

Article

National unity: A systematic review from the perspective of policy effectiveness experience

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Abstract: National unity is a matter of great concern for many countries around the world today. The study of policy evaluation is an important aspect of the study of national unity. The evaluation of policy implementation effects can help policymakers analyze whether there are problems in the formulation and implementation of the policy, thereby promoting further policy adjustments to better achieve national unity. This article adopts thematic searches and a systematic literature review as research methods. Through the systematic review, it summarizes and analyzes the research on national unity policies across different regions and countries. The article has two objectives: First, to explore the current perspectives in the research on national unity policies, and second, to analyze the state of research regarding the effectiveness of national unity policies. Among the 35 papers analyzed, 7 were on integration policy, 6 were on education policy and 4 were on language policy. To a certain extent, this reflects the perspectives of some countries in Europe, Asia and Africa, including France, Greece, Russia, Turkey, China, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria and other countries on the governance of national unity. Research on policy effectiveness is mainly conducted from the perspectives of policy content and policy implementation. However, there is little analysis of successful cases that achieved the desired goals. The main contributions of this article are as follows: first, it summarizes and identifies the characteristics of national solidarity-related policies in different continents and countries. Secondly, the experience of the success and failure of the national unity policy is studied and summarized. In addition, this article also found that there are still gaps in the research on successful experiences and causes.

Keywords: national unity; policy contents analysis; policy implementation analysis; systematic review

1. Introduction

National unity is a matter of great concern for many countries around the world today. Although discussions and research on national unity and related issues have begun since the emergence of modern countries, how to achieve national unity is still an issue that many countries are still exploring. Ethnic diversity (Stone and Hulse, 2007), cultural diversity (Jenson, 1998; Stone and Hulse, 2007), and immigrants or refugees groups (Jenson, 1998) have become key points in achieving national unity.

National unity is a broad issue. On the one hand, this issue is related to many countries. Whether in Asia, Europe, Africa, America or Oceania, there are countries that face difficulties in achieving national unity. On the other hand, the study of issues related to national unity is referred to many disciplines, such as sociology, political science, psychology, history, etc. Sociology's research on national unity mainly focuses on social integration, identity, and multiculturalism. For example, Benedict

Anderson proposed the concept of “Imagined Communities”. He believed that nations are “imagined” communities created through shared symbols, narratives, and a sense of belonging, often facilitated by the development of print capitalism and mass media (Anderson, 2006). Émile Durkheim analyzed social cohesion using “Mechanical Solidarity” and “Organic Solidarity” (Durkheim, 1897). The main scholars in political science who have studied national unity include Ernest Renan, John Stuart Mill, etc. Important scholars in the field of psychology, Henri Tajfel and John Turner, proposed the ‘Social Identity Theory,’ which suggests that individuals enhance their self-worth by identifying with groups (such as ethnicities or nations) and form distinctions between other groups. National unity can be achieved by strengthening collective identity (Tajfel, 1974; Turner et al., 1994). In historical research, national unity is studied through historical narratives (Briggs, 1996) to understand the cohesion of the nation.

In national unity, “nation” is a very important concept. Many philosophers, include Max weber, Ernest Renan, Benedict Anderson, John Stuart Mill, etc., have defined “nation”, and the concept of “nation” has evolved over time. There are two important factors in the concept of “nation”: culture and politics. In other words, a nation is a human group that combines cultural and political characteristics (Heywood, 2013). The earliest definition of “nation” as a cultural community can be traced back to the 18th century. Johann Gottfried Herder (1744–1803), German philosopher, emphasized the importance of history, habits, attitudes, and language in the formation process of “nation”. Similar ideas are echoed in psychology, where social psychologists point out that a shared identity, sense of belonging and security are important factors in people forming groups.

“Nation” as a political entity emphasizes citizen loyalty and political loyalty (Renan., 1882). Democracy and freedom are important aspects in this viewpoint. The idea of emphasizing the political character of nation can first be found in the work of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Rousseau raised the idea of ‘general will’ and discussed individuals coming together to form a social contract, creating a collective identity and a sense of belonging that is essential to the idea of a nation. Many nationalist theories prefer that the nation is a political entity. Benedict Anderson, in his influential book “Imagined Communities” published in 1983, introduced the idea that nations are “imagined” communities created through shared symbols, narratives, and a sense of belonging, often facilitated by the development of print capitalism and mass media.

Anthony D. Smith put forward his own understanding of nation. He believed that nation is not only a cultural community or political entity, but a community that combines the two elements of culture and politics. Smith (1989) defines it this way, “A nation is a named community of history and culture, possessing a unified territory, economy, mass education system and common legal rights” (p. 342).

Based on definitions of nation above mentioned, it can be found that national unity will be affected by many factors, such as cultural diversity, identity, social fairness and justice, government behavior, policy effectiveness, resource allocation and possession, etc. Therefore, achieving national unity is a complex and challenging endeavor. This is why research on national unity continues to this day. National unity is closely tied to the survival of a nation, which is why it is a matter of great concern for many countries around the world. With the strengthening of globalization, the

number of immigrants in the world has increased significantly. According to the United Nations' 2022 Migration Report the number of immigrants in the world reached 281 million in 2020. As a new group, immigrants bring new culture, language, and lifestyle to the host country. At the same time, they will also face new living environment, social relations, identity, and common good. Achieving national unity is a new challenge for all groups. This kind of ethnic diversity and cultural diversity brought by immigrants mainly affects some European countries, while Asian and African countries are affected by their own multi-ethnic conditions and need to constantly explore effective methods to promote national unity. Globalization has brought more cultural, ideological and value impacts to the world's multi-ethnic and multi-cultural countries, which will challenge the national unity of these countries.

The significance and complexity of national unity make policy an important perspective in the study of national unity. Policy is a plan of action (Heywood, 2013). It reflects the government's rhetoric, actions, and their impact on society. Policy is an effective means to promote national unity. Policies can promote national unity through language assimilation, (Giudici and Grizelj, 2017; López, 2014; Sazzad, 2021; Shen and Gao, 2019), skill development (Alaraj et al., 2019), coordination of social resources, protection of individual rights, and the shaping of national identity and a sense of belonging. This means that policies related to national unity cover culture, education, language, economy, rights and many other aspects. However, the results of policy implementation may not meet positive and effective expectations. This is because policy is a process. A complete policy process includes four stages: policy initiation, policy formulation, policy implementation, and policy evaluation (Heywood, 2013). No matter where deviations occur in the process, they can affect the ultimate outcome of a policy. Therefore, policy is a prominent area of study within national unity research.

The study of policy effectiveness is an important aspect of the study of national unity. The studies of policy effectiveness can help policymakers analyze whether there are problems in the formulation and implementation of the policy, thereby promoting further adjustments to the policy. This article focuses on policies related to national unity, and summarizes the policy characteristics and research status of different regions and countries through a systematic review. In addition, this article analyzes and studies the policy content and policy implementation. The results of the study will be used to explain the effectiveness of the policies and thus summarize the success or failure of these policies.

This paper also found that there is still a gap in the systematic literature review of national unity from the perspective of policy effectiveness. For example, there are few studies on successful cases. This is an important reason for choosing this perspective in this article. Therefore, one of the innovations of this article is to analyze the existing research on national unity policy from the perspective of successful cases.

2. Research methodology

2.1. Materials and methods

This article utilizes three databases: Web of Science, Scopus, and Elsevier, as sources for the data collection. The reason for choosing these three databases is that

they offer comprehensive collections of literature, covering almost all relevant issues in this discipline. Another crucial factor is the high quality of literature found in these databases, which provides valuable analysis and research insights.

“Web of Science” is the world’s largest and internationally recognized comprehensive academic information resource, reflecting the scientific research standards and covering the most extensive range of disciplines. This database primarily includes journals from the SCI, SSCI, and AandHCI categories. The selection criteria and process of Web of Science are highly stringent, and any journal that no longer meets the inclusion standards of any WoS Core Collection database will be excluded. “99% of the world’s top 400 universities and over 26,000 libraries in 145 countries rely on Clarivate solutions to advance research, teaching, and learning” (Quoted from WoS official website).

