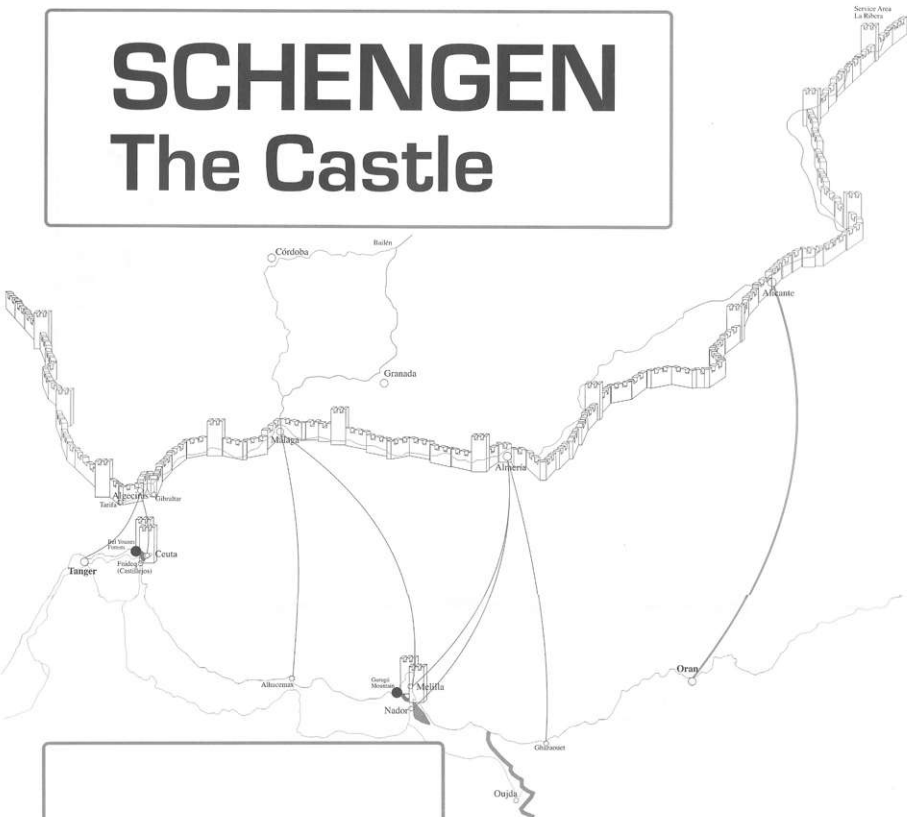


SCHENGEN

The Castle



Franz Kafka's novel *The Castle* tells the paradoxical story of a surveyor named "K" and his impossible attempt to enter a castle that had been let to him by its owners. Over the course of the book the reader grasps the irrationality that reigns around the fortress, creating a desperate relationship between those within the castle and the person without. This person, who becomes increasingly dehumanised and degraded, can do nothing against a system that uses symbolic and physical violence, psychological coercion and other immoral means of persuasion to prevent him from reaching his goal.

The castle (read Europe) symbolises security, stability and order and plays a fundamental role in choosing its new "citizens"—only those with certain qualities and conditions can enter.

This project will attempt to document the different types of economy that arise around the idea of the border: the formal or linear economy ("within the walls") of immigrants who reside legally in the European Economic Community and have regulated jobs—which include paid vacations; the informal or circular economy, a borderline commercial space which fluctuates between the "legal" and the "illegal"; and the **illegal or invisible economy** ("outside the walls") run by the mafia, which takes advantage of the desperation of "irregular" immigrants trying to improve their lives. Here the border is understood as a huge system of political and economic control in which human beings are seen as just another form of merchandise.

On 14 June 1985, the German Federal Republic, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands signed the Schengen Accord, putting an end to restrictions on the circulation of people within the borders of its signatories. The remaining European countries signed the Convention between 1995 and 2001.

The agreement's regulations establish visas, rigorous controls and a very selective system for granting work permits to immigrants with the goal of creating obstacles to and reducing illegal immigration and the free circulation of people who are not residents of the European Economic Community.

In the face of their failure in the fight against clandestine immigration, EEC member countries demonstrated a desire to externalise the issue and to force Morocco and other countries in the region to take responsibility for controlling emigration by reinforcing the European Union's borders and promising extensive economic aid. These countries, in the words of Mohamed Khachari, are thus being called upon to act as "subcontractors" and the "advance guards" of European immigration policy, doing Europe's dirty work and carrying out "off-site" repression far from European public opinion. In this way the EU has begun a subtle extension of its geographical boundaries, converting northern Africa into a buffer zone in which immigrants' destinies are played out.

In August and September 2005 three Sub-Saharan youths died trying to scale the fence at Melilla, presumably because of the force used by police in riot gear. Their deaths set off the tragic events of the nights of 29 September and 6 October in which, following a massive assault in the enclosure, 11 migrants were killed by gunfire. By all accounts, the shots were fired by the Moroccan security forces.

Over the next two days extensive raids were carried out by the Moroccan National Police, Auxiliary Forces and Armed Forces, in which most of the migrants living in the woods near Ceuta and Melilla were detained. The detainees were transferred to the south of the country by bus and abandoned in the desert without food or water.

The UN demands that the human rights of migrants attempting to enter Spain be respected.

ABC, 8/10/2005

New York

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, today expressed his deep concern for the "very serious situation" of migrants trying to cross the border between Morocco and Spain and urged all governments to manage the movements of people crossing borders in a more effective manner.

Doctors without Borders accuses Rabat of abandoning 800 migrants in the desert.

Gara, 8/10/2005

SOS Racism today denounced the fact that 24 migrants have died of thirst in the desert, according to reports confirmed by the non-governmental organisation, "as a result of Morocco's policy of removing migrants expelled from Spanish territory to the country's southern border, in the middle of the Sahara Desert, and leaving them to die." For its part, Doctors Without Borders announced that at least 800 people of Sub-Saharan origin had been taken in the past few days by the Moroccan government from the area around Melilla to the southwest, in the desert on the border with Algeria.

Madrid and Rabat back down after the Doctors Without Borders' denunciation.

Gara, 9/10/2005

Morocco began today to repatriate the thousand or so Sub-Saharan migrants who were abandoned in the desert by the Kingdom's authorities as a result of Spanish pressure to put an end to the assaults on the enclosures around Ceuta and Melilla.

A project by
XAVIER ARENÓS

Elisaco Oliveras, *El Periódico de Aragón*, 13/10/2005

(...)The European Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security, Franco Frattini, stated that "Spain is doing everything it can to reinforce its control over its international borders" but insisted that the problem is "truly European". Morocco, Frattini added, "is making significant efforts to halt illegal immigration", but he acknowledged that "there are limits to what it can accomplish on its own" if the European Union does not quickly provide "substantial levels of aid". In addition to the 40 million euros promised to Morocco two years ago, the European Commission indicated that it might adjust other programs in order to provide additional assistance of 15 to 20 million euros in 2006. Rabat, however, believes that this figure is far below the real cost of managing the crisis alone.

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