

**FRAMING FRENCH INTEGRATION POLICY:  
THE CONTENTIOUS INTERACTIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND  
IMMIGRANTS**

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**ABSTRACT**

The inflow of a massive amount of immigrants, increasing conflict with the police and the Islamic terrorism have led to a huge and distressing dispute across Europe, and, in particular, in France. The recent wave of Islamic terror attacks, continuing urban unrest especially the autumn 2005 French “riots”, the rise of the French youth group Generation Identitaire with the slogan: “Our only legacy is our land, our blood, our identity”, and the controversy over the Burka and Burkini are the background to an acute sense of the failing of immigrant integration in France.

The integration policy has caused intractable controversy in France. However, this paper aims to demonstrate that why France has failed to integrate their immigrants? It looks deeply into the “frames” behind those “actors”, it will utilize a frame-analysis approach to examine that there are three substantial “frame-conflicts” exist in France related to the “actors” (French government, French citizens and immigrants) on the issue of immigrant integration: 1) French identity frame-conflicts, 2) Secularism frame-conflicts, and 3) Frame-conflicts within the French government. Afterwards, use frame-reflection method to come to the resolution by taking those multiple “frames” as objectives to analyze. This article argues that the relationship between the French nation

and its immigrants has come under considerable strain and that France has not changed its ideological perspective in terms of keeping its national ideals which include national identity and traditional republican model, along with the disputes within French government. Thus, this paper argues, in order to overcome the problems of integration, the contentious interactions between France and its immigrants must first be tackled. Otherwise the wall between France and immigrants will cause further conflict and impact in French society!

**Keywords:** National Identity, Immigrant, Integration Policy, France, Frame-conflicts