Scopus, launched by Elsevier at the end of 2004, is the world’s largest abstract and citation database, encompassing nearly 23,000 sources from over 5000 publishers globally. Over 68.7 million records in Scopus contain an abstract to provide users with comprehensive information about the research presented in the database.

ScienceDirect is another literature repository under Elsevier, and 1.4 million articles on ScienceDirect are open access.

ATLAS.ti 8 was used as a data analysis tool in this article, which helped this study analyze data more efficiently and accurately. ATLAS.ti is a professional qualitative data analysis software that can manage and analyze various types of qualitative data, including text (txt, doc, pdf, etc.), multimedia materials (audio, video, pictures), Google map files, etc. This software is commonly used for data analysis in anthropology, business, marketing, criminology, economics, education, history, law, medicine, politics, psychology, sociology and other disciplines. The ATLAS.ti software also has a visualization function, which can encode a large amount of information such as research area, publication time, research topics, research questions, theoretical frameworks, keywords, references, etc. to generate a visual relationship network based on the researchers’ research needs. Using this software in systematic literature reviews will help researchers conduct analysis and research more efficiently, accurately and conveniently. For this article, ATLAS.ti was used to quantify and analyze the regional distribution characteristics of national unity policies, the types of national unity policies, and the content and effectiveness of national unity policies.

2.2. Literature screening process

This article finally screened out the required literatures through 4 steps.

The first step was to determine the search keywords. The primary focus of this article was on relevant research regarding policies related to national unity. Therefore, key search terms included “policy,” “national unity,” as well as synonymous or closely related words to these two concepts. Due to the different calculation methods used by each literature database, there were slight differences in the search terms used. The specific search terms used in the three databases of Web of Science, Scopus, and Elsevier are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Databases and search strings.

Databases	keywords	
Web of Science (WoS)	(((((((((TS = (policy)) OR TS = (policies)) AND TS = (“national unity”)) OR TS = (“national cohesion”)) OR TS = (“national solidarity”)) OR TS = (“National harmony”)) OR TS = (“National consensus”)) OR TS = (“National integration”)) OR TS = (“National togetherness”)) OR TS = (“National oneness”)) OR TS = (“National agreement”)) OR TS = (“National consensus-building”))	n = 740
Scopus	TITLE-ABS-KEY (policy OR policies AND “national unity” OR “national cohesion” OR “national solidarity” OR “National harmony” OR “National consensus” OR “National integration” OR “National togetherness” OR “National oneness” OR “National agreement” OR “National consensus-building”))	n = 1190
ScienceDirect	policy AND “national unity”	n = 1798

The second step involved determining the Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria. This study utilized research domain, time frame, language, and article type as judgment criteria to conduct the initial screening of relevant literature (see **Figure 1**). The specific Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria are as follows:

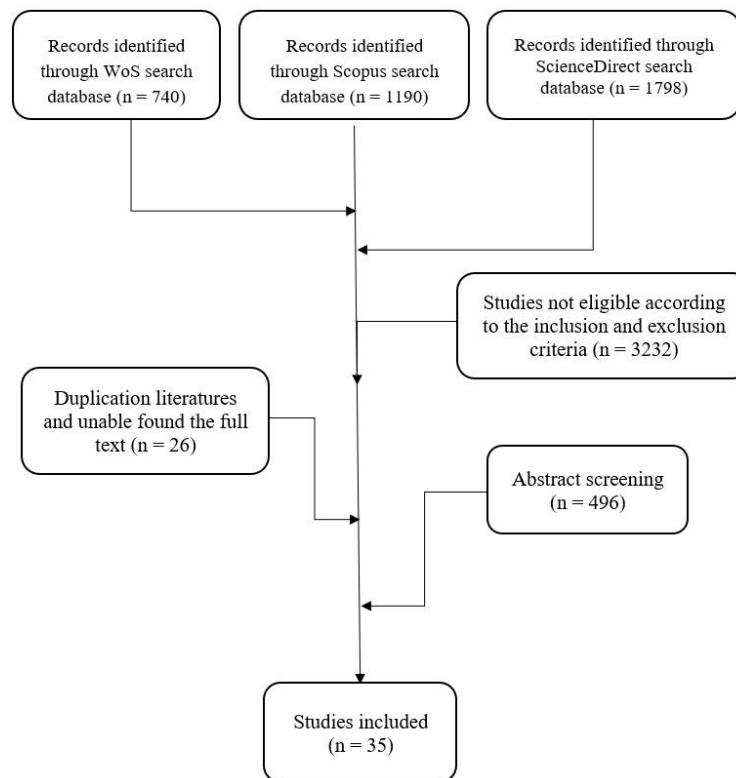


Figure 1. Screening process based on the thematic review.

Inclusion criteria:

- A) Articles containing search keywords in the title, keywords, and abstract;
- B) The publication time is 2019–2023;
- C) All published journal articles;
- D) All social science articles;

Exclusion criteria:

- A) Any review articles;

- B) the language is not English;
- C) All non-social science articles;
- D) Duplicate literature;
- E) Articles not available.

The third step involved the screening of articles based on their abstracts. Literature that meets the criteria were imported into Mendeley Desktop. Despite setting detailed criteria for the initial screening of literature, there may still be articles that do not align with the research question. Therefore, based on the theme of the literature review, further screening of article abstracts would be conducted to exclude literature that is not relevant to the research question.

The fourth step involved data analysis. All articles that passed the abstract screening and are relevant to the research perspective have gone through a thorough full-text reading. After comprehensive reading, important concepts, theories, methodologies, perspectives, experiments, and data results from all literature were coded and organized. Subsequently, a systematic analysis of this information was conducted to identify valuable insights and areas of improvement.

Through keyword searches, 740 related articles were found on Web of Science, 1190 on Scopus, and 1798 on ScienceDirect. After screening by the Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria, 3232 articles did not meet the criteria. In addition, 26 articles were duplicates or did not have complete content. These 3258 articles were also excluded. Finally, after screening the abstracts, the contents of 496 articles were not relevant to the topic of this paper. Therefore, the final number of articles that meet the theme criteria is 35. This paper will provide a detailed analysis of these 35 articles.

3. Result

3.1. Policies and their regional distribution characteristics

After classifying and statistically analyzing the policies discussed in 35 articles, it was observed that integration policy, education policy, and language policy are the three most frequently researched policies. The number of articles discussing these policies is 7, 6, and 4 respectively. In addition to these three policies, policies that were also mentioned include cultural policies, ethnic policies, rights policies, health policies, economic policies, etc.

The visual image generated by the ATLAS.ti software shows that the countries under study for integration policy are Greece, Finland, France, Russia, and Kenya. All countries are European countries, except for Kenya (see **Figure 2**). This may be related to the pressure and problems caused by the increasing number of immigrants and refugees in Europe in recent years. In the past two decades, the rapid acceleration of globalization and civil wars and conflicts have displaced millions of Sudanese, Syrians, and Rohingyas (Murard, 2023), leading to a significant increase in the numbers of immigrants and refugees in Europe. Since the outbreak of the European refugee crisis in 2015, about 1.5 million people have settled in Europe and received inter-national protection (Pasetti and Conte, 2021). In 2017, the number of immigrants in Russia reached 12 million (Matveevskaya and Pogodin, 2019). The sharply increasing number of immigrants and refugees has prompted relevant countries to pay

more attention to “solidarity”. Research on integration policy has become an important topic in many European countries.

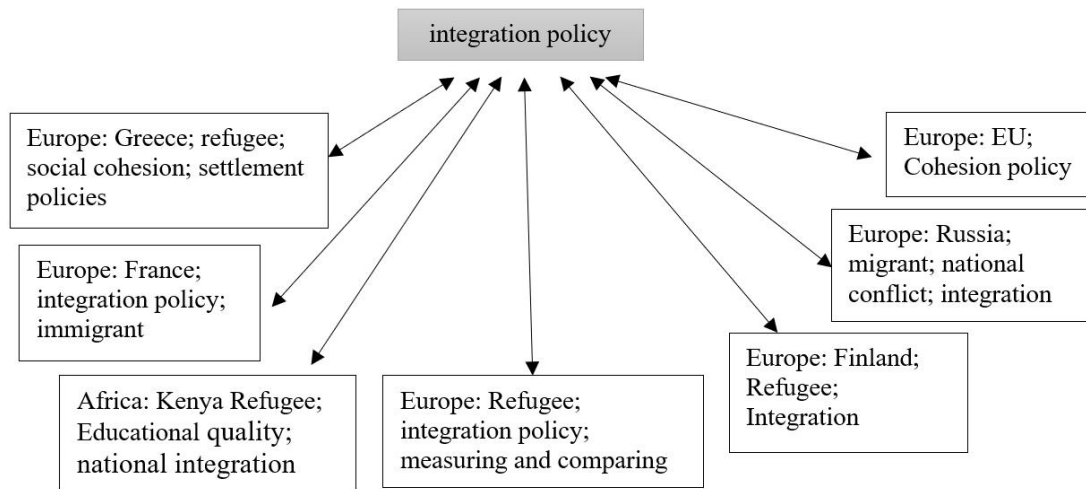


Figure 2. Continents researching integration policies.

Research and discussion on education policy mainly focus on Asian and African countries. The network visualization shows that China, Turkey, South Africa, Rwanda, Kenya, and Greece have all implemented education policies to promote national unity (see **Figure 3**). The situation in these countries differs from that of European countries that pursue integration policies. Some of these countries are multi-ethnic countries, and education policies are mainly formulated and implemented in response to their own multi-ethnic national conditions. Other countries, on the other hand, are concerned with issues related to immigration and refugees. Educational methods are used by many countries to achieve national unity and national integration. Education encompasses a wide range of aspects, including skill training, moral education, and values education, among others. The literature analyzed in this article shows that although they all conduct research on education policies, there are many differences in the education policies implemented by different countries, which makes this part of the research full of their own characteristics.

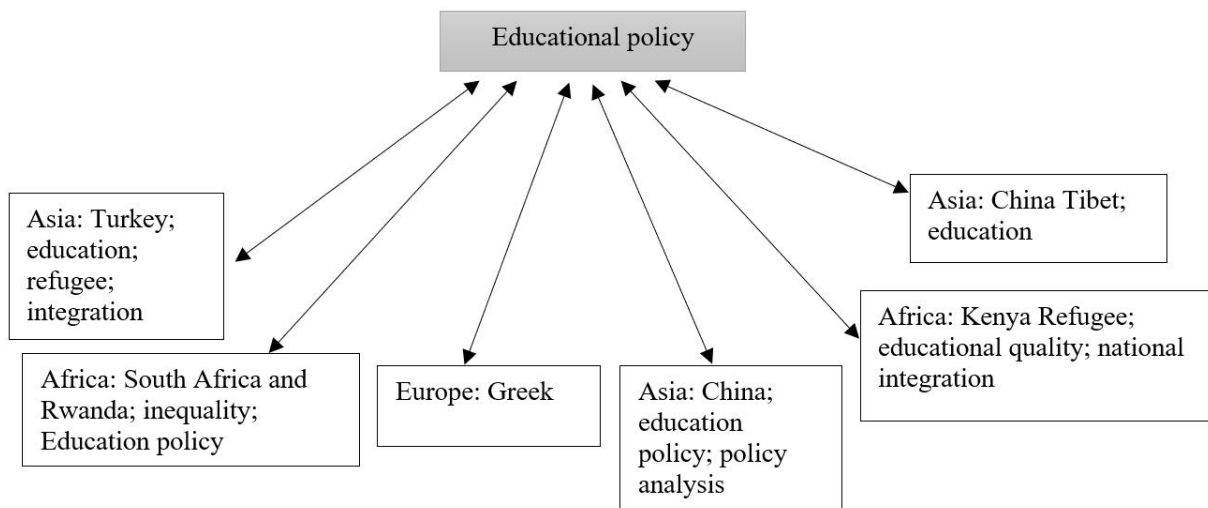


Figure 3. Continents studying education policies.

Based on the network diagram, the majority of countries that implement language policies are located in Asia. The four countries covered in the article: China, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Nigeria are all multi-ethnic countries (see **Figure 4**). Within the country, some ethnic groups have their own ethnic languages. John Gottfried Herder’s cultural nationalism viewpoint posits that a common cultural core is of significant importance for national unity. In addition to the more widely studied integration policies, education policies and language policies, there are also some studies that analyze and discuss economic policies, cultural policies, rights policies, social welfare policies, internship policies, etc. The policies implemented by European countries include culture, economy, rights, and social security. Asian countries mainly discussed ethnic policies and autonomy policies. African countries have conducted research on economic policies (see **Figure 5**).

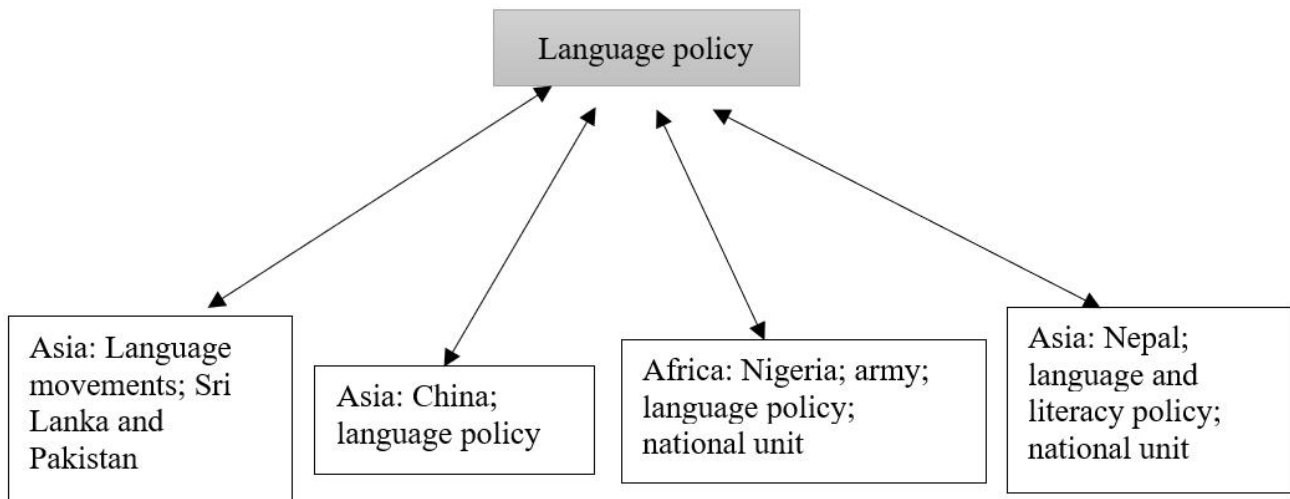


Figure 4. Continents researching language policies.

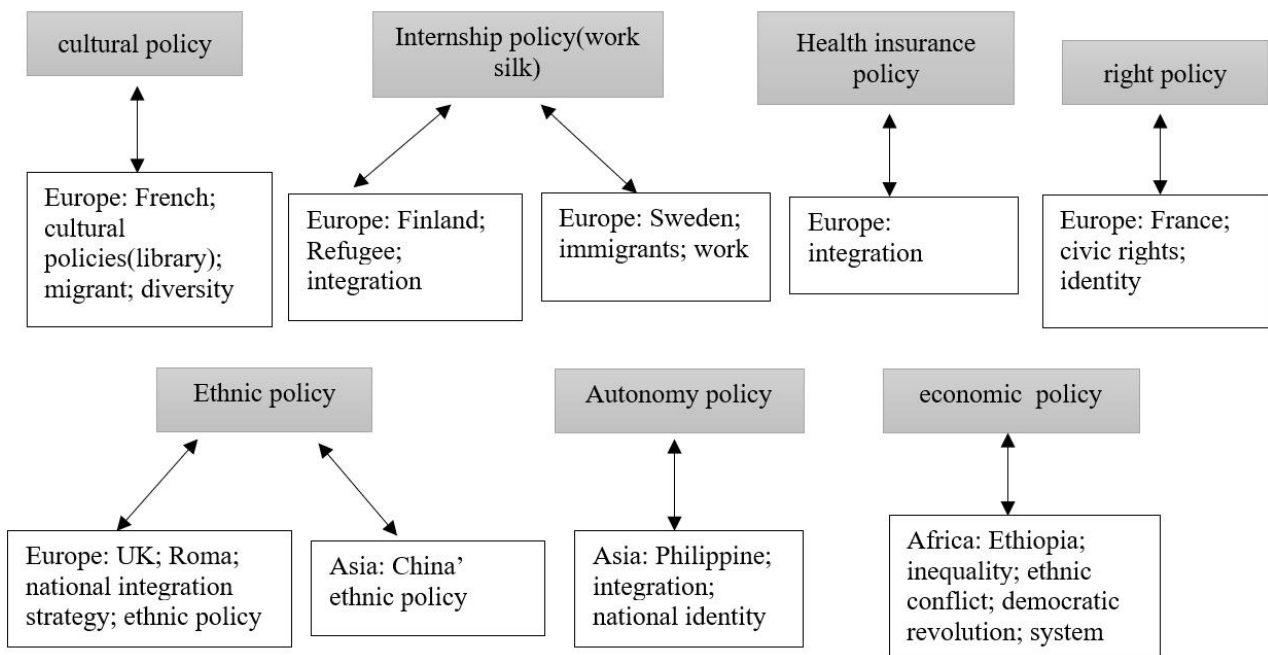


Figure 5. Continents researching other policies.

3.2. Policy contents analysis and results

There is often a gap between the expected effect of a policy and the final implementation effect of the policy. This gap may occur in any aspect of policy initiation, policy formation or policy implementation. Policy evaluation can “help to refine and improve existing policy” (Heywood, 2013). Policy evaluation can be conducted through qualitative research methods as well as quantitative research methods. Qualitative research can obtain people’s attitudes, evaluations, and historical experiences toward a certain policy through observation, interviews, and document analysis. Quantitative research evaluates the implementation effects of policies through numbers such as proportions and trends.

From the literature analyzed in this article, it can be found that the policy goals formulated by various countries have certain similarities, and they are all related to the integration of the country. However, there are differences in policies in different countries or during different time periods. One part of the description of the goal uses “integration”, another part uses “assimilation”, and another part uses “national unity”. There are also a small number of articles that do not mention these three words, but their research content is closely related to the previous three parts of research, such as identity and diversity (see **Table 2**).

The content of a policy is an important aspect of policy evaluation. Policy making is not simply decision-making. Political leaders, government agencies, political parties, public opinion, interest groups, and the mass media are all important factors that influence policy making. This can lead to policies deviating from their intended goals due to the influence of various factors, resulting in policy content not aligning with the actual situation, and policies failing to achieve their expected outcomes. In the evaluation of policies related to national unity, analysis and evaluation of policy content account for a considerable proportion. The results of analysis and evaluation show that (1) the attitudes of relevant groups are often ignored (Del Savio, 2020; Matveevskaya and Pogodin, 2019); (2) the policy lacks attention to a specific group or certain issues (Bellino and Dryden-Peterson, 2019; Lane and Smith, 2021); (3) Nationalism, stereotypes, discrimination and inequality exist in policy (Jitpiromsri et al., 2020; Masoud, et al., 2023); (4) there is a discrepancy between policymakers’ expectations and reality (Moore, 2020; Russell and Carter, 2019; Yang, 2019); (5) Restrictive content affects policy effects (Toker, 2021).

Many European countries have formulated integration policies to achieve the purpose of promoting integration of immigrants and refugee groups into their social life. These integration policies mostly exhibit inclusive features, covering various aspects including education, healthcare, employment, and more. However, these integration policies have not achieved the expected goals after implementation. In other words, integration policies are not very effective. Many host countries have experienced more social disharmony and more prominent group conflicts, which is reflected in both immigrant and refugee groups and native citizen groups. From the perspective of immigrant and refugee groups, the integration policy of the host country itself has stereotypes and racialization tendencies. Meanwhile, native citizens believe that integration policies give too much preference to immigrants and refugee groups and have brought many negative effects to their country.

Most researchers who have studied integration policy have adopted qualitative research methods, and immigrants, refugee groups, and native citizens have been interviewed in different studies. Through interviews, immigrants and refugee groups said that integration policies show a tendency to identify (Bellino and Dryden-Peterson, 2019; Toker, 2021) and racialize (Masoud, et al., 2023), which intensifies conflicts between different groups. On the other hand, anti-immigration sentiment has emerged among the native citizens of the host country. If this attitude is not taken seriously, it will have a negative impact on the stability of the country. Lorenzo Del Savio (2020) said that xenophobic attitudes will reduce social trust, thereby endangering social solidarity.

Unlike the situation in Europe, most countries in Asia are not the main destination for immigrants and refugees. However, Asian countries also face the issue of multi-ethnicity, as many Asian nations are characterized as multi-ethnic states. The results of literature classification and analysis indicate that research on national unity-related policies in Asian countries mainly focuses on education policy, language policy, and ethnic policy. These studies also used qualitative research methods, with interviews and fieldwork being the main means of obtaining data. The main problems of these policies are manifested in inequality between ethnic groups, forced assimilation, and deviations in the understanding of policies by different groups.

In research on language policies in Nepal, Sah (2021) stated that within the nationalist framework, ruling elites and dominant ethnic and class groups were privileged. This inequality reflects deeper structural inequalities. Assimilation policies often arouse people's resistance, especially when it comes to issues such as culture and religion. However, "Some people who could adapt themselves to the policies are disposed to take advantage of them" (Jitpiromsri et al., 2020).

The inconsistency between the original intention of a policy and the understanding by the policy participants is an important factor affecting the effectiveness of the policy. In a study of the "intellectual aid for Tibet" policy, the author mentioned that this policy harmed the local education ecology in Tibet and prevented Tibetan students from connecting with their families and communities. This exposes the problem that Han teachers and Tibetan teachers and students have different interpretations of the meaning and practice of "aid" and development (Yang, 2019).

3.3. Policy implementation analysis and results

Monitoring policy implementation is another important part of policy evaluation. The implementation of a policy is the stage in the policy process where the government or relevant authorities put the policy into action. Evaluating the implementation of a policy is a critical step in the policy-making process to ensure that the policy is being carried out effectively and achieving its intended objectives. It has been proven that, in the process of policy implementation, the ideological inclinations of the implementers often lead to the deviation of the policy from its intended goals. In the implementation of Sweden's intern program, "the supervisors were mostly concerned with what the trainees could gain from the internship—not what they could contribute with in professional terms" (Alaraj et al., 2019). Similarly, in Finland, half of the

Finnish companies interviewed believe that immigrants from certain countries cannot work effectively and efficiently (Masoud, et al., 2023). Internship policies often harbor racially biased ideologies, making it difficult for refugees to integrate into the host country's social life.

The government and bureaucracy are key factors influencing policy implementation. Administrative barriers and insufficient funds are reasons that contribute to the difficulties in policy implementation (Pasetti and Conte, 2021). Policy participants' understanding of the policy also constitutes the reason why the policy effect does not meet expectations. China's "intellectual aid to Tibet" policy has been criticized by some local people because of differences in the understanding of "aid" between Han and Tibetans.

3.4. Analysis of successful cases

Not all policy evaluation results are deficient or failed, and some successful cases analyzed in the study provide useful experience for policymakers. Firstly, inclusive policies receive more support. When dealing with refugee issues, Istanbul adopts an inclusive approach to issues such as employment opportunities and affordable housing, which is why it is so popular with refugees (Memisoglu and Yavcan, 2022). Mcmurry (2022) pointed out in his research that recognizing the collective autonomy of indigenous peoples is conducive to this group's identification with the country. Secondly, establishing a multi-level policy network is an important consensus for policy success. Fulya Memişoğlu and Başak Yavcan analyzed local policies and believed that the support of diverse local-level policies plays a positive role in national-level policies. In addition, high-quality policy implementation is also a critical part of policy success. This means that policy implementers should have a positive attitude. Finally, creating a special set of circumstances that connect people and the country through policies and encouraging people to actively participate in them can better play the role of policies. (Murard, 2023; Pitts, 2019).

The analysis of the 35 articles shows that, although there are studies that focus on the successes of national unity policies in specific countries, most of them treat these successes only briefly as a small part of their research. The number of studies that take this perspective as a primary focus is very limited.

Table 2. Summary of policies characteristic and analysis.

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Clara Sandelind	2019	Sweden	Europe	Can the Welfare State Justify Restrictive Asylum Policies? A Critical Approach	Welfare state, Refugees, Realism, Idealism, Asylum	restrictive asylum policies	Qualitative	reconciling refugees with the welfare state	to point out where a more critical approach would improve description and thereby alter action-guiding recommendations	Restrictive asylum policies are justified to a certain extent. But only if these restrictive policies do not increase bias	1) Population variability also matters, insofar targeted strategies aimed at different psychological profiles may be needed; 2) Optimism and skepticism should be independent of particular normative theories regarding migration policy
Hala Alaraj, Majsja Allelin, Matilda Amundsen Bergström and Camilla Brudin Borg	2019	Sweden	Europe	Internship as a Mean for Integration. A Critical Study	Internship, Labo market, Integration, Sweden, Skills, Workplace culture	(work silk) Internship Policy	Qualitative	speed up immigrants' establishment process	to discuss ideas and practices in an internship program for refugees that The University of Gothenburg started in 2015	By not granting the necessary resources to the program, heads of departments and the chancellor of the university implicitly undermined the importance of the program	1) not only requires practical knowledge, but also a mastery of a cultural competence; 2) one of the most crucial aspects of the internship is the question of language; 3) the supervisors were mostly concerned with what the trainees could gain from the internship—not what they could contribute with in professional terms
A. S. Matveevskaya and S. N. Pogodin	2019	Ruassia	Europe	St. Petersburg's experience in resolving of urban national conflicts	national conflicts, migrant integration, National Migration Policy Concept, integration potential of a city	Integration Policy	Qualitative	promote the integration of international migrants into host countries	1) to evaluate problems of integration and their effects on the city's social and cultural situation; 2) to analyze the potential of existing programs and developments oriented to reducing the intensity of national conflicts in St. Petersburg	The plan has potential, but it requires the immigrants themselves to be willing to integrate into the local society	1) St. Petersburg has potential for successful integration of migrants into the population: the activity of social organizations and involvement of city authorities provide an effective formula; 2) There are still problems that need further improvement

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Lorenzo Del Savio	2020	—	Europe	Anti-Immigration Backlashes as Constraints	Migration, Feasibility, Exclusivism, Populism	Immigration Policies	—	averting anti-immigration backlashes	to advise policymakers to pay attention to the reality of anti-immigration sentiment	Existing immigration policies will to some extent to rise anti-immigration backlashes	1) Increased diversity in terms of habits, norms and beliefs may make social coordination more complicated; ensuing misunderstandings may in turn reduce the payoffs of everyday sociality and increase the chances of interpersonal conflict; 2) As far as the scholarly and policy debate is concerned, restricting migration is therefore regarded as either unjust and harmful or at least harmful
Tatiana Fogelman	2020	German	Europe	Becoming-German: Integrationism, citizenship and territorialization of Germanness	Integrationism, Citizenship, Migration, Territorialization, Belonging Nations	Integration Policy	Qualitative (spatial analysis)	achieving integration	to discuss the role of territorialization in national integration policies	—	1) Integration policies divided into a policy for “foreigners” (Ausländer) of non-German descent on the one hand, and a diametrically opposed and separate policy for so-called settlers, de-facto migrants of German-descent; 2) The territorial has been neglected in integration studies
Roxane de la Sablonnière, Armelle Nugier, Nada Kadhim, Emmanuelle P. Kleinlogel, Mathieu Pelletier-Dumas and Serge Guimond	2020	France	Europe	The impact of national integration policies on prejudice and psychological well-being: The fundamental role of the clarity and coherence of integration policies	clarity, coherence, cultural norms, interculturalism, national integration policies, personal attitudes, prejudice, secularism, well-being	Integration Policy	Quantitative	—	Verify and test the impact of integration policies on shaping individual attitudes towards immigration	—	1) The perceived interculturalism norm is a strong predictor of the positive evaluation of the concept of “interculturalism” in Québec; 2) endorsing a national integration policy that is more restrictive of diversity is linked with more prejudice and negative attitudes toward outgroup members; 3) Personal attitudes toward interculturalism were related to less prejudice, and more well-being, over and above the influence of personal attitudes toward multiculturalism

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Alexandre Tandé	2020	France	Europe	Cultural policies mixing commonality and difference? The case of public libraries in French cities	Libraries; cultural policies; cities; France; commonality; diversity	Cultural Policy	Qualitative	to reconcile homogeneity and cultural diversity, aiming for the invention of new cultural references and identities specific to the cities where they are created	to discuss cultural policies of big French cities might display a more open relationship to cultural diversity	The result of the investigation is mixed: Library policies of Bordeaux, Rennes and Nantes fit well into the French national framework	1) The case of Bordeaux shows that cohesion and common identity can be combined with diversity in a public policy conducted in France; 2) Librarian attitudes deepen the distance between public cultural resources and diverse audiences and reduce the possibility of considering specific needs; 3) A gap also appears between public statements and strategic orientations of the library policy
Philippe Batifoulier, Jean-Paul Domin and Amandine Raully	2021	France	Europe	Erosion of Solidarity in France and Welfare Conventions: The New Role of Complementary Health Insurance	Economics of convention, health system, concept of solidarity, complementary health insurance	Health Insurance Policy	—	to reduce socialized health-related expense	to show how these two conventions have been expressed over time and come into competition in thinking about national solidarity	“crisis of legitimacy”; concepts of solidarity in health policy are overturned	Existing social health insurance policies pass costs onto patients. This is a denial of the fact that social insurance, through national solidarity, creates cohesion between individuals, which is the foundation of society
Francesco Pasetti and Carmine Conte	2021	EU member	Europe	Refugees and Beneficiaries of Subsidiary Protection: Measuring and Comparing Integration Policies	—	Integration Policy	Quantitative	chieving integration	to assess integration policies targeting beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs)	Despite the general compliance of national legal frameworks with EU and international standards, high variation is observed across countries at the policy level	1) access to fundamental rights is ensured for BIPs in all the areas and in all the countries; 2) Policy-related indicators assign very low scores in the macro-areas of socioeconomic and sociocultural integration. In terms of administrative barriers, hard-to-obtain documentation, excessive delays and waiting periods, and discretionary decisions present the main administrative obstacles; 3) Only a few countries have a dedicated, well-developed policy for refugee labor market integration; 4) the implementation step also shows major weaknesses in the areas of housing, vocational training, health, social security, language learning and social orientation, and building bridges

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Michael Keating	2021	European welfare states/Scotland	Europe	Beyond the nation-state: territory, solidarity and welfare in a multiscalar Europe	welfare; solidarity; nation; state; decentralization; rescaling; regionalism	public policies	Qualitative	construct new spaces of solidarity and welfare	Demonstrate that public policy can avoid the instability caused by spatial adjustment	—	Functional change in the fields of welfare and of economic development have thus coincided with spatial rescaling of policy fields, policy choices, policy communities and policy-making institutions. There is no determinate link between rescaling and social solidarity and no new spatial fix at which social compromises can be made or distribution and solidarity reconciled
Pauline Lane and David Smith	2021	UK	Europe	Mid-term review- UK Roma national integration strategy: Roma at the intersection of ethnic-inclusive, post-racial and hyper-ethnic policies	Gypsy; traveller; Roma; UK; ethnic inclusive policy; post-racial policy; hyper-racial policy; Brexi	Ethnic-Policy	—	to promote Roma integration in the UK	to examine some of the complexities of the United Kingdom (UK) policy-making mechanisms that are purported to promote Roma integration in the UK, developing a critical analysis of these mechanisms and the ways in which they impact Roma integration	‘main-streaming’ approaches are failing in the UK	1) even within the same nation, Roma people have differing access to services and support depending on their geopolitical location; 2) the UK government’s lack of policy or legislation to promote Roma inclusion across the country means there is no systematic mainstreaming for Roma inclusion within central Government policy

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Sofia Iliadou-Tachou, Evmorfia Kipouropoulou and Eirini Kouremenou	2022	Greek	Europe	Aspects of Modern Greek nationalism: the educational policy of the first period of governance of the Liberal Party in Greece (1915–1924) and ‘national integration’	Education; identities; national integration; discourse analysis	Education Policy	Qualitative (the historical-interpretive method)	achieving assimilation	to describe and interpret the main objectives of the educational policy of the central elites of the Liberals in the region of Greek Macedonia during the period 1915–1924	—	the shaping of this education policy could be characterized as an expression of Greek nationalism for the following reasons that derive from our discourse analysis process: (a) The alterior motive of the specific educational policy was to complete the nation and to stabilize what had been conquered at war; (b) the diffusion of education aimed at the assimilation of the allophones in the national core, even if this goal coexisted along with the goal of Liberal success in elections in the slavophone communities; (c) education was used as a means for the achievement of national cohesion and not as a goal in itself; (d) the demotic Greek language was seen as a tool for the assimilation of slavophones toward achieving the national mission
Lilach Lev-Ari	2023	France	Europe	North-African Jewish People in Paris: Multiple Identities—Ethnic-Religious, National and Transnational	Jewish immigrants from North Africa; minorities; privileged minority; ethnic-religious identity and identification; national and transnational identity; Jewish people in Paris	Right Policy	Mix	promote the establishment of its national identity	to compare native-born and immigrant Jewish people from North African roots who reside in greater Paris regarding their multiple identities	—	Although in both groups the tendency to assimilate is low, it is more pronounced among the younger interviewees, the second generation

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
AMEERA MASOUD KRISTHINA BRUNILA TUULI KURKI GUNILLA HOLM	2023	Finland	Europe	Racialised Integration: Arabic-Speaking Refugees and Immigrants' Experiences on the Paradoxes of Integration	Racism; Racialisation; Integration; Refugees; Immigrants; Subjectification; Finland	Integration Policy	Qualitative	promote the integration	to discuss the consequences of racialised integration practices for Arabic-speaking refugees and immigrants living in Finland	inequalities prevail in welfare policies and their implementation	1) half of the Finnish companies interviewed perceived that immigrants from certain countries are incapable of working effectively and efficiently; 2) Such guidance has multiple shortcomings; 3) discursive practices of integration repeatedly create racialised sites and norms; 4) inequalities prevail in welfare policies and their implementation; 5) Refugees and immigrants face manifold hardships that affect their employment opportunities including language proficiency requirements, having a foreign name, and not least racism; 6) refugees and immigrants face manifold hardships that affect their employment opportunities including language proficiency requirements, having a foreign name, and not least racism
Niccolò Donati	2023	EU	Europe	Under what conditions? How the narrative of EMU fiscal stability is reshaping Cohesion policy's EU solidarity	EU solidarity; stability; conditionality; policy narratives; Cohesion policy; EMU	Cohesion policy	Qualitative	keeping the EU cohesive	to find out how narratives about EU solidarity allowed the creation of both redistributive patterns among the Member States, and Cohesion policy's macroeconomic conditionality	—	1) the 'structural policy' narrative, which emerged from the Werner Report on EMU, centred on the idea that structural differences among the Member States' economies could hinder the stability of the Monetary Union; 2) the 'structural policy' narrative borrowed elements from the German 'Stability Culture'.

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Elie Murard	2023	Greece	Europe	Long-term effects of the 1923 mass refugee inflow on social cohesion in Greece	Refugees, Social cohesion Integration, Historical persistence Immigration	Integration Policy	Quantitative	achieving assimilation	to examine the long-run consequences of mass refugee inflow on the social cohesion of the receiving society	effective at fostering refugees' assimilation	1) there is no differential pre-trend (i.e., over cohorts be-fore the construction of new schools) in the refugee-native gap between provinces with high and low school supply. This evidence lends support for a causal interpretation of the effect of school supply on the educational integration of refugee children; 2) By 2001, almost 50% of refugee women got married with a Greek native; 3) on average, the voting patterns of refugees and natives are virtually identical; 4) refugees' higher egalitarian and prosocial values appear to result into more civic behaviours; 5) only 3% of second generation refugees report to have ever felt discriminated against, no differently from natives. In terms of language, more than 99% of refugees report Greek at the mots often language spoken at home
Miaoyan Yang	2019	China	Asia	From Dislocated to Local: Policy Implications of "Educational Aid for Tibet"	interior Tibet schools; local interior Tibet schools; educational aid for Tibet; social institutionalism;	Educational Policy	Qualitative	promoting national unity	Improving the major ethnic policy of "intellectual aid to Tibet"	The policy has been criticised for jeopardising the local educational ecology in Tibet and disconnecting Tibetan students from their families and home communities	1) the meaning and practice of "aid" is interpreted differently by Han teachers and local Tibetan teachers and students; 2) "aid" to underdeveloped countries has largely failed to achieve legitimacy among local people because it ignores or misapprehends their views on "development" while achieving the territorialisation of a particular sort of state-institutional power
Qi Shen and Xuesong Gao	2019	China	Asia	Multilingualism and policy making in Greater China: ideological and implementational spaces	Language policy and planning Greater China Ideological space Implementational space	language policy	Qualitative	to protect linguistic diversity	To illustrate 'resource' orientation has a significant role in defining the implementational space for language policy making in Greater China	—	It is essential for disadvantaged individuals and social groups to appropriate the 'resource' discourse effectively within the given implementational space so that they can empower themselves with the discourse to achieve what they desire to have

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Larissa PITTS	2019	China	Asia	Unity in the trees: Arbor Day and Republican China, 1915–1927	Republican China; forestry; trees; reforestation; nation; environmentalism ; ritual	Tree Policy	Qualitative	promoting national unity	to prove the positive role of Arbor Day in China’s national unity	—	1) Arbor Day created a special set of circumstances in which forestry and forestry education became associated with national unity, environmentalism, and improving China’s global standing; 2) As they participated in Arbor Day activities, residents of “China’s” far-flung counties were reminded of their connection (tenuous though it may have been) to the Chinese nation and its governments
Yan Sun	2019	China	Asia	Debating Ethnic Governance in China	—	Ethnic-Policy	Qualitative	to elaborate on the views of autonomists, integrationists and socialist autonomists on autonomy and ethnic particularism in China’s ethnic policies	identifies three major contending schools in Chinese debates about the country’s ethnic governance	—	1) the liberal autonomists usually assess ethnic governance in reference to the outer peripheral regions, while the socialist autonomists usually do so from the viewpoint of inner peripheral regions. The integrationists disparage the particularism of all groups; 2) ‘liberal autonomists’ focus on the core institutional issue in the AR system: the distribution of authority between the central state and the local
Eryong Xuea and Jian Li	2020	China	Asia	Top-down education policy on the inclusion of ethnic minority population in China: A perspective of policy analysis	Inclusion of ethnic-minority population; top-down policy; Chinese ethic education	Educational Policy	—	national integration, maintaining national unity and regional stability, improving the academic level and cross-cultural ability of minority students, and sharing educational resources	to provide suggestions for improvement	The education policy has contributions and shortcomings.	Features of education policy formation: steady and cautious, quick and quality improvement, standardization and quality

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Mostafa Fazaeli, Mousa Karami and Sorayya Asadi	2020	Iran	Asia	Interaction between Protection of Sunni Minority under International Law and National Security of Islamic Republic of Iran	Sunni minority, minority rights, international law, national security, Islamic Republic of Iran (iri)	Inclusive Policy	—	to prevent conflict between persons belonging to minorities and those of majority populations in the light of territorial integrity, domestic stability and the national security of the states involved	Find out how to reduce conflict through minority protection mechanisms	—	1) The root causes of conflict are identified through risk assessment and addressed through ‘structural conflict prevention’ measures including socio-economic development, governance programs, or targeted interventions such as resource-management and grassroots peace building; 2) The lack of justice in a particular society engenders discrimination, oppression, degradation and public incoherence. A society full of discrimination and injustice loses solidarity and coherence and moves toward disintegration and collapse; 3) Tolerant policies may lead to regionalism. This can be positive and constructive or negative and destructive; 4) ensuring Sunni minority rights and emphasising shared features instead of differences between Shi’as and Sunnis can play a pivotal role in increasing political and national integration and decreasing disintegration
Fulya Memişoğlu and Başak Yavçan	2020	Türkiye	Asia	Beyond ideology - a comparative analysis of how local governance can expand national integration policy: the case of Syrian refugees in Istanbul	Refugees; integration; multi-level governance; Turkey; public policy	Integration Policy	Qualitative (comparative case study)	adaptation of refugees to the host society, extending to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence	To demonstrate how integration policies can deepen at the sub-national level due to specific local policy initiatives, and second, question the reasons for these best practice cases to emerge.	Two cities’ policies were successful	1) The high levels of agency assumed by these local actors in building and implementing refugee integration policy; 2) they also point out to one important commonality: their success in establishing a large network of multilevel governance. The research suggest that the national level policymaking gets most of the spotlight by policy makers and academics alike, local level politics assumes also great importance not only the way national integration policy is implemented at the local level, but also the way it is bolstered with various policy instruments

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Kanchana N. Ruwanpura, Loritta Chan, Benjamin Brown and V. Kajotha	2020	Sri Lanka	Asia	Unsettled peace? The territorial politics of roadbuilding in post-war Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka, Road infrastructure Peacebuilding, Territorialisation Securitisation	road construction plan	—	to bring national unity and political integration	to contribute the emerging body of literature exploring how emergent socio-political formations find resonance in the physical transformation of space in post-war settings	aggravating social fractures and re-constituting the hegemony of Sinhala-Buddhist nationalism	1) Whilst in part fulfilling the promise of mobility and contributing to the reconstruction of the shattered Vanni region, roads simultaneously function to extend state territorial control; 2) The emergent socio-political formations arising from roads deliver uneven benefits
Pramod K. Sah	2021	Nepal	Asia	Reproduction of nationalist and neoliberal ideologies in Nepal's language and literacy policies	Literacy education; neoliberalism; nationalist ideology; critical literacies; language planning; literacy policy; Nepal	language policy	Qualitative	1) to maintain their status quo; 2) to get must-have literacy skills for global socioeconomic mobilities	explores how the discourse of nationalist and neoliberal agendas have shaped the conceptions of literacy education in Nepal, the ramifications for social stratification	1) Existing education policy ignore the value of local culture; 2) reproducing social inequality	1) The nationalist ideology of language in education and its resultant consequences on social and educational opportunities of ethnolinguistic and class minority groups was systematic and institutional; 2) neoliberal ideologies have now added another layer of marginalization, especially for the poor; 3) the current neoliberal language policy relates to the reproduction of social inequalities, linguistic dominance, and marginalization
Rehnuma Sazzad	2021	Sri Lanka and Pakistan	Asia	Language movements in Sri Lanka and Pakistan: exploring global conflicts of language and cultural rights with other human rights	Human rights and visions of nations; ethnic and civic nationalism; reconciling linguistic and religious rights; decolonisation; armed conflict in Sri Lanka; secession of East Pakistan; cultural inclusiveness	language Policy	Qualitative (historical case study)	highlight ethnic identity	examine why the peoples of Sri Lanka and undivided Pakistan defined themselves primarily in ethnic terms during decolonisation and in religion-linguistic terms after independence	—	1) Pakistan did not change its catastrophic language policy even after the upheaval in 1971, which is why it has continued to experience ethnic discord (in Sind, for example); 2) n Sri Lanka, the civil war in 1983 and its aftermath prove how elusive and unmanageable language issues can be; and ironically; 3) Bangladesh veered away from its civic promises highlighted by the language movement, which is why the fruits of independence have not been equally distributed among all the citizens.

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Srisompob Jitpiromsri, Md Mahbubul Haque and Paul Chambers	2021	Thailand and Myanmar	Asia	Peacebuilding in Thailand’s Deep South and in Myanmar/Burma: the dynamic roles of Muslim minorities in conflict societies	Peacebuilding; state- building; counterinsurgency; Malay Muslims; Rohingya	assimilation policies	—	achieving national integration	Compare the peace processes and related policies of the two countries	have negative impacts	1) The processes of national integration for Thailand and Burma/Myanmar developed from different trajectories; 2) Malay Muslims in Thailand resisted integration and assimilation but were never excluded from Thai citizenship. However, they felt uneasy about fitting in with the “Thai feel”; 3) The Rohingya are excluded from Myanmar’s 1982 Citizenship Act
Seyma Toker	2021	Türkiye	Asia	Subtle Islamization of teacher education: A critical discourse analysis of Turkey’s “inclusive” education initiative for refugee integration	slamization, In-service teacher education, Syrian refugees, Discourse historical approach Turkey	Educational policy	Qualitative	to integrate Syrian refugee children into Turkish education	Implications for policymakers, educators and researchers	this initiative should be considered as a sign of Islamic ideology also infiltrating teacher education in Turkey	1) Ministry of National Education in Turkey, supervised by the state, explicitly draws on Islamic ideology in the construction of inclusion, refugees, and teachers in selected policy documents; 2) The provisions of the teacher’s manual restrict teachers from asking questions and treat teachers only as technical tools
NINA MCMURRY	2022	Philippines	Asia	From Recognition to Integration: Indigenous Autonomy, State Authority, and National Identity in the Philippines	—	Autonomy Policy	Quantitative (textual analyses)	promoting national unity	Testing whether autonomy policies undermine national unity	Autonomy policies have a positive effect on national unity	Results from an original survey experiment suggest that recognizing collective self- governance rights increases identification with the nation

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Michelle J. Bellino and Sarah Dryden-Peterson	2019	Kenya	Africa	Inclusion and exclusion within a policy of national integration: refugee education in Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp	Educational quality; global education policy; inclusion; social integration; refugee	Education Policy; Integration Policy	Qualitative (semi-structured interviews)	to integrate refugees within national education systems	explores the impact of global policy shifts toward 'national integration' on schooling for refugee youth in Kenya	there is no clear policy vision for transforming the political and social context	1) implementing an integration policy in a segregated camp setting can exacerbate, rather than mitigate, youth experiences of exclusion; 2) Integration policies can thus expose the structural gaps and inequities between identity groups within states, generating awareness of historical marginality of host communities; 3) Poor quality of education for young refugee students; 4) Inequities between refugees and nationals and across Kenyan tribes became more visible amongst teachers; 5) attending schools alongside Kenyans, reinforced refugees' needs to shield their identity as a protective measure
Eyo Mensah	2019	Nigeria	Africa	The New Language Policy of the Nigerian Army: National Integration or Linguistic Imperialism?	Language policy, Nigerian Army, major languages, linguistic imperialism, ideology, multilingualism, language learning	language Policy	Qualitative (Personal interviews, observations and metalinguistic conversations)	foster national unity and integration	1) to assess the role each language plays in its community; 2) to make recommendations to address emerging language challenges in the military	linguistic imperialism is alive and kicking	1) The policy gives vent to the official acceptance of multilingualism as the social practice in the army and one of its viable strategies for success in addressing diversity within its rank and file; 2) the adoption of the three major Nigerian languages as working languages of the army is a mark of domination and exploitation of the minoritized languages in the army and, by extension, Nigeria as a whole
S. Garnett Russelland Prudence L. Carter	2019	South Africa and Rwanda	Africa	When the Past Is in the Present: The Paradox of Educational Opportunity and Social Inclusion in South Africa and Rwanda	education, color-blind, social inequalities, comparative, boundaries, school	Educational policy	Qualitative and mixed-methods (comparative case studies: semistructured group interviews and)	espouse national unity and reconciliation	1) to demonstrate that despite changes in laws and policies to promote color-blind/ethnic-blind approaches, racial and ethnic ideologies persist in everyday micro-interactions in schools; 2) to give some suggest to policymakers, educators, and communities	inadvertently reinforce old divisions	1) Everyday interactions across social groups in schools create "social boundaries"; 2) Language in Rwanda, as in South Africa, serves as a signifier of new symbolic boundaries linked to identity

Table 2. (Continued).

Author	Year	Country	continent	Title	Key Words	Policy	Research Methodology	Objective of Policies	Objectives of Research	Evaluation of Policy	Fingdings and Result
Fred Bidandi, Nicolette Roman, Gregory Davids and Fundiswa Khaile	2021	South Africa	Africa	The Responsibility of Government and Society Towards Social Cohesion: A Family Perspective	Family; responsibility of government; public policy; social cohesion; responsibility of society; South Africa	Social Cohesion Policy	Qualitative (secondary data)	Enhance social cohesion	delineate factors associated with the responsibility of government and society towards social cohesion in relation to family in South Africa, as well as to generate specific testable assumptions for future research.	—	1) implementing an integration policy in a segregated camp setting can exacerbate, rather than mitigate, youth experiences of exclusion; 2) Integration policies can thus expose the structural gaps and inequities between identity groups within states, gener
Abebe Zegeye	2022	Ethiopia	Africa	Revolutionary Democracy: A Terminus or Way Station for Ethiopia?	Revolutionary democracy, federal constitution, ethnic conflict, national unity, corruption, socialism, capitalism, solutions	Economic Policy	—	fostering an Ethiopian identity and national unity	—	promotes ethnic conflict	The Ethiopian version of this is that access to capital and credit resources, tax advantages, and so forth are granted to people primarily based on their ethnic identity
Terry Moore	2020	Australia	Australia	Governing superdiversity: learning from the Aboriginal Australian case	Aboriginal Australian; superdiversity; interculturality; intersectionality; multicultural governance	Diversity Policy	—	Enhance social cohesion	improved Aboriginal governance predicated on addressing both, seek to redress the limitation[s] of single explanation approaches in public policy that [fail] to capture the complexity of disparities across	multicultural governance is having counter-productive consequences as a result of its inadequacy to superdiverse realities; multicultural mode have shortcomings	Extrapolation from the Aboriginal model would suggest for instance, that policy should be attendant to the prime category in each case, but also to other components of complex individuality

Note: “—” no specific relevant content.

4. Discussion

This article analyzes relevant literature from the past five years to understand the research of national unity policies in different countries. This article takes policy effectiveness as the main analytical perspective to gain more valuable experience. The 35 articles after screening exhibit certain temporal trends and regional characteristics. This characteristic further determines the differences in research themes across different regions. However, despite specific policy variations in different regions, the research on policy effects shares some common features. The analysis of policy content and the evaluation of policy implementation are common aspects of policy effectiveness analysis.

The publication time of the articles shows that 2019 and 2020 have the largest number of publications, and most of the keywords in the articles are related to refugee, migrant, and integration. Starting from 2021, there has been a declining trend in the number of publications. This temporal pattern is generally consistent with the increasing international migration and refugee situations. Whether the subsequent decline is related to the reduction in cross-border activities due to COVID-19 can be further discussed.

In addition to the publication time showing certain trends, the locations studied also show regional characteristics. The main research issues in Europe focus on immigrants and refugee groups, most of the research in Asia is related to the national conditions of multi-ethnic countries, and the research on African countries includes immigrants, refugees and multi-ethnic and multi-racial issues. Correspondingly, research in European countries focuses on integration policies or other policies that promote the integration of immigrants and refugee groups into society. Research in Asian countries primarily focus on policies that promote national unity in multi-ethnic nations, such as education policies, language policies, and rights policies. Similar to the complex research landscape in African countries, education policies, language policies, public policies, and democratic rights are among the research themes.

The regional characteristics presented by relevant studies reflect the actual local conditions and the main practical problems or troubles they face. The first topic to discuss is Europe. Globalization and urban conflicts have accelerated the movement of immigrants and refugees. Many European countries, functioning as welfare states, have become the primary destinations for this group of migrants. Integrating people from different cultures and ethnicities poses a significant challenge for host countries. Aside from Europe, Asia is also an important subject of discussion. Asia is a region with considerable research on national unity. The primary research concern in Asian countries revolves around how to achieve unity among diverse ethnicities. Although many Asian countries do not suffer from immigration and refugee problems, they do have multi-ethnic national conditions. Issues such as ethnic relations and de facto inequality between the majority groups and ethnic minorities are difficult problems that Asian countries need to solve. The complexity of research on African countries reflects the complex national conditions of African countries, that is, ethnic conflicts, inequality, uneven distribution of resources, etc.

This article mainly focuses on the effectiveness of various countries' policies in national unity or national integration. Through the analysis and summary of these 35 articles, it can be found that policy content analysis and policy implementation evaluation are the main research topics of policy effectiveness analysis. From the analysis results, the research on national unity policies in these 35 articles primarily focuses on the issues within existing policies, examining whether they have achieved their intended goals and exploring the reasons behind any unmet expectations. Administrative barriers and insufficient funds are reasons that contribute to the difficulties in policy implementation (Pasetti and Conte, 2021). Policy participants' understanding of the policy is the other reason. However, there is very little research on the reasons for success and successful experiences of policies that have achieved their expected goals well.

In addition, among all 35 articles, 21 studies used qualitative research methods, 4 studies used quantitative research methods, and one study used mixed research methods.

There are a large number of studies that conduct policy content analysis, and most of them adopt qualitative research methods. This part of the research mainly obtains the attitudes and evaluations of policy participants towards the policy through interviews. Text analysis is also a method often used in this part of the research. Text analysis of policy content can reveal the ideological tendencies, purposes, and intended goals of policymakers. The research results suggest that current policies have several issues, primarily manifested in the attitudes and preferences of different groups. Integration policies related to immigrants and refugees, especially the integration policies of the welfare state, have been criticized by immigrants, refugee groups and native resident groups. The tendencies of racialism, stereotypes, and discriminatory are reasons for dissatisfaction among immigrant and refugee groups with integration policies. In contrast, native residents believe that the integration policy's unrestricted assistance to immigrants and refugee groups harms the interests of residents in the welfare state. Policies to promote national unity in multi-ethnic countries also face similar problems. Main groups and ethnic minorities have different understandings and attitudes towards the same policy, resulting in the policy being unable to effectively play its role. From the analysis results, it can be observed that these literature pieces all recognize the relationship between policies and the attitudes of different groups.

Policy implementation is a crucial factor influencing policy effectiveness. In the analysis of this theme, the literature reviewed in this paper has explored it through various research methods and from different perspectives. Studies using qualitative research methods have found that the willingness and ideological tendencies of policy participants influence the direction of policy implementation. In addition, the policy executor's understanding of the policy will also affect the effect of policy implementation. The findings from quantitative research indicate that integration scores in the macroeconomic and cultural domains are lower, and administrative barriers decrease policy effectiveness. From this, government, bureaucrats, and administrative personnel are the key factors affecting policy implementation.

This article found that in all the literature, there are only a small number of studies on successful experiences, and even less comparative studies on successful cases

under the same conditions. This article believes that identifying problems, finding their causes and giving solution suggestions play an important role in promoting the continuous improvement of policies. Analyzing successful cases and summarizing successful experiences are also of great significance for countries to solve national unity issues. However, most of the existing research focuses on policy problems and rarely analyzes and studies successful cases. This is a gap in research of national unity.

5. Conclusion

This study reviews and analyses nearly five years of research articles on the topic of policy and national unity. After theme screening, inclusion and exclusive criteria screening, and abstract screening, a comprehensive analysis and research were conducted on 35 eligible articles that met the requirements. All 35 articles indicates that in the context of globalization, international migration and cultural exchange are increasingly strengthening, posing new challenges for many countries around the world. Ethnic diversity and cultural diversity affect national security and ethnic structure, and test the country's response and governance capabilities, and are even quietly changing people's traditional thinking patterns. In such an era, national unity, national integration, and cohesion has become a reality that all countries must confront. Therefore, research on issues related to national unity is of considerable significance.

Studying national solidarity from a policy perspective is the focus of this study. The analysis of policy content, the evaluation of effectiveness, and the exploration of the reasons of problems constitute the main part of this research. The statistical results show that in all the research the policies with high frequency are education policy, language policy, integration policy, and employment policy. To a certain extent, this reflects the perspectives of these countries on the governance of national unity.

Existing research on national unity has, to a certain extent, analyzed and explored the role of policies on national unity, as well as existing problems and causes of problems. However, most of these studies start from the problems existing in the policy and analyze the performance and reasons of low policy effectiveness. There is little analysis of successful cases that achieved the desired goals, and especially little comparative analysis of success cases that share some of the same conditions or backgrounds. Learning from successful experiences is a crucial means to promote problem-solving and further development in positive directions. Therefore, analyzing and studying successful cases and gaining insights from successful experiences are of great importance.

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