

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to discover cause or causes of different approach toward immigrants between Australia and New Zealand. The timeframe is set between 2001 and 2015 and is occasionally exceeded. Theory of scapegoating was applied and the scapegoat mechanism was expected to be launched by changes in economic situation. This theory is based on the assumption that society during times of hardship tends to search for so-called scapegoat. Those are usually groups unable to defend themselves. Blame for variety of actual as well as alleged problems is shifted by society towards them. The purpose of this behaviour is to relieve the accumulated frustration/aggression and simultaneously keep semblance of moral value. The other motivation is desire to increase power at the expense of the group(s). Immigrants are naturally ideal targets for scapegoating, because of their vulnerability and distinctness from majority population. The conducted research found out that this mechanism is often applied to immigration in Australia and influences the immigration policy of the country. This prevailingly does not apply to New Zealand. Its immigration policy is motivated rationally on the basis of costs and benefits. Nevertheless, the economic situation did not prove to be a trigger of the scapegoat mechanism in Australia. Therefore, further research is needed to research causes of this behaviour, which might vest in deeper social or psychological reasons.