



**IDX G10 Human Geography H**  
**Study Guide Issue S1M2**  
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### **Chapter 3: Migration**

#### **Key Issue 1: Where Are Migrants Distributed?**

- The diffusion of human settlement from a small portion of Earth's land area to most of it resulted from migration
- Migration: a permanent or long-term change of residence of an individual or a group across a significant political boundary
- Mobility: the general term referring to all types of movement from one location to another
- Humans have permanently changed their place of residence
  - Immigration: moving into a country
  - Emigration: moving out of a country
- Most people migrate in search of three objectives
  - Economic opportunity
  - Cultural freedom
  - Environmental comfort
- The basis of contemporary geographic migration studies by E. G. Ravenstein
  - Ravenstein's "laws" can be organised into three groups
    - The distance that migrants typically move
    - The reasons migrants move
    - The characteristics of migrants
  - Wilber Zelinsky identified a migration transition
    - Consists of changes in a society comparable to those in the demographic transition

- Migration transition: a change in the migration pattern in a society that results from the social and economic changes that also produce the demographic transition
- Stage 1
  - High daily or seasonal mobility in search of food
  - Transhumance: movement of livestock between fixed summer and winter pastures
- Stage 2
  - High international emigration
  - Interregional emigration from rural to urban areas
  - Urbanisation
- Stage 3 & Stage 4
  - High international immigration
    - Exception: China – not many people move immigrate to China
  - High intraregional migration from cities to suburbs
  - Suburbanisation / counter-urbanisation
- Internal migration is more important in stages 3 and 4

Stage	Demographic Transition	Migration Transition
1	Low NIR, high CBR, high CDR	High daily or seasonal mobility in search of food
2	High NIR, high CBR, rapidly declining CDR	High international emigration and interregional migration from rural to urban areas
3	Declining NIR, rapidly declining CBR, declining CDR	High international immigration and intraregional migration from cities to suburbs
4	Low NIR, low CBR, low CDR	Same as stage 3

#### A) Distance of Migration

- Ravenstein's laws
  - Most migrants relocate a short distance and remain within the same country
  - Long-distance migrants to other countries head for major centres of economic activity

- 1. Gender pattern: females are more migratory than males within a country, but males are more migratory over longer distances. More children are coming with their parents
- 2. Youth and migration: most migrants are young adults
- 3. Short distances: most migrants only proceed a short distance, and toward centres of absorption
- 4. Step migration: as migrants move towards absorption centres, they leave “gaps” that are filled up by migrants from more remote districts, creating migration lows that reach to “the most remote corner of the kingdom.”
- 5. Migration is mostly due to economic causes
- 6. Migration increases with economic development
- 7. Rural to urban: migrants proceeding long distances generally go by preference to one of the great centres of commerce or industry (urban areas)
- 8. Large urban areas: large towns grow more by migration than by natural increase
- 9. Counter migration: each main current of migration produces a compensating counter-current
- 10. The natives of towns are less migratory than those of the rural parts of the country
- International migration
  - International migration: a permanent move from one country to another
  - Voluntary migration: a migrant has chosen to move, especially for economic improvement
  - Forces migration: the migrant has been compelled to move, especially by political or environmental factors
- Internal migration
  - Internal migration: a permanent move within the same country
  - The farther away a place is, the less likely that people will migrate to it (distance-decay principle)
  - More migrants than internationally
  - Interregional migration: movement from one region of a country to another
    - Historically, mainly from rural to urban
    - Developed countries have seen migration from urban to environmentally attractive rural areas
    - In the U.S.

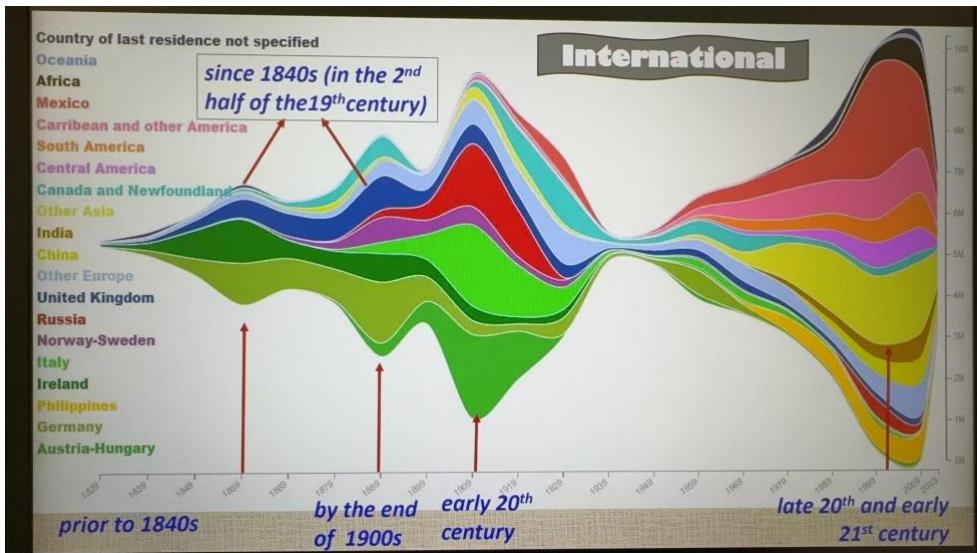
- Push factor: racial oppression, agricultural mechanism...
- Pull: industrial jobs, labour demand, better schools...
- Intraregional migration: movement within one region
  - From older cities to newer suburbs
  - E.g. the Great Migration
- Most people find internal migration less traumatic than international migration
  - Familiar culture
  - Shorter distances

## B) International Migration Patterns

- The three largest flows of migrants
  - Asia → Europe
  - Asia → North America
  - Latin America → North America
- Migrants from countries with relatively low incomes and high natural increase rates head for relatively wealthy countries, where job prospects are brighter
  - Asia, Latin America, and Africa have net out-migration
  - North America, Europe, and Oceania have net in-migration

## C) U.S. Immigration Patterns

- Colonial settlement in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries
  - Came from Europe
    - Migrated to the American colonies
    - Permanent English colonies were established along the Atlantic Coast
    - 90% came from Great Britain
    - Voluntary migration
  - Came from Sub-Saharan Africa
    - Forced migration
- Mass European immigration in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries
  - The U.S. offered a great opportunity for economic success
  - Early migrants extolled the virtues of the country to friends and relatives back in Europe, encouraging others to come
- Asian and Latin American immigration in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries
  - Immigrants were lured by economic opportunity and social advancement in the United States



- 1820-1920

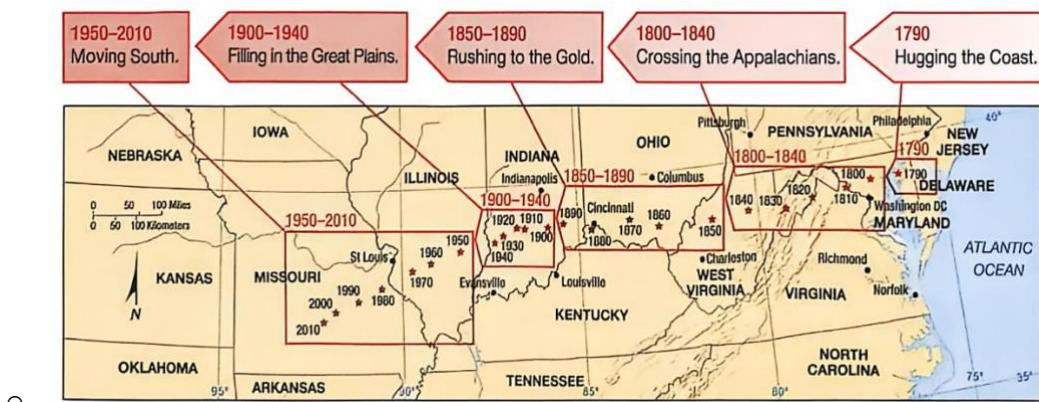
- 90% from Europe
- The U.S. offered a great opportunity for economic success
- 1840-1850: Ireland and Germany
  - Economic push factors
  - Germans also migrated because of political unrest
- 1870s: Ireland and Germany
  - Resumed after the U.S. Civil War
- 1880s: Scandinavia
  - The Industrial Revolution fuelled population growth in Scandinavia
  - Same reasons as Germans and Irish
- 1901-1914: Southern and Eastern Europe
  - Fuelled by the diffusion of Industrialisation to the South and the East
  - Rapid population growth

- Immigration dropped sharply due to the Great Depression & World War II → men were not allowed to migrate because they had to serve their countries
- 1990s: Mexico and Latin America
  - Immigration Reform and Control Act issued visas to people who enter the U.S.

## Key Issue 2: Where Do People Migrate Within a Country?

- Internal migration for most people is less disruptive than international migration
- A) Interregional Migration
- In the past, people migrated between regions in search of better farmland

- Lack of farmland pushed many people from the more densely settled regions of the country and lured them to the frontier, where land was abundant
- Today, people move from rural to urban
  - Most jobs are clustered in urban areas
- Migration between regions of the United States
  - From the west → interior
- The changing centre of population
  - Population centre: the average location of everyone in the country, the “Centre of population gravity”
  - Demonstrates the march of the American people across the North American continent over the past 300 years
  - Consistently shifted westward



- E.g. Brazil: capital relocation in 1960 from Rio to Brasilia
  - To make people live in the tropic zones
- Russia
  - The population of Russia is highly clustered in the Western portion of the country
  - Much of the country is extremely sparsely inhabited
  - Soviet policy encouraged factory construction near raw materials rather than near existing population concentrations
    - Not enough workers live near these factories → the government stimulated interregional migration
  - Eager to develop Russia to the North because of its rich natural resources
    - The government forced people to migrate to the Far North to construct and operate steel mills, hydroelectric power stations, mines, and other enterprises
    - The government encouraged voluntary migration to the Far North, including higher wages, more paid holidays, and earlier retirement

- People were reluctant because of the region's harsh climate and remoteness from population clusters
- The government sent a brigade of young volunteers during school vacations to help construct projects

- Trail of Tears

- Forced migration of Native Americans to the West in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- This inequality was written in law when the Indian Removal Act authorised the U.S. Army to remove five Indian tribes from their land in the southeastern U.S. and move them to Indian Territory

B) Intraregional Migration

- Urbanisation: rural → urban areas

- Began in the 1800s in Europe and North America as part of the Industrial Revolution
- People seek economic advancement
- Pushed from rural areas by declining opportunities in agriculture, and are pulled to the cities by the prospect of work in factories or in service industries

- Suburbanisation: urban → suburban areas

- In developed countries
- Pulled by a suburban lifestyle
- Suburbs provide the opportunity to live in a detached house rather than an apartment
- As a result of suburbanization, the territory occupied by urban areas has rapidly expanded
- Facilities and services were built to accommodate suburban growth

- Counter-urbanisation: urban → rural areas

- In developed countries
- Some are lured to rural areas by the prospect of swapping the frantic pace of urban life for the opportunity to live on a farm, where they can own animals or grow vegetables
- Others work in nearby factories, shops, or other services

### **Key Issue 3: Why Do People Migrate?**

- Push factor induces people to move out of their present location
- Pull factor induces people to move into a new location
- Summary of migration factors
  - Gender

- Age
- Distance
- Main push/pull factors (ESPN)

A) Political push and pull factors

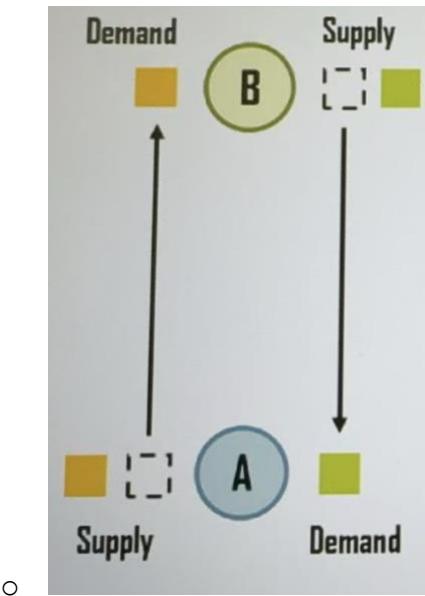
- E.g. slavery causes many to be shipped to other countries as slaves or prisoners
- Forced political migration now occurs because of political conflict
  - Refugee: people forced to migrate to another country to avoid...
    - The effects of armed conflict
    - Situations of generalised violence
    - Violence against human rights
    - Disasters
    - Fear of persecution because of
      - Race
      - Nationality
      - Membership in a social group
      - Political opinion
    - Already got a legal document for a refugee
  - Internally displaced person (IDP): people forced to migrate for similar political reasons as a refugee, but have not migrated across an international border
  - Asylum seeker: someone who has migrated to another country in the hope of being recognised as a refugee
    - Still seeking official documents

B) Environmental push and pull factors

- Pulled towards physically attractive regions
- Pushed from hazardous environments
- People can live in environmentally attractive areas that are relatively remote and still not feel too isolated from employment, shopping, and entertainment opportunities
- Many are forced to move because of water-related disasters, because they live in a vulnerable area
  - E.g. flood plain: the area subject to flooding during a specific number of years, based on historical trends
- A lack of water pushed others from their land

C) Economic push and pull factors

- People often emigrate from places that have few job opportunities and immigrate to places where jobs seem to be available
- Job prospects often vary from one country to another/within regions of the same country
- By letting their people work elsewhere, poorer countries reduce their own unemployment problems
- Immigrants help their native countries by sending a large percentage of their earnings back home to their families
  - The injection of foreign currency then stimulates the local economy
- Guest worker program
  - Germany and other wealthy European countries operated this program during the 1960s-1970s
  - Immigrants from poorer countries were allowed to immigrate temporarily to obtain jobs
  - They were protected by minimum-wage laws, labour union contracts, and other support programs
  - Guest workers were expected to return home after a few years
  - Many immigrants who arrived originally under the guest worker program have remained permanently → become citizens of the host country
  - Circulation: a specific type of short-term, cyclical mobility, involving a recurring flow of people who do not intend to stay permanently
    - Not a circulation if only one visit is being taken
    - Must be repetitive and regular
- Complementarity: one area has a surplus of something that another area has a demand for
  - E.g. Ivory Coast lacks engineers to build social infrastructures & the Chinese engineers go to Ivory Coast for engineering jobs → Ivory Coast gets better facilities & the Chinese engineers get jobs



D) Societal push and pull factors

- Sense of place: emotional and symbolic meanings that a specific location holds for an individual or group
  - E.g. a positive sense of place of an area is a pull factor encouraging immigrants to migrate
  - E.g. a positive sense of place to one's hometown is an anchor to make the person stay despite difficulties
- Transferability: whether the perceived benefits of migration are worth the actual costs and risks

**Key Issue 4: Why Do Migrants Face Obstacles?**

- Intervening opportunity: a location or circumstance that provides a substitute for the original destination, thereby attracting a migrant or stopping a flow before it reaches the intended point
  - E.g. a person from Florida seeks a tech job in Los Angeles, but unintentionally received an equally prestigious job opportunity from Austin, which is shorter in distance
- Intervening obstacