëri saw the deal's asymmetrical conditions as a threat to Albania's sovereignty. Even though General A. Pariani tried to convince King Zogu I to extend the First Pact of Tirana, their discussions ultimately failed. King Zogu I was walking a fine line between being overly influenced by Italy's support and using it to his advantage (Wells and Fellows, 2016).

In August 1933, after numerous disputes and rejections, Italy issued an ultimatum to Albania. The goals of the ultimatum were to strengthen Italy's influence over Albania in politics, economy, and culture. Italy made several demands, including the end of British military advisors, the "Italianization" of Albanian public services, and exclusive economic relations. Italy saw the participation of King Zogu I in the Balkan Conferences as a move towards establishing an independent foreign policy. The Albanian monarch was deftly balancing some opposing interests. While working to improve ties with Italy, he was also trying to forge closer ties with the Balkan countries bordering him. Part of the reason for this strategic approach was to address issues related to the Albanian minority in those countries (Harrison, 2007).

On February 9, 1934, Greece, Turkey, Romania, and Yugoslavia signed the Balkan Pact, a cooperation pact; Albania did not participate. There are several possible explanations as to why Albania chose not to participate in the accord, which was approved by France and Britain and was seen as a collective security agreement in the Balkans. At first, the signatory nations were wary of Italy's growing influence in Albania. The Balkan countries would have been forced to deal with issues affecting their Albanian minority populations if Albania had been a part of the union. Also, Greece and Yugoslavia were among the Balkan nations that wanted an Albanian state that was weaker and easier to divide or manipulate.

Fascist Italy's complex and multi-pronged approach to Albania sought to destabilize the region and impose control over it so that Italy could achieve its expansionist goals. At the same time, King Zogu I and the Albanian government deftly navigated a delicate diplomatic situation, trying to make the most of Italy's help while still maintaining some independence and strengthening ties to

neighbouring Balkan countries. War broke out in the end due to these intricate diplomatic manoeuvres, which mirrored broader geopolitical ambitions and tensions (Steinbock, 2013).

III.   ITALY'S APPROACH TO THE ALBANIAN MONARCHY

The intricate web of diplomatic relations and influence that makes up this network An important entry point for Italy's expansionist goals in the Balkans and the East, Italy's goal during the interwar period, specifically in the 1930s, was to strengthen its control over Albania. The Friendship and Security Pact and the Treaty of the Defensive Alliance are two examples of the political and economic agreements that Italy and Albania have entered into.

There was a rise in tensions between Italy and Albania in 1931 due to the impending expiration of the Friendship and Security Pact. As a result of the asymmetrical nature of the terms of the agreement, King Zogu I, Prime Minister Pandeli Evangjeli, and Minister of Economy Mehdi Frashëri agreed that Albania's sovereignty was being jeopardized. Even though General A. Pariani made numerous attempts to convince King Zogu I to extend the First Pact of Tirana, the discussions between the two parties ultimately did not succeed. To avoid becoming overly influenced by Italy's support, King Zogu I was attempting to strike a delicate balance between it and leveraging Italy's support.

As a result of a string of disagreements and rejections, Italy issued an ultimatum to Albania in the month of August 33. The ultimatum included several conditions to strengthen Italy's control over Albania in politics, economics, and culture. Italy made several demands, including the withdrawal of British military advisors, the establishment of exclusive economic relations, and the "Italianization" of Albanian public services (Ballinger, 2018)..

A.   The Conferences Held in the Balkans

Italy viewed King Zogu I's participation in the Balkan Conferences as a step toward establishing an independent foreign policy. This perception was developed as a result of the King's participation. The monarch of Albania was deftly balancing some competing interests, which was a delicate balance to maintain. On the one

hand, he endeavored to cultivate amicable connections with Italy while also endeavoring to enhance collaboration with regions of the Balkans that neighbor Italy. In part, the need to address concerns regarding Albanian minority populations residing in those countries was a driving force behind the adoption of this strategic approach.

The Balkan Pact was a cooperative agreement that included Greece, Turkey, Romania, and Yugoslavia. On February 9, 1934, Albania chose not to participate in ratifying the Balkan Pact, which was already in place. As a collective security accord in the Balkans, the pact was considered to have received the support of both France and Britain, respectively. A number of reasons can be cited for the fact that Albania did not take part in the event. Regarding Italy's growing dominance over Albania, the signatory nations were cautious initially. In addition, the inclusion of Albania could have compelled the countries of the Balkans to address the issues that are associated with the Albanian minority communities that are located within their territories or territories. In addition, many countries in the Balkans, particularly Greece and Yugoslavia, advocated for a weaker Albanian state that was more easily maneuverable and could be divided apart (Dalmasso, 2017).

To pursue its expansionist goals, Fascist Italy devised a complex and multi-pronged strategy toward Albania. This strategy aimed to exert control over the region and destabilize it. While simultaneously attempting to capitalize on Italian assistance while maintaining a degree of autonomy and cultivating connections with neighboring Balkan nations, King Zogu I and the Albanian administration deftly navigated a delicate diplomatic situation. While doing so, they were able to achieve their goals. The intricate diplomatic maneuvering described in this article is a reflection of the larger geopolitical tensions and ambitions that ultimately led to the outbreak of World War II (Bezzini, 2018).

B. The Complexities of Italian-Albanian relations during the 1930s

Baron Pompeo Aloisi made many significant recommendations to bolster Italian supremacy over Albania in August 1934. Furthermore, the agreements effectively relegated Albania to the position of an Italian protectorate despite providing Albania with financial benefits and stability. The proposition was rejected by King Zogu I, who concluded that it would constitute a dangerous surrender of

Albania's nationhood (Lykidis, 2013).

After being rejected, Italy intensified its subversive actions in Albania. Italy employed financial incentives and covert activities to deliberately fuel anti-government sentiments, with an emphasis on communist organizations. They allegedly orchestrated a rebellion in Fier in 1935 but subsequently abstained, ostensibly due to the conflict in Abyssinia capturing their attention.Count Ciano proposed several measures to enhance Italy's sway in Albania, including advocating for Albania's departure from the League of Nations and imposing restrictions on the Development of the Albanian armed forces (AIH, A.V.38 (The secret archives of Count Ciano, 1936-1942). Italy endeavored to attain significant economic and political concessions from Albania while striving to modernize the country and preserve its reputation as an "amiable state" (Bezzini, 2018).

By strategically navigating its diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia, Italy sought to protect its interests in Albania. The "Albanian problem" was considered a matter of mutual concern by both nations, who engaged in discussions regarding the possibility of a replacement for King Zogu I or the partition of Albania.Amid escalating tensions in March 1939, Count Ciano put forth a concluding proposition. Accompanied by an implicit military threat, indicating his readiness for more decisive action. King Zogu I declined the proposition while restating his dedication to current agreements. His counterproposals sought to build a more equitable dynamic while permitting substantial Italian influence (Ballinger, 2018).

King Zogu I's efforts to seek backing from Western countries were met with apathy. Britain, under the leadership of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, exhibited a lack of significant concern for Albania, hence strengthening the country's vulnerable situation. By the late 1930s, Italy and Albania I had reached a deadlock in their ties. Italy's investment in Albania's modernization was a covert strategy to dominate the country. King Zogu I found himself in a delicate diplomatic situation, attempting to preserve Albania's sovereignty while avoiding conflicts with a formidable neighbouring country or the apathetic Western powers. The complex and dangerous diplomatic actions highlight the vulnerable situation of small nations such as Albania in the geopolitical landscape of that era, particularly in the days preceding the advent of World War II (Fischer, 1999).

C. The growth of the Italian economy in Albania

The interwar period significantly impacted the economic relations between Albania and Italy due to the dominant geopolitical forces during that time. This partnership was intricate, encompassing investments in infrastructure and agriculture, trade agreements, and loans. However, it also generated debates regarding the extent of Albania's political self-determination and economic autonomy.

Italy regarded Albania as both an economic ally and a valuable strategic resource. Positioned across from Italy on the Adriatic Sea, an Albanian alliance was necessary for Italy to counterbalance Yugoslavian dominance in the area and advance Italy's wider geopolitical aspirations in the Balkans (Canco, 1929).

Albania was particularly susceptible to economic vulnerability following the Great Depression. The collapse of the Albanian economy exposed the country to external influences, which compelled it to seek financial assistance. Italy extended loans to the country to promote industrial and agricultural growth, finance governmental initiatives, and stabilize Albania's fiscal situation.

The financial aid provided by Italy was accompanied by conditions that frequently aimed to prolong Italian economic and political dominance. Italian dominance in Albania's key industries, including mining, fishing, and banking, was achieved through agreements and loans. Consequently, Albania gradually ceded its economic independence and developed a strong inclination towards aligning itself with Italy's economic and political goals.Albania's endeavour to mitigate the influence of Italy through collaboration with Yugoslavia was ultimately unsuccessful. Although Yugoslavia presented a potential avenue for diplomatic collaboration and investment, the effectiveness of this alternative was impeded by pre-existing disputes and limitations in Yugoslavia's capacities.

Tensions between Albania and Italy were exacerbated by the termination of substantial loans and the deterioration of commercial agreements. The juncture of the 1930s marked the pinnacle of Italian influence, which ultimately precipitated military engagement and the 1939 annexation and invasion of Albania by Italy.

Although Italian investment yielded immediate advantages, such as the enhancement of infrastructure, it also resulted in an escalating economic reliance on Italy and, ultimately, the relinquishment of sovereignty. Despite witnessing

advancements in areas such as agriculture and infrastructure, The advantages failed to offset the adverse repercussions of reduced autonomy and national sovereignty. The economic progress made by Italy in Albania can be analyzed as a case study of "soft imperialism," wherein political influence was gained through economic leverage. Albania obtained stability and economic advantages due to the alliance (Dalmasso, 2017).

However, these advantages were outweighed by the significant price paid, ultimately resulting in the erosion of Albanian autonomy. The Albanian case highlights the intricate nature and potential hazards smaller countries face when establishing economic alliances with more influential neighboring nations.

D. The relationship between Italy and Albania

The intricate interplay of migration, geopolitics, and economic interests shaped the Italian-Albanian relationship between the mid-1990s and early 2000s. During this time, there was a notable migration of individuals and the transportation of products and services across the Strait of Otranto. It led to the implementation of important bilateral initiatives and programs. These changes had consequences for both nations and their global alliances.

In the mid-1990s, Italy encountered a significant challenge due to unregulated migration from the Balkans, specifically Albania. The legislative aspect comprised the majority of Italy's response; in particular, Law 563 of 1995, also known as the "Apulia Law," was implemented to regulate the escalating influx of unauthorized immigrants into the country. The Italian border authorities and Coast Guard were aggressively engaged in stopping vessels transporting Albanians, a significant number of whom were repatriated before reaching Italian territory (Canco, 1929).

The rigorous surveillance procedures occasionally resulted in fatal outcomes, including the shipwreck of the Kater I Rades in 1997. Along with the approximately 18,000 Albanians who migrated to Italy in 1997 following the collapse of pyramid schemes in Albania, such incidents sparked widespread concern among the Italian populace. Subsequently, greater emphasis was placed on coordinated efforts to establish stability in the Albanian situation.

The "Operation Alba" marked a significant turning point in the diplomatic

ties between Italy and Albania. The mission, led by Italy and initiated by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), aimed to stabilize Albania by bringing together many countries. The operation's objective was to guarantee a tranquil voting procedure in Albania and the secure delivery of humanitarian assistance. Subsequent to the operation, the Delegation of Italian Experts (DEI) maintained an Italian military presence in Albania (Triandafyllidou and Kosic, 2003).

A readmission agreement was established between Italy and Albania in 1997, implemented in tandem with a labour migration accord. While Italy customarily awaits a readmission agreement before commencing labour negotiations, the time-sensitive nature of the crisis demanded that these occur concurrently. These agreements aimed to enforce migration regulations between the two countries more systematically. Italy supported broader international initiatives, including the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe, that sought to achieve stability in the Balkan region. It is imperative to note that Italy refrained from contributing to these overarching initiatives in favour of prioritizing its partnerships, such as the one with Albania.

In recent years, Albania has ceased to hold its "priority" status in Italy's foreign policy agenda, notwithstanding the initial emphasis placed on it. Despite changes in economic priorities, Italy continues to serve as Albania's primary commercial partner. The substantial maintenance of an Italian diplomatic presence in Tirana serves as an indication of the complex and multifaceted nature of the bilateral relationship. The historical relationship between Italy and Albania during this period offers a compelling subject for analysis in international relations. It demonstrates how migratory crises can significantly influence diplomatic efforts, shape foreign policies, and affect regional dynamics at a broader level. A illustrates the complex and multifarious nature of the relations between neighbouring countries, beset by various challenges from managing migration trends to achieving lasting stability (Dalmasso, 2017).

IV.   ITALIAN IMMIGRATION POLICY

A.   The migration of Albanians to Italy

Many geopolitical, economic, and social transformations, several of which were expedited by overthrowing the communist regime in Albania at the start of the 1990s, persistently influenced the complex relationship between Italy and Albania, specifically concerning migration. The numerous phases of collaboration, involvement, and urgency that have characterized this partnership have been influenced by necessity and mutual benefit.

• **Early Albanian Exodus and Italian Solution:** Italy grappled with humanitarian concerns and societal fear throughout the early 1990s. This first effect has had a lasting effect on Italy's public opinion and migration policy (Triandafyllidou and Kosic, 2003).

• **Regulatory Measures and Collaboration:** Italy sought active collaboration from Albania and neighbouring countries and enacted several measures, including legislation and naval patrols, to deal with illegal migration and related criminal activity. Stabilizing and strengthening Albania's institutions was the goal of operations like Operation Alba and the Interforce Police mission, which indirectly intended to reduce migratory push factors.

• **Investment and Development Assistance:** Italy has been a major source of assistance to Albania, helping with short-term crisis management and longer-term stability. On the other hand, Albania is no longer considered a "priority country," despite Italy being still an important export market.

• **The Changing Character of Migration:** Illegal immigration has persisted despite a precipitous drop in maritime arrivals from Albania. According to estimates, visa overstayers constitute the majority of undocumented Albanians in Italy today.

• **Readmission and Labour Agreements:** Italy normally only signs these with Albania after a readmission agreement has been established, highlighting the

necessity and urgency of Italy's role in regulating the migration of Albanians.

• **The Albanian Community in Italy:** The educational and criminal systems in Italy are two areas where the large Albanian immigrant community has an impact.

• **Regional and International framework:** There is a larger regional framework in which Albania's relationship with Italy fits, which encompasses additional Balkan countries and initiatives like the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe.

• **Alternative Places for Albanians:** Italy is not the destination of choice for the majority of Albanians who leave the country. Greece is the main attraction, although other major destinations include the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, and Germany.

B. Implications:

• **Intercultural Relations and Social Integration:** These are issues that are ever more important as the Albanian population in Italy ages and develops.

• **Policy Development:** Beyond the static nature of border inspections, the dynamic character of migratory routes and tactics calls for policy responses that are dynamic in nature.

• **Economic Effects:** There are ramifications for the financial systems of both Italy and Albania as a result of the increased participation of Albanians in the Italian labour market.

• **Political Relations:** The position taken by Italy might have a major impact on Albania's path to European integration, considering the country's ambitions to join the EU.

• **Humanitarian Considerations:** The Kater I Rades tragedy and similar events show that security and immigration policies must always prioritize humanitarian concerns.

Amidst all the complexity, the relationship between Albania and Italy provides instructive examples of the intersection of migration, global politics, and humanitarian emergencies.

C. Italian Migration Dogma

Italian migration policy has changed as the country has moved from emigration to immigration. The influx of people from Albania alongside various nations at the end of the twentieth century brought this transformation. The institutional structure, legislative landmarks, and management tactics of legal and illegal migrants in Italy must be examined to comprehend the country's migration strategy.

Approximately 25 million Italians left the nation between 1876 and 1973, demonstrating Italy's long history as a labour exporter. The safety of Italian nationals living abroad was the primary goal of the government's migration strategy. On the other hand, Italy had a complete turnaround in the 1970s when it started to accept immigrants, although without the proper legal protections at the time.

Multiple Italian government agencies, each with its agenda and set of stakeholders, work together to shape the country's migration strategy. After receiving legislative proposals from coalition members, the Prime Minister's office sets the overall policy agenda. Members of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy are also crucial since they are in charge of the execution and technical details. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs negotiates important mutually beneficial agreements. This multi-layered strategy becomes even more challenging because decentralisation gives regional and local governments a voice in migration-related projects.

D. Legislative Milestones

• **Legislation 943/1986:** the first contemporary immigration legislation governing the entrance of foreigners seeking work in Italy.

• **Martelli legislation (Law 39/1990):** a thorough legislation that came after the fall of the Iron Curtain and a migratory surge, covering a wide range of topics, including the rights and responsibilities of foreigners, the organization of yearly migration flows, and more.

• **Turco-Napolitano Law (Law 40/1998):** Deployed at an era when Albania was Italy's principal immigration source, this law sought to address issues such as

quota regulation of legal migration, integration of resident foreigners, and the prevention of illicit migration.

E.   The Intricacy of Migratory Governance in Italy: Challenges and Incremental Improvements

Italian policy for the management of foreign labour centres on the quota system. In 2002–2005, the yearly quota was 79,500 foreign workers, including 50,000 seasonal workers. The quota system does not apply to family reunification; thus, spouses and kids of legal immigrants may work and get social benefits in Italy. Frequently, countries that work together to combat illegal immigration are given preferential quotas.

The migration strategy in Italy is the product of a web of influences that includes past and present events, institutional priorities, and legislative initiatives. The method is multi-pronged, with the goals of balancing social integration, border protection, and economic demands. Over time, it has adapted to new problems and will certainly keep changing to accommodate new migratory patterns and geopolitical upheavals.

According to Massimo (2016), Italy's strategy for combating the growing smuggling sector and the waves of migrants, notably those coming from Albania, had been characterized by a pattern of hesitant military reactions involving naval blockades. Legal objections have been levelled against these crisis management strategies. For example, in a case concerning the return of Eritrean migrants to Libya, a nation that was condemned as hazardous for refugees, the European Court of Human Rights condemned the practices as unconstitutional (Jeannet et al., 2019).

Migrants and asylum seekers in Italy seem to have taken no cues from the Albanian migratory issue when designing their current systems. There was a troubling connection between Rome's city administration and organized crime syndicates, notably in managing Europe's biggest receiving centre for asylum applicants at Mineo in Sicilian (Grazia, 2017). It

was uncovered by investigations such as the "Roma Capitale" probe in 2014. In 2017, members of Calabria's formidable mafia organization, the 'Ndrangheta, were apprehended for taking advantage of yet another migrant processing centre, further

entwining criminal networks.

In the context of the power source Common European Asylum Systems and other legal and uncontrolled migration laws imposed by the EU, Italy has challenges in effectively managing its migration processes. Migrants must submit their asylum applications to the EU member state from where they first arrived, according to the Dublin asylum laws. According to Cappiali (2016), migrants attempting to reach richer states in Northern Europe often use Italy as a transit nation. They undermine the identification and processing procedures that are in place in Italy.

The exponential growth in asylum applications can be attributed to the surge in migrant departures and the enforcement of EU regulations. Regarding the volume of applications it received in 2016, Italy secured the third position among the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member nations, as Diamanti (2016) reported. Institutional and judicial institutions in Italy are overburdened due to the flood, despite forty per cent of petitions being protected.

In 2013, the Italian government established dedicated court divisions to enhance the assessment process of asylum applications, focusing specifically on immigration-related matters. According to ISMU (2018), the huge number of cases and appeals that are still ongoing is evidence that these improvements have not completely alleviated the issues that the asylum system is now experiencing.

The problem of forced repatriation further complicates Italy's governance issues. The powers of law enforcement are quite restricted; according to Pastore Roman (2014), the police have not been able to recognize more than ten per cent of the anticipated number of illegal migrants. There is a dearth of voluntary and mandatory repatriations due to the paucity of bilateral readmission accords, including in high-risk countries.

Italy's migration policy has many moving parts, including emergency measures, legal hurdles, institutional shortcomings, and continuing changes. Conflicts between EU standards and local realities are a hallmark of European migrant policy, and this country's story sheds light on these larger issues. Given the persistence of problems like illegal immigration, the influence of organized crime, and policy compliance, it is imperative that future studies evaluate the success of Italy's reform initiatives.

F.   The Albanian National Strategy on Migration (NSM): Obstacles and Opportunities

Institutional memory and skills developed during the NSM's formation have been lost due to the rapid personnel turnover, particularly after the 2005 government transition. This shift has left a void in terms of who is responsible for implementing the policy and how well it has worked.

The administration of migration is a matter that impacts numerous government entities, such as the Department of Migration within the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, as well as the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs. However, there is a significant overlap in their respective duties, resulting in inefficiency and confusion. The merger of the Ministry of Local Government with the Ministry of the Interior has decreased focus on local development.

Even though foreign specialists were involved in developing the NSM, recipient nations like Greece and Italy were not actively involved. This absence of cooperation hinders bilateral accords that may safeguard the liberties of Albanian migrants. It is frequently the case that local governments have a better grasp of migration trends and are, therefore, better able to provide individualized responses. Still, there is a dearth of cooperation between federal and state agencies, and crucial information about emigration and return movement trends is not shared. The present plan initiatives, such as the National Plan for Employment, Social Services, and Social Insurance (NSESS), fail to address migration adequately, revealing a disconnect between national development goals and migration management.

Local authorities do not see enterprises run by return migrants as role models or vital players despite these firms contributing considerably to the local economy. This perception gap is particularly noticeable in places like Vlore. There is a regional component to migration. Areas like Gjirokaster have acknowledged the diaspora's ability to contribute to the local economy. Local development initiatives seldom incorporate this potential owing to a lack of trustworthy data and insufficient institutional interaction at local and national authorities.

G. Albania's Migrant Policy Administration: How Internal Institutions and External Factors Interaction

Albania has been a signatory to many bilateral agreements since 1997, with a concentration on those that regulate illegal immigration. Donor governments, Stability Pact nations, and joining the EU states have all pushed for Albania to limit its illegal migrant flows, which has shaped the country's migration policy throughout time. Many Albanians see their government's acquiescence as making "survival migration" more difficult. Thus, they are sceptical of this foreign-driven objective. Despite early reluctance, the Albanian government has consented to the Stability and Association Agreement, which was signed in February 2006, with equal pressure and support from the European Commission, Albania's main donor.

The current Albanian migration legislation, known as L. 9034 "On the Migration of Albanian Citizens for Employment Purposes," was formulated within the framework of the Stability Pact and Albania's aspiration to join the European Union. This legislation, in contrast to its Italian equivalent, is not as wordy and is concerned more with laying out broad concepts than with detailing particular practical procedures. The freedom to emigrate and return is affirmed in this law (Article 4), and it proposes to create a Labour Emigrant record for those who are considering emigrating (Article 8), as well as a separate record for those who have already emigrated (Article 19).

The National Strategy on Migration (NSM), agreed by the Albanian Council of Ministers on November 19, 2004, holds significant importance in the present policy context. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) initially proposed an attempt to strengthen Albania's legislative authority in migration matters (GoA, 2018). This endeavour received backing from the European Commission under the CARDS 2001 programme. As per the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the plan, designed to be in effect from 2005 to 2010, encompasses a comprehensive strategy for managing migration. It involves collaboration with global experts and leads to the development of policies and research publications (UNHCR, 2017).

A detailed road map defining the particular steps to be followed to achieve the objectives established in the NSM, the National Action Plan on Migration

(NAPM), was further developed as a result of the NSM. The NAPM assigns blame, calculates expenses, and sets standards for every step. According to Verga (2017), the execution of this plan is mostly dependent on monetary backing from outside donors, despite the fact that it acts as a template for the operations of the Albanian administration.

It is important to examine the ownership problem as it pertains to the NSM. There are still unanswered concerns about the capacity and resilience of Albanian institutions, even if the government is officially the owner of the initiative. The main players in the project lack the necessary technical, financial, and administrative resources, Based on an initial assessment conducted by the European Commission Delegation in Albania. There is a complicated interaction between internal political processes and external influences, especially from donor nations and the European Union, in Albania's migration policy. Anxieties regarding being used as an instrument for international migration implementation and the national administration's attempts to conform to international norms make matters worse for the policy (Kajsiu, 2014). Albania must carefully assess its internal resources and external expectations in order to develop a migration governance structure that can withstand the test of time as it negotiates this complex policy environment.

H. Prospects for Improvement

- **Improved Coordination:** They simplify migration governance. Establishing a single coordinating organization or a more institutionalized inter-ministerial committee may be helpful.

- **Local Engagement:** One way to make migration plans more successful is to include local governments' unique perspectives into national goals.

- **Financial benefits:** As a practical instrument for promoting local economic growth, local governments may provide tax benefits to returning migrants who want to establish enterprises.

- **Improved Bilateral Relations:** By collaborating with important receiving nations, we may create better circumstances for Albanian migrants, encouraging some of them to return.

- **Data Collection:** To develop and execute policies based on evidence,

gathering robust data at the national and local levels is essential.

• **Capability Building:** Regular training for officials in key ministries helps reduce excessive turnover and improve institutional capability.

• **Raising Awareness**: They mitigate such misconceptions. It is crucial to enlighten local communities about the advantageous contributions offered by repatriated individuals. The shifting political regimes, multi-tiered administrative systems, and international diplomatic ties that shape Albania's migration-related landscape add complexity. A multi-faceted strategy that considers these obstacles and new possibilities is necessary to upgrade the existing system (Kajsiu, 2014).

İ.   Italian Migration and Growth Assistance Policy

A change in foreign policies toward limiting illegal migration has characterized Italy's transformation from an emigration-oriented nation to one that is centered on inward movements. A shift in Italian policy is evident in the country's recent bilateral pacts with Albania, which include labor-specific pacts (Hammond, 1974).

J.   The Italian Framework for Regulating Migration

Migration and growth are handled independently by different ministries under Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighting the country's institutional segregation. There is some communication inside the Ministry, but there is little room for collaboration between divisions. It leads to almost total oblivion of how migration affects the nations that send migrants. Italy's approach ignores problems like brain drain to satisfy the demands of its seasonal workforce.

Changing public sentiment in Italy has had a major impact on the country's migratory policies toward Albania. Following the early stages of unity in the 1990s, the public's view of Albanians shifted, associating them with crime by the mid-1990s. The Kosovo conflict and subsequent changes in the dynamics of the labor market helped to reverse this trend after 1999. As time went on, the negative stereotypes about Albanians—who were first seen as poor immigrants—grew to include associations with criminality and prostitutes. But they are less involved in crime and more active in the work market, so their track record has improved. The

existing public attitude in Italy permits worker migration from Albania, generating a public uproar, even if employers do not have a predilection for Albanian workers, which is inconsistent with Italy's quota-based migrant system (Zickel et al., 1994).

K. Summary and Implications

- **Italy's Missing Policies:** Albania and other sending nations are systematically disregarded in Italy's migration policy regarding development assistance. Instead of focusing on long-term, mutually beneficial responses, bilateral relationships prioritize Italy's immediate labour demand.

- **Separate departments:** The Italian government's foreign affairs ministry is so disjointed that it has failed to build a comprehensive plan to address immigration and economic growth.

- **Impact of Public Opinion:** The general public considerably impacts Italy's migration strategy. Although things have changed since negative perceptions took root, a more balanced view of Albanians' possible benefits to Italian society remains lacking.

- **A Holistic Policies:** Addressing demographic transitions, labour market demands, and human rights with a holistic approach will benefit Italy and sending nations like Albania.

- **Fighting Discrimination:** Prejudice and bigotry against Albanians in employment settings must still be addressed.

- **Quota Inconsistencies:** The quota for Albanian immigrants in Italy is lower than the demand for labour by enterprises in the nation. Modifying the policies might bring the quotas into line with what is needed in the labour market.

- **A Coordinated strategy:** Addressing challenges such as brain drain and temporary employment might be accomplished via a more coordinated strategy between Italy and Albania, resulting in improved results for both nations.

- **Raising Public Understanding:** It is possible to foster an atmosphere more accommodating to policy shifts that take into account the welfare of both sending and receiving nations by informing the Italian public regarding the intricate nature of emigration and its possible advantages.

L. Italian Migration Policies: Global and Bilateral Factors

While popular sentiment plays a role, Italy's migration strategy is also guided by the possibilities and limitations of bilateral and international relationships. The negotiation of agreements on the reintegration of migrants, including financial support, is assigned to the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of the Interior, as per legal structures.

Article 1, paragraph 1 of Law 189/02 is an unusual aspect of Italian immigration law. This article allows tax deductions for donations to approved non-profits in non-OECD countries. This clause, however, has never been formally adopted as part of tax legislation. One interpretation is that the then-governing centre-right coalition was trying to find a way to include a philanthropic component into legislation that limited immigration.

The Italian government's 2004–2006 strategic plan elaborates on the country's cooperative approach to migration management. Under a section dedicated to collaboration, the paper details many development projects. "Stimulate social growth and manufacturing capacity in receiving nations" is the goal of these programs, which should make migrant flows easier to manage. Microlending, technical support for small and medium business (SME) growth, debt conversion, and emigration information broadcast are among the development tools used to accomplish this. Curiously, "development aid" includes even voluntarily returning home (Bezzini, 2018).

- Inter-Ministerial Coordination: The Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs share responsibilities that highlight how crucial strong inter-ministerial cooperation is to the effective creation and execution of policy. These discoveries have important implications and revelations.

- Charitable Effort Within Restricted Measures: The tax deduction provision clarifies that a restricted immigration policy incorporates a charitable component. On the other hand, its lack of implementation doubts its viability or political justification.

- Development Initiatives as Tools for Mitigation Management: The Italian government has acknowledged that managing migration, especially illegal immigration, requires the implementation of social and economic

development initiatives in the countries of origin. It demonstrates a high degree of comprehension that addressing the underlying causes of migration is necessary for the fix. Multi-Faceted Approach: Italy is ready to employ a wide range of strategies, including a multifaceted approach that combines mechanisms like debt conversion, SME growth, and technical assistance to address the complexity of international migration.

- Impact of Bilateral and International Relations: Although public opinion may be a driving force, diplomatic considerations, and international agreements limit the ability to act independently. Hence, domestic priorities and global obligations are two sides of the same coin that any effective policy must consider.

- Unrealized Potential: Planning papers offer well-considered ideas, but how these plans are implemented and brought into compliance—especially the degree of coordination with the sending nations—will determine whether they are successful.

- It appears that Italian immigration policy is aiming for a more all-encompassing approach by fusing development objectives with philanthropic elements. The effectiveness of this extensive strategy will depend on how committed the participating countries are to seeing these steps through to completion.

M. The Changing Face of Italy's Migration and Development Policies

Among OECD countries, Italy's 0.15 percent of GDP goes on development aid is the lowest. Loans are often given to developing countries (DCs), whereas grants are given to least-developed countries (LDCs). A notable recipient of Italian assistance, Albania keeps getting development funds, mostly used for long-term construction endeavours, including power plants, highways, and wastewater treatment plants.

Migration and development have always been seen as separate issues in Italian politics. Albania has received funding to alleviate poverty and instability, but these programs have not been specifically tied to solving migration-related problems. But things started to change in the 1990s when the issue of illegal migration became

a big foreign policy priority. A seminal research document promoting the function of migrants as development agents was submitted to the European Commission in 1999 by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Despite not influencing Italy's overall development policy, this approach was among the first to relate migration with development (Ballinger, 2018).

Additionally, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs started framework studies emphasizing migratory networks to formulate unified migration and development plans. Because of the possible efficiency improvements and advantages of capitalizing on the contributions of previous migrants, there is a greater interest in establishing partnerships across government agencies. For example, groups like the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) have initiated pilot programs to close the migration-development gap. For instance, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) runs the Integrated Migration Information System (IMIS) and Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programs, which aim to balance the supply and demand for labor and reroute remittances into resources that may be used to improve Africa. In the eyes of these initiatives, migrants have the power to bring about positive change and contribute to national progress (Muntele and Istrate, 2001).

N. Case Studies

Afghan and Senegalese projects are prime instances of this new tendency. Migrants, in Senegal in particular, have recently been seen as key players in shaping local development policies and impacting how assistance is distributed. To be sure, the 2004 OECD Development Assistance Committee Peer Review urged for a more integrated approach that takes migration and development into account.

The connection between growth and migration is becoming more apparent even to development NGOs, but this recognition is still far from widespread. There has been a paradigm change regarding a "migration for growth" strategy, as opposed to the old tactics that concentrated on the "fundamental causes" of migration. This fresh perspective accepts migration as a reality and seeks to construct economic, social, and educational programs that mesh with trends in migration and flows of remittances.

Improving the incorporation of migratory factors is crucial as Italy revises its growth plan. Although each policy domain has traditionally been treated independently, new developments and pilot projects are beginning to show how beneficial it would be to work together. Nevertheless, there are still a few instances of this fresh model being implemented, especially in countries like Albania, although it is slowly gaining popularity.

O. Building Bridges and Discovering Synergies: Regional Efforts in Migration and Economic Growth

Although there has been little progress toward a unified strategy for co-development within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other levels of government have been more active. These regional governments of Italy filled the gap left by the central government when it came to implementing effective policies for immigration and assimilation. Since the country's labor market demands vary by area and its geography is vulnerable to migratory surges (like the one that occurred during the Kosovo conflict), their participation has been especially crucial.

The involvement of regional governments in migrations and global collaboration has been strengthened during the 1990s, with a particular emphasis on nations in the eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans. As a result, new collaborations and experimental programs have emerged, bridging the gap between immigration and larger development goals. Local stakeholders instantly impact regional policy, a power often lacking at the national level; this is known as the "proximity effect," and it shapes these kinds of initiatives (Diamanti, 2016).

The regional programs in Italy are mostly focused on the following areas:

• Projects including workforce education, hiring, and recruiting

• Assistance with migrant returns as a whole

• Making the most of remittances

• Creating jobs to reduce migration constraints

Initiatives about these fields are usually modest in size yet have a significant influence. For example, 23 Albanians were apprenticed in construction by local enterprises in the Veneto area; 82% of those individuals stayed in the same field

when the initiative ended.

Albanians were to be prepared to start their enterprises or join existing ones under the 1995 EU-funded Agfol Vocational Training Agency initiative in Veneto. Some returnees were able to create profitable businesses despite the initiative being disrupted by financial troubles. Nevertheless, initiatives aimed at assisting irregular migrants in their social and economic rehabilitation have an oversight. Inmates from Morocco and Albania, as well as victims of human trafficking from Nigeria, were provided with business startup training and micro-credits via EU-funded projects like Alnima. These show a move toward a more integrated strategy, even if they need to have much of an effect (Achilli, Olivieri and Pala, 2007).

An encouraging approach is the establishment of "neighbourhood partnerships" connecting the areas of departure and arrival, using EU initiatives such as Interreg to facilitate international collaboration. Efforts such as the Adriatic Secretary and the Forum of Adriatic Cities have already facilitated many projects that connect the Adriatic coastline areas of Italy to Albanian and the surrounding countries. Over time, these structures solidify their position as the foundation for future collaboration strategies.

To make up for the shortcomings of national policies, Italy's regional and municipal governments are taking the lead in influencing the country's migration and development environment. Regional initiatives like this provide fresh ideas and approaches to migration management that might help achieve sustainable development goals while also meeting the demands of migrants ((Bezzini, 2018).

V. ALBANIANS' MIGRATION THROUGH POLITICS FROM 1912 TO 2020

A. Introduction

An outline of the political events that transpired during the Albanian migration is given in this chapter. It is based on an evaluation of the state of affairs in Albania after it gained independence, including events that transpired during that time.

B. Albania's Politically Aware Setting: 1912-2020

Albania achieved freedom on November 28, 1912, yet financial, social, and election instability followed. After declaring independence, the country had challenges with leadership, economic growth, and diplomatic challenges from its Balkan neighbors. Albania was still mostly an agricultural country with no manufacturing sector and a poorly built transit network, despite modest efforts at developing its infrastructure (Muntele and Istrate, 2001).

Since Albania declared its independence in 1912, the relationship between Albania and Italy has experienced a dynamic history encompassing various characteristics. Italy exercised influence on the political landscape of Albania at the beginning of the 20th century, which led to a personal union under King Zog during the era between the wars. Due to World War II's geopolitical changes, the Italian occupation marked an important chapter in their historical relations. Enver Hoxha's leadership was significantly responsible for the rise of communism in Albania postwar. Eliminating communism at the beginning of the 1990s was a major life experience. They facilitated the growth of political ties between the two nations; Italy has always supported Albania's bid to join the Euro-Atlantic community (Budini, 2020).

Italy's massive investments in numerous sectors and broad commercial relationships make it Albania's primary economic competitor. The two sides

benefited economically from the partnership, which paved the way for further development and advancement. There is a sizable Albanian diaspora because of the many waves of Albanians that have emigrated to Italy throughout history. An important component has been the migratory phenomena. The diaspora has become a vital link in the two nations' chain, opening the door to trade and cultural exchange.

Furthermore, the current relationship is marked by cooperation efforts on European integration, which show a common commitment to maintaining stability in the area as a demonstration of their shared commitment to preserving stability and safety in the Balkans. Albania and Italy have broadened the scope of their security collaboration to encompass combating human trafficking, illicit migration, and organized crime. Even though Albania and Italy are navigating the complexity of the 21st century, their historical links serve as a basis for continued cooperation. This collaboration reflects shared values, common interests, and a collaborative vision for a successful and linked future (Muntele et al., 2021).

It was in April 1939 that Fascist Italy attacked and seized Albania. Throughout World War II, the Nazis occupied Italy. On the other hand, the Albanian Communist Parties spearheaded a formidable resistance campaign. A new era began in Albania with the communist party's takeover after the country's liberation from fascist troops on November 29, 1944. Albania became a Stalinist-style socialist state under the leadership of the Communist Party, which was subsequently rechristened the Albanian Party of Labour. There was only one political party during this time, and the state had tight control over media outlets and information resources. Opposition was also severely repressed. Worldwide migration was likewise outlawed, in contrast to Yugoslavia's unique method of regulating internal migration. Until 1991, religious activities were not allowed (Nicola, 2007).

Significant changes occurred in the economic system. Landless peasants were given privately held land, and agricultural activities were centralized due to agrarian reforms. In its pursuit of economic independence, Albania also implemented a highly centralized program that prioritized heavy industries. However, this economic strategy isolated the nation and left it susceptible to economic downturns in the long run. Albania started to see significant modifications as the Eastern Bloc when the Wall of Berlin came tumbling down. The one-party communist government began to crumble, and religious freedom was restored. Albania had a multi-party democratic

transition in the 1990s despite the economic hardship and civic turmoil accompanying the process (Muntele and Istrate, 2001).

In the time after, Albania made many moves towards Western integration, such as applying to NATO and the EU. The political climate has liberalized considerably despite obstacles like corruption and unstable politics. The political history of Albania from 1912 to 2020 is characterized by several periods of revolution, seclusion, and progressive democracy. Throughout its history, the nation has seen immense transformation, beginning with its period of sovereignty and instability in politics, progressing through Nazi occupation, communist dictatorship, and finally, the development of democracy. The political past in Albania is a complicated tapestry since each stage has significantly influenced the country's economy and society (Budini, 2020).

C. Social and Financial Expansions Under Communism

Substantial social and economic improvements occurred in Albania under the communist government despite the state being quite authoritarian and isolating the country. Investments in medical field facilities and amenities have remarkably improved infant longevity and death rates. The illiteracy rate was drastically decreased as a result of educational reforms, which included literacy initiatives on a national scale. Plans for industrialization widened economic opportunities and raised living standards to a certain degree. The north-south split and clan attachments were among the traditional divides and loyalties the dictatorship repressed in Albanian society.

It was during the communist period that Albania's foreign relations were marked by constant realignment and, eventually, isolation. As it severed relations with each of its former allies—Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union, as well as China— Albania grew more and more isolated. The 1978 separation from China was particularly devastating, which triggered a recession and further isolated the nation. Communist Albania's political climate was very oppressive, notwithstanding these social and economic benefits. Human rights violations, a crackdown on opposition, and a tyrannical secret police force were hallmarks of the dictatorship. As a means of control and repression, the regime resorted to political assassinations, forced labor camps, and domestic deportation (Budini, 2020).

Following its years of communism, Albania emerged as the poorest nation in Europe, a country that was profoundly isolated and faced tremendous problems in the future. The oppressive political environments in Romania and Albania prevented the growth of civil society movements that pushed for government change in other Eastern European nations like Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. Albania under the communist era was a time of stark contrasts. Economic growth, healthcare, and education significantly improved during the administration. However, human rights, political freedom, and international isolation came at a price. As Albania strove to democratize and connect with the larger international community, the era left a complicated legacy. Human rights violations, persecution, and isolationism were hallmarks of the communist dictatorship in Romania during Nicolae Ceaușescu that resulted in far-reaching consequences for Albania's progress towards democracy (Nicola, 2007).

Massive economic collapse and anarchy ensued as the pyramid's fraudulent activities crashed in 1997, leading to widespread discontent: protests and bloodshed over millions of Albanians losing funds brought down the administration. The subsequent collapse of public order was marked by the looting of law enforcement facilities and armed forces arsenals, ultimately resulting in anarchy in different regions of the nation. To stabilize the situation and restore order, the international community intervened during this time, particularly European entities and the United Nations.

After the pyramid schemes burst in 1997, causing a tremendous economic downturn and chaos, many people were dissatisfied. Many Albanians saw their investments go down the drain, leading to violent protests and the eventual overthrow of the monarchy. Burglary of police stations and military supplies highlighted the ensuing breakdown of security, which led to anarchy in many parts of the country. While this happened, the international community—especially European organizations and the UN—stepped in to stabilize things and bring order back to the chaos (Zickel et al., 1994).

D.   Continuing Challenges

Significant issues persist in the country, including economic inequality, weak legal systems, and corruption. There is a disproportionately high youth

unemployment percentage, and the financial system is still highly reliant on foreign remittances. Constant efforts to update its legislative and institutional frameworks, political turbulence, and continual administration changes are further roadblocks to its EU aspirations.

Countless socioeconomic upheavals, political unrest, and even anarchy have been hallmarks of Albania's transition to democracy from communists. Although the economy was somewhat stabilized by the "shock therapy" of the beginning of the 1990s, it profoundly impacted society and laid the groundwork for the catastrophic events of 1997. Despite facing significant obstacles, the development of a democratic system and the stimulation of economic growth have been noteworthy achievements. However, the nation must resolve its long-standing challenges to achieve its goal of closer integration with Europe.

E.   The Migration Role in Post-1997 Setting

Albania's winding road has had many ups and downs since the 1997 tragedy. The international community acknowledged Albania's reform and stabilization efforts when it signed the EU Stabilisation and Association Agreements in 2006 and became an associate member of NATO in 2009. In addition to laying the groundwork for necessary domestic change, these partnerships also set Albania on the path to further incorporation with Western powers. Despite these advances, Albania still has significant political and economic obstacles to overcome (Hansen, 2009).

Though it makes a little dent in GDP, inefficient practices and an absence of modernization plague the agricultural sector, which is still vital for job creation. Attracting foreign investment is essential for economic development, but structural challenges like these. Corruption hinders progress, and poor property rights are symptoms of a weak administrative and legal structure, which hinders economic advancement. High public debt already severely limits government investment in facilities and social programs. Albania is one of the weakest European nations outside the formerly Soviet Union due to these issues.

For many Albanian families, remittances have always been a crucial source of income. Although remittances have fallen since 2007, this might be due to changes in

diaspora economic circumstances and migration patterns. Beyond the obvious financial benefit, remittances may help mitigate the negative effects of a government's social policy failures. On the other hand, relying too heavily on remittances leaves the Albanian industry and the people who rely on income exposed (Fortunati, Pertierra and Vincent, 2013).

According to current statistics, poverty is still an issue even if it has moved from remote to metropolitan areas. People from rural areas may be migrating to cities for greater chances, but they may be leaving behind valuable skills and resources, which might explain this trend. Social change, shifting demography, and new possibilities and threats to urban growth might all result from such internal movement.

Migration trends and their effects on development may be better understood by looking at Albania, thanks to its interesting history, strategic position, and economic difficulties. An integral part of Albania's social fabric, migration has shaped the country's evolution over the years and is more than merely an indication of its problems. Albanians and those who migrate to other parts of the world bring knowledge, experience, and perspectives that shape their home and where they settle.

Efforts to stabilize Albania's political and economic climate have been substantial since 1997, but the country still faces several obstacles. Poverty, other social problems, economic instability, and ineffective government structures persist throughout the nation. Still, examining social and economic development in Albania, especially as it relates to migration, is fascinating due to the country's distinctive location and continuous upheavals (Walter, 1994).

F. Migration Politics in Albanian

Before communism collapsed in 1991, there were two distinct periods in Albania's migratory landscape: the period before the founding of the dictatorship in 1946 and the migratory decades under communist control. Migration, both domestic and foreign, was common before the establishment of the communist regime. Simultaneously with the fledgling growth in areas such as industry, commerce, communications, and services, the rural inhabitants migrated to the growing urban centers, making up most of the internal migration. According to Çaro (2011), despite

the growing urban population by 1945, a remarkable 80 percent of Albania's people remained in rural areas. According to Dahinden (2014), the movement was primarily motivated by the need for labor and was mostly carried out by men. Cities experiencing increased rates of foreign migration also had a discernible increase in educational attainment, albeit educational migrations for study or training were still uncommon.

By strictly controlling both domestic and foreign migration, communist rule profoundly changed this environment. There was a small emigration wave immediately after the communist regime's rise to power, mostly from groups ideologically opposed to the new leadership, but after 1950, border crossings were heavily controlled. Short, officially sanctioned journeys or field trips were the only kind of mobility allowed. As stated by Vullnetari (2014), the government orchestrated migration in remote mountainous regions to fulfill the labor force demands of various industries and improve social services, specifically in education and health.

According to Lévy (2015), Albania's "pashaportizimi" procedure is similar to the hukou scheme in China and the earlier Soviet Union's and contemporary Russia's internal passport processes. While China's hukou program was a thorough family registration program that controlled rural-to-urban migration, the Soviet Union's domestic passport system, established in 1932, attempted to control population migrations. Aiming to maintain an equal proportion of rural and urban residents to fulfill the labor demands of both farming and manufacturing industries, the internal passport system in Albania sought to control population movement within the country, particularly from rural to downtown locales, similar to its Russian and Chinese counterparts. People devised ingenious methods to overcome these limitations, mostly affecting migration to Tirana's capital. One strategy was to marry someone with urban resident status or move to a rural location next to a limited city.

G.   The Difficult Interplay Between Domestic and International Movements of People Since 1991

It became a big political issue in Albania after the communist government fell. Since communism fell, it has been a strong force for change in the country. Even though people started moving between countries and within their own country in

1990 to prepare for the government's fall, it wasn't until 1993 that Albanians were officially free to move around as they pleased. Article 22 of the law on Changes to the Constitutional Clauses of 1993 says that all Albanians are free to move around within the country and to other countries. This is what Ikonomi (2009) says.

The Albanian Constitution of 1998 was in force until 2016, but some of its language was different from what is expected around the world. It doesn't say "everyone has the freedom to leave the nation," as Ikonomi (2009) does. Instead, it says, "Nobody should be stopped from easily leaving the government." This small difference has big effects. As Wihtol de Wenden (2015) explains, for Albanians, the right to leave was never the same as the freedom to join another country, even though the constitution says that they have both rights. This difference goes against the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948 and the UN Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Families of Migrants from 1990.

Albanians had to meet strict visa requirements set by the European Union and other rich countries in order to leave their home country. These visas were often given for business trips, schooling, or vacationing, depending on the applicant's ability to pay and job situation in Albania. So, the 2010 opening up of visitor permits to the Schengen area was a turning point for the freedom of movement of Albanians (Trimçev, 2005).

Because crossing borders without permission is illegal and legal movement is limited, smuggling and trafficking people have become lucrative businesses for organized crime groups in Albania (Wihtol de Wenden, 2015).

Although there were many accidents involving drownings and deaths, speedboat trafficking to Italy through the seaside city of Vlora continued until the late 2000s. The southeasterly Albanian-Greek border also became an economic powerhouse for the surrounding towns. These rural settlements were revitalized economically as a result of the services these villages provided to would-be migrants, which included housing and guided public transportation.

To sum up, migration in Albania after 1991 is a tangled network of domestic and foreign migrations, each carrying its own set of rules and obstacles. Modern Albania's migration trends are complex and sometimes contradictory, as seen by the development of illicit migrant activities and the tightening of international visa

regulations.

H. Albania After Communism: A Study of Global Migration Trends

According to Dahinden (2014), the worldwide migration trend took a sharp reversal when the communist system in Albania collapsed. In 2017, almost one-third of Albania's population—an estimated fifteen million people—lived outside the country, based on INSTAT numbers. According to the Government of Albania (2018), current trends suggest an assortment in patterns of migration into additional nations within the European Union, along with the Americas and Canada. Historically, both Greece and Italy served as the leading destinations for Albanians, with 448,407 and 356,848 Albanians, correspondingly.

According to Çaro (2011), the "embassy phenomenon" in 1990 marked a turning point in the post-communist Albanian international migration movement. More than 3,200 people flocked to the West German consulate in Tirana on July 2nd, the busiest of fourteen foreign embassies, while more than 6,000 Albanians sought refuge there. The second preferred option among asylum-seekers was the Italian embassy, followed by the French embassy.

Nationwide speculation that frontiers were being opened pervaded the public consciousness, even though the 1976 Constitution remained in force, outlawing both parties of opposition and foreign migration (Vllamasi, 2000). Roughly sixteen thousand people had left the country by the close of 1990. In order to reach Greece on the last day of the year, about five thousand individuals risked their lives traversing dangerous mountainous terrains. On top of that, in March 1991, over 25,000 individuals boarded vessels at Durres port and headed for Brindisi, Italy. About 17,000 people sought sanctuary in Bari in August 1992, marking yet another increase.

According to Dahinden (2014), in the beginning, the majority of young men who migrated internationally did so in challenging circumstances that emphasized typically male characteristics such as bravery and strength. It would be a mistake, say Vullnetari (2014), to ignore the role that Albanian women played in the first waves of migration. The women's daring travels, such as speedboat rides to Italy and perilous mountain hikes to Greece, are highlighted.

According to Musaraj (2011), the foreign migration of Albanians entered a new critical period in 1997 with the collapse of pyramidal financial enterprises. There has been a decrease in emigration from the high of roughly 50,000 new migrants per year around the year 2000, according to data compiled by the World Bank in 2007. Female migratory engagement increased dramatically at this time, going between 20% to 60% in terms of male migratory activity during 1991 and 2001. According to Verga (2017), the main reasons for this increase are educational possibilities and the procedures of family reunions. Albanian women, like women in other post-communist nations, migrate abroad for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to pursuing economic opportunities and fleeing gender-based constraints at home.

Overall, several socio-political changes and an increase in demographic diversity have altered the course of Albanian foreign migration following communism's collapse.

İ. The intricacy of Women's Movement in Post-Communist Albania

Morokvasic (2004) says that the topic of women's movement in post-communist Albanian is complicated. Despite the fact that it heralds liberties won by the people when the communist system fell, it leaves women vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. There are benefits to this dual character, but there are also drawbacks, such as more reliance on others and unstable work. There is a dearth of reliable statistics and thorough research on the scope of the problem of women's trafficking across Eastern Europe to countries in the West, with Albania serving as a focus point in this regard.

According to Këlliçi and Danaj (2016), the number of Albanian women going to Italy for higher education has been on the rise since the first decade of the 1990s. Several scholarship opportunities and relatively low entrance criteria to Italian institutions in the early 1990s made the country a tempting option. Students from Albania were able to take advantage of the scholarships even more so because of the country's precarious economic circumstances. Scholarships began to decline after 2008 as a consequence of policy tightening in the years 2006–2007. Unfortunately, Albania kept sending a lot of international students to Italy. Gërmenji and Milo (2011), the gender distribution among the international students studying in Italy

during the 2007-2008 academic year was about equal, and the majority of them were from Albania.

According to Barjaba and Barjaba (2015), the countries of Greece and Italy have attracted the majority of Albanian migrants, with 600,000 and 500,000 people, respectively. Besides the United States and Canada, other popular locations include Germany, France, the Swiss nation, and Canada. According to Sintès (2010), online communities and chain migrations have been crucial in aiding this movement. In fact, they have even been responsible for revitalizing once-established friendships and familial connections in order to promote fresh migratory endeavours.

According to Gemi et al. (2010), one notable aspect of Albanian migration from 1990 to 2001 was the frequent movement between Albanians and Greeks. The agricultural and construction industries were common places for migrants to find seasonal employment. The pattern mentioned above was previously an important part of the region's migratory patterns, but it was challenged by stronger immigration restrictions and legalization processes starting in the last years of the 1990s.

Recent data have shown a leveling out of the gender gap in migration statistics. Bruijn et al. (2014) found that emigration from Albania was mostly female-dominated throughout 2001 and 2011, in contrast to the male-dominated trends seen in the early 1990s. Despite a small decline in emigration rates, migration is still a major phenomenon, and 2018 saw net migration staying negative (INSTAT, 2012).

Overall, several socio-economic and political variables impact the complicated and ever-changing phenomena of migrating from Albania, regardless it's for academic, occupational, or other reasons. A number of data restrictions exist, but overall, the trends show that migration patterns are changing, with women playing an increasingly important role and the influence of modifications to policies in the destination nations being felt.

J.   The Changes in Albanian Migration Patterns After 1991

It is more accurate to look at the domestic and international trends of migration in Albania after 1991 together than separately. Families began managing both domestic and foreign moves in the early nineties, marking the beginning of this dual migration cycle. Unlike during the communist period, when crossing nations

was very difficult and sometimes necessitated illegal escapes, internal migration was comparatively unfettered (Vullnetari, 2014). For example, it's not uncommon for certain members of a family to relocate abroad while the rest of the family moves inside the same country. Moving to Tirana temporarily before settling overseas was another common tactic (Vullnetari, 2014). According to Camilli (2017), along with Vullnetari (2014), social networks play a crucial role in making these movement patterns possible.

Albanian internal migration is more complex than just moving from the countryside to the city. According to data compiled by Vullnetari (2014), rural-to-rural shifting accounted for about 40% of the internal movement that took place between 1989 and 2001 in the Tirana area. Uneven urban development has been caused by migration patterns, which have boosted cities like Shkodër, Kukës, and Durrës despite creating a downturn in others. Worldwide immigration caused certain towns, like as Saranda and Lezhë, to lose population, while domestic movement brought new citizens.

New urban areas, particularly in Tirana as well as Durrës, were created as a result of the internal migration boom, often taking over land that had been used for agriculture. Unauthorised housing and inadequate infrastructure were early hallmarks of these emerging communities. According to Çaro (2011), one reason why multi-story construction of brick gradually replaced temporary dwelling constructions called baraka was because people believed that these buildings were going to be more difficult to demolish. The early 1990s marked the beginning of a period of infrastructure development in these regions.

Destination communities faced several obstacles as a result of the flood of internal migrants, including social stigma and inadequate infrastructure. When individuals moved within a country, many individuals did not register with the government when they arrived, which had negative financial and social effects on the places they left behind, such as a weaker social assistance network.

A watershed moment occurred during the 2011 Census when, according to INSTAT (2012), greater Albanians resided in urban regions than in rural contexts. After a period of partial household movement, the years 2001–2011 noticed the internal relocation of whole families. The majority of migrants were young adults (Galanxhi et al., 2014), which contributed to a building boom in urban areas.

Curiously, women make up the bulk of Albania's internal migrants. Migration inside a country is more common among women than among males, who are more inclined to travel outside. Arqimandriti et al. (2020) note that the pattern of women making up the majority of internal migrants had persisted up to the 2011 Census when it was verified by 59% of migrants (Galanxhi et al., 2014). Different factors like academic possibilities and the desire to escape patriarchal limitations, contribute to these gendered migration trends (Ambrosini, 2017; Galanxhi et al., 2014).

To sum up, worldwide migration patterns affect Albania's complex and ever-changing domestic migration surroundings, which in turn causes substantial socioeconomic, social, and economic changes in the nation as a whole.

VI. POLITICAL CHANGES IN COOPERATION BETWEEN ALBANIA AND ITALY MIGRATIONS FROM 1912 TO 2020

A. Introduction

This chapter shows how the political cooperation between Albania and Italy has changed over time. It also gives an estimate of the current state of political cooperation between Albania and Italy by looking at migration patterns to show the political positions of the two countries.

B. History of Immigration Policies and Political Changes Between Albania And Italy

Provided below is a synopsis:

1. Post-Communist Transition (1990s):

Many Albanians left their home country for neighbouring Italy, a member of the European Union and a popular transit point for migrants fleeing communism in the early 1990s in search of better economic possibilities. Following this deluge, the European Union, with a special focus on Italy, implemented measures to regulate the mobility of individuals. Border controls and immigration processes were impacted by the Schengen Agreement, to which Italy is a party.

2. Process of Stabilization and Association (2000s):

The Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) was launched in the mid-2000s as a result of Albania's aspiration to join the European Union. Migration policy reforms were among the many political, economic, and legal changes this approach sought to encourage in Albania. Regarding border management and migration control, among other areas, Italy helped Albania bring its policies in line with EU norms since it is an EU member.

3. The Future of European Integration (Beyond the 2010s):

Albania's migration policy and political shifts came under intense scrutiny as the country advanced toward EU membership. Alignment with EU norms on migration and asylum, liberalization of visas, and efficient border control were all priorities for the EU.

Concerning issues of regional stability, migration management, and compliance with EU values, Italy—a pivotal EU member with historical links to Albania—participated in talks and partnerships.

4. The Refugee Crisis's Impact from 2015 to 2016:

Albania and Italy were similarly affected by the massive refugee crisis that hit the European Union in 2015 and 2016. Discussions on the need for a unified EU response were sparked by the crisis, which also highlighted the interdependence of migration policy within the larger European framework.

5. Cooperation and Agreements Between Parties:

Many facets of migration have been the subject of bilateral agreements between Albania and Italy. These include cooperation on border control and readmission agreements.

Leadership transitions and policy agendas in both nations have shaped the focus and wording of these pacts.

In summary, the political transformations and immigration regulations of Albania and Italy are closely linked to their respective membership experiences in the European Union. The migratory dynamics and associated policies of these two countries have been shaped by the influence of the European Union and bilateral agreements.

C. The Political Impact of Immigration in Italy

The rise of the League party and its leader, Matteo Salvini, in Italian politics has been greatly shaped by the immigration matter. The League's success in the 2019 European Parliament elections was clearly demonstrated by their 34.3% share of the vote. They also achieved notable successes in some regions, such as Umbria, where

their candidate, Donatella Tesei, received 58% of the vote (Iannuzzi, 'Immigrazione and Lega, 2019).

Immigration has become a deeply divisive issue in Italy, similar to other European countries (Hutter and Kriesi, 2019). Urso's analysis spanning from 1995 to 2011 demonstrates that both center-right and center-left parties have exhibited distinct positions on the matter, particularly prior to Salvini's crucial realignment of the League. Nevertheless, political parties frequently adjust their positions while in authority, prioritizing practicality over moral justifications (Urso, 2018).

Salvini, in his role as Interior Minister, deviated from this practical approach and pursued the implementation of strict measures targeted at asylum seekers and anyone without proper documentation. The League was able to dominate the issue of immigration and polarise political discussions since the Five Star Movement's position on immigration was unclear, which did not hinder their efforts (Mosca and Tronconi, 2019).

Italy has a diverse range of public sentiment towards immigration. Contrary to the prevailing negative attitude towards immigrants from outside the European Union, surveys suggest that Italians choose immigration policies that are more nuanced and flexible rather than ones that offer only two distinct options. Contrary to common opinion, there are regional differences in attitudes towards immigration in Italy. Southern Italians, in particular, seem to hold more negative views on this matter compared to their counterparts in the northern regions (Dixon et al., 2018).

1. Legislative Developments and Their Consequences

In 2019, the Conte I government implemented two substantial Security Decrees, presenting them as initiatives to improve the security of Italian citizens. However, these policies unintentionally contributed to an increase in undocumented migration (Marchetti, 2016). An example of a significant change was the elimination of humanitarian protection, which made the situation uncertain for many groups of migrants (Corsi, 2019).

The orders also revamped Italy's processes for receiving asylum seekers. The highly praised SPRAR system has been substituted by SIPROIMI, which restricts access exclusively to individuals who have been granted international protection. Detractors contend that the recently implemented framework places greater emphasis

on larger communal facilities that provide inadequate services and lack programs for integration (Marchetti, 2016).

Restrictions on NGO rescue missions in the Mediterranean were further strengthened. Vessels that enter Italian waters without proper authority are subject to stringent penalties, which may include apprehension and monetary fines of up to €1 million (as stipulated in Decree Law 53/2019).

Notably, the decrees have encountered substantial resistance from several sectors, such as civil society, municipal governments, and foreign organisations. Certain towns openly disregarded the decrees, and authoritative institutions like the European Court of Justice have issued judgments against particular clauses (Dennison and Geddes, 2019).

In general, the Security Decrees have significantly altered Italy's immigration policy, resulting in a 25% rise in the denial of asylum claims in 2019 compared to the preceding year. As a result, around 40,000 individuals who may have potentially received humanitarian protection have been rejected in their applications (Dennison and Geddes, 2019).

D.   The Dynamics of Albanian-Italian Migration: An Evolving Landscape

Italy has become a prominent centre for migrant labour in the last 15 years. Italy harbors a heterogeneous collection of migrants, while its immigrant population is comparatively less than that of other EU countries such as Germany, France, or the Netherlands. Based on a 2002 assessment from Caritas, Italy had almost 1.4 million foreign nationals living in the country, which made up around 3% of the entire population. Gradually, the immigrant community has been becoming more stable, with approximately one-third of them living in Italy for more than five years and one-quarter for over a decade. According to Caritas (2002), family reunion has emerged as the main legal pathway for non-EU citizens to relocate to Italy, while the population of international students has grown by a factor of six in the past ten years.

1.   A Demographic Breakdown

The majority of migrants in Italy originate from diverse nations such as Morocco, Albania, Romania, the Philippines, and China. The Chinese, Albanians,

Filipinos, Romanians, and U.S. citizens are the most significant immigrant communities in Florence, as observed during the fieldwork done by Kosic and Triandifyllidou (2017).

2. The Albanian Context

Albania is currently undergoing a significant transformation, dealing with various social, political, and economic issues as it moves towards becoming a capitalist democracy. The significant migratory potential, especially among the youth, has been driven by high unemployment rates and economic hardship. Prior to 1989, emigration from Albania was virtually nonexistent as a result of the stringent constraints imposed by its authoritarian administration. Nevertheless, during the 1990s, Albania had a substantial emigration wave, with an estimated outflow of almost one million individuals, equivalent to 25% of the country's population. Italy has emerged as a significant destination for these migrants due to its close geographical proximity across the Adriatic Sea (Barjaba et al., 1992).

3. Crisis-Driven Migration to Italy

Although it is estimated that around 250,000 Albanians have migrated to Italy, obtaining precise figures is challenging due to the lack of documentation, particularly among those who arrived through the Apulia coastline. Two distinct waves of Albanian migration to Italy are worth mentioning: the first took place with the downfall of Albania's communist state in March 1991, and the second occurred after the collapse of the financial 'pyramid schemes' in January 1997. Initially met with empathy, the attitude of the public and the government towards Albanian immigrants in Italy rapidly deteriorated, as seen by the modification of Law 39/1990 to facilitate deportations.

4. Policy Responses

Italy bolstered its border police and requested support from the European Union in response to these movements. In March 1997, an emergency decree was enacted, granting municipal authorities the power to build welcome centres and provide 90-day residence permits to Albanians. A significant number of migrants later relocated to various Western European nations or became part of Italy's clandestine labour market. In May 1997, the governments of Albania and Italy

established a collaborative task force to address the challenges posed by illegal immigration. However, effectively managing Italy's vast coastline continues to be a formidable problem.

5. The Status of Albanians in Florence

Based on data from 2001, there were 5,289 Albanians, mostly young guys, who possessed regular stay permits in the province of Florence. The majority of these visas were granted for employment purposes (about 65%) and familial motives (approximately 30%). The migrants in question have a wide range of career opportunities, spanning from highly qualified experts to low-skilled labourers. These opportunities are mostly found in the construction and agricultural sectors (Marchetti, 2016).

Overall, the migratory patterns between Albania and Italy have been influenced by political turmoil, economic distress, and evolving immigration regulations. This experience provides a perspective through which one might analyse wider European migration concerns.

Administration of Migration Flows between Albania and Italy in the Labour and Healthcare Industries. The Italian migration policy places great emphasis on the regulation of labour migration, with a special focus on prioritising foreign workers who have received training in their native countries through employer-driven programmes. Two significant instances of managed migration and recruitment can be observed in the connection between Albania and Italy (Chaloff and Piperno, 2004).

E. Labor Migration Initiatives: The IOM Rome Project

The initial initiative, spearheaded by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Rome, commenced subsequent to the Italian Ministry of Labour's request for assistance in October 1998. The outreach was conducted as a means of executing a bilateral agreement that was reached with Albania in the previous year. Simultaneously, Italy had implemented a Framework Law that permitted the issuance of a predetermined quantity of visas for job-seekers. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) was assigned the responsibility of creating a programme to synchronise the availability of labour with the demand for it, as well as to facilitate the movement of Albanian individuals seeking employment

into Italy. The Albanian government approved IOM's involvement in the initiative, which formally began in March 2000 and finished in September 2001.

The main objective was to establish a method for the selection of 5,000 Albanian workers whose vocational aptitudes aligned with the requirements of the Italian job market (IOM 2002). A total of 11,000 candidates were interviewed and assessed from a pool of 28,525, resulting in 5,038 candidates being accepted and uploaded to an employment database that can be accessed by potential employers in Italy. Although the initiative was intended to address the labour needs of Italy, the involvement of Albania was conspicuously lacking in influencing the project or its processes.

1. The Shortcomings of the Labor Migration Database

The initiative, which was originally designed as a trial run to develop the Foreign Worker Registry (AILE), did not encompass the practical instruction of applicants. The process primarily consisted of registration and evaluation. Sadly, the database failed to establish connections between Albanian labourers and Italian employers prior to their departure. The 2002 immigration reform's elimination of the job-seeker visa option constituted a significant obstacle. Additional challenges encompassed employers' hesitancy to depend exclusively on recommendations from databases and language barriers.

2. Seasonal and Healthcare Sector Employment

Under Albanian migration law, emigration for periods of less than one year is classified as short-term. Italy grants visas for seasonal employment lasting up to nine months, with Albanians being given preference. However, in contrast to Italy, seasonal migration is not regarded as circular in Albania. The nursing industry is an outlier in this reciprocal association. As a result of a scarcity of qualified healthcare personnel, Italy eliminated labour quotas for nurses in its 2002 legislation, which engendered apprehension in Albania (Chaloff, 2005).

3. Role of Employment Agencies in Healthcare Sector

A niche has been identified for employment agencies in the Albanian nursing industry. As an illustration, "La Speranza" has been a facilitator of the migration of 500 Albanian nurses to Northern Italy since 1999 and maintains offices in both

Tirana and Milan. Regrettably, the absence of any of these nurses in Albania serves to underscore the difficulties confronted by the healthcare industries in both nations. Although private recruitment in Italy has been more successful than public sector recruitment in attracting foreign talent, the practise of posting job openings at public institutions for non-citizens has only recently commenced.

The Italy-Albania migration initiatives unveil an intricate web of prospects and obstacles. Despite concerted endeavours to regulate labour flows, deficiencies persist, specifically in respect of labour requirements and employee competencies (Chaloff, 2004). Furthermore, the movement of migrants has generated apprehension in particular industries, such as nursing, which prompts inquiries regarding the enduring   viability   of   these   migration   trends.

VII. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusion

Communist rule and its aftermath significantly influenced the political, economic, and migratory landscape of Albania. Enver Hoxha's authoritarian regime, lasting until 1992, left a lasting imprint on the nation's structures. The fall of communism in the early 1990s marked a pivotal moment in Albania's history. Under Hoxha's rule, the country experienced isolation, economic stagnation, and limited personal freedoms, prompting a desire for change.

The collapse of communism led to a mass migration of Albanians seeking better opportunities, particularly in neighboring Italy. This exodus reflected not only the economic hardships under communism but also the aspirations for a more prosperous life in a democratic and economically advanced country. The subsequent period witnessed Albania's efforts to transition from communism to a democratic system, aligning with the European Union through the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP). Italy, as an EU member, played a crucial role in assisting Albania during this transition.

The shift from communist policies to aligning with EU norms demonstrated profound political changes driven by the desire for European integration. The refugee crisis of 2015-2016 further underscored the interconnectedness of migration policies within the broader European framework. Albania's communist history, marked by isolationist policies, likely influenced its approach to the broader European migration discourse during this crisis.

Communist regimes are often characterized by closed borders, strict control over citizens' movements, and limited international engagement. Albania's post-communist journey, as reflected in its political cooperation with Italy, illustrates the challenges and complexities of transitioning from isolationist policies to embracing European norms. The impact of communism lingers in the collective memory, shaping Albania's approach to contemporary issues and its quest for closer

integration with Europe.

It is ideally suited for Italy and Albania to implement migration policies that emphasise co-development. With numerous Albanian students in Italy, a thriving Albanian community in Italy that contributes hundreds of millions of euros in remittances, and well-established commercial and cultural ties, the potential for mutually beneficial policies is evident (Clyne, 1994). A conspicuous deficiency, nevertheless, is the lack of innovative, development-oriented migration practises between the two nations.

It would appear that the primary objective of Italian migration policy is to regulate temporary labour migration, without considering the long-term consequences for Albania's development or the well-being of the migrants. The institutional division in Italy between migration and foreign aid policies is the cause of this approach. Notwithstanding, Italian development circles are becoming increasingly cognizant of the necessity for migration policies to be in line with development objectives. Extensive efforts by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutes, and international organisations have influenced the Directorate-General for Cooperation and Development of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to contemplate the co-development model and the advantages of circular migration. Although the importance of integrating migration and development is widely recognised in Albania, the majority of policy initiatives have been funded by donors, particularly the European Union. Notwithstanding the policy focus, Albania continues to face constraints on its institutional capacities, encompassing both human and economic resources.

Albania and Italy's connection from 1912 to 2020 is thoroughly examined, including the historical, political, and migratory elements. This study sheds light on the various factors that have influenced their relationships. Delving into Albania's turbulent political climate, Italy's migratory policies, and the complex web of diplomatic interactions that shaped their interwoven histories. The investigation commences with an exhaustive examination of the historical progression of both nations.

Extant research provides a comprehensive account of the political transformations that have influenced Albanian migration patterns and the corresponding policies of Italy. The alterations in migratory patterns are intricately

linked to the transition away from communism, economic challenges, and the progressive nature of the Albanian government.

This study delves into important legislative moments in Italy, such as the "Foschi Law" and the "Turco-Napolitano Law," and shows how these policies have had complex effects on migration.

Political changes in both nations have substantially impacted migratory patterns when looking at the years 1912–2020. Modern policy and bilateral ties are profoundly affected by the aftereffects of past events like WWII and the Balkan Pact of 1934. Add another layer of complexity to the political environment with the multifarious character of migration, including domestic and international movements. Albania and Italy possess every element necessary for a robust, development-driven migration relationship. Due to their profound economic interdependencies and extensive knowledge of one another's sociopolitical environment, they constitute an optimal pair. Neglecting to leverage these interactions for reciprocal growth is a substantial deficiency that necessitates urgent consideration.

In response to shifts in Balkan geopolitics, the political dynamics surrounding Albanian migration to Italy from 1912 to 2020 have changed dramatically. As a result of political unrest, numerous people fled autocratic governments and the Italian invasion of Albania in 1939, both of which occurred during the interwar era. As a result of the Cold War dynamics that emerged after WWII, migratory patterns changed. For example, Albania was cut off from the rest of the world by communist control, which caused irregular waves of refugees and defectors to seek sanctuary in Italy. A huge migration, prompted by political and economic considerations, began after communism collapsed in the early 1990s. After the Iron Curtain came down, people were able to move around more freely; as a result, many Albanians sought greater possibilities in Italy. After that, Albania's quest for EU membership deepened the political and economic links between the two countries. Albanian migration to Italy has changed throughout the years, but the political climate has always been a major factor in determining the trends and driving forces behind this movement.

B. Recommendations

This study examines the complex relationship between Albania and Italy during the 20th century, specifically focusing on Italian migration policies. An exhaustive evaluation of these policies and their ramifications for both nations underscores many aspects that might be enhanced to bolster bilateral collaboration.

1. Institutional Awareness and Coordination

Firstly, it is evident that there is an urgent requirement for Italy to improve its institutional awareness of the complex connection between migration and growth. The lack of coordination between migration and development strategies in the Italian administration hinders the exchange of knowledge and the establishment of a cohesive strategy. This divisive approach hinders the development of comprehensive, influential policies. Therefore, it is essential for migration policymakers to comprehend the wider developmental consequences of their actions, especially in the absence of organisational change. The absence of explicit requests from Albania, the nation of origin, should not be misinterpreted as a lack of requirements.

2. National Strategy and Administrative Functions

Furthermore, Albania should prioritise the enhancement of the integration of its national plan across various administrative sectors. It is especially crucial for departments that are not directly tasked with managing migration. The lack of a specialised coordinating body and insufficient connection with local governments hinder the promotion of return investment.

3. Development-Friendly Migration Policies

Moreover, the existing procedures formulated to build migration policies that facilitate growth appear to be ill-suited for the particular conditions of Albania and Italy. Albania faces diminished efficacy in implementing seasonal work programmes, despite their achievements in other situations. The agricultural and tourism seasons in Albania align with those in Italy, causing Albanian fields to be abandoned as migrants pursue seasonal work opportunities in Italy. Additional research is necessary to examine alternate methods, such as international entrepreneurship training or return bonuses, as proposed by

4. Support for Return Investments

Furthermore, although successful exiles have made some profitable investments upon returning, these endeavours have mostly taken place without any official institutional backing. The adoption of specific incentive programmes could greatly boost the capacity of these entrepreneurs to identify profitable sectors and mobilise diverse types of financing. Furthermore, immigrants who possess secure residency rights in Italy frequently assist in these return endeavours, emphasising the significance of ensuring stable legal statuses.

5. Educational Mobility

Furthermore, pupils could also profit from adopting a similar strategy. Efficient mechanisms should be established to enable Albanian students in Italy to safely explore the option of returning to their native country without jeopardising their Italian residency status. Additionally, in the event of a rise in the enrollment of Albanian students in Italy, it is crucial to have sufficient support mechanisms in place for their reintegration into Albania upon their return.

By tackling these concerns, there is the opportunity for implementing more efficient and mutually advantageous migration policies that may actively contribute to the development and prosperity of both Albania and Italy.

C. Recommendations for Further Study:

Further research should focus on particular historical periods within this time range to illuminate the complex relationship between political shifts and migratory waves. Examining the pull and push causes for Albanian migrants coming to Italy, a thorough research may centre on significant events like the Hoxha dictatorship, the fall of communism, and the ensuing democratic changes. Furthermore, a research comparing Albania and Italy might delve into the ways in which the changing political landscapes in both countries have influenced the way Albanian migrants have been welcomed and integrated throughout the years.

In addition, it would greatly enhance the study to comprehend the function of transnational laws and accords between Italy and Albania. To further understand how political collaboration has affected the migratory experience of Albanians, it may be

instructive to examine the two nations' immigration rules, bilateral agreements, and diplomatic ties. Adding a transcontinental viewpoint to the research would include exploring the influence of larger EU policies on migratory trends.

Finally, by exploring the function of transnational policies, concentrating on particular historical epochs, and doing comparison studies, future research should seek to enhance our comprehension of the complex link between political shifts and Albanian emigration to Italy. In addition to adding to the body of academic knowledge, these studies would also be a great resource for professionals and politicians involved in migrations and international affairs.

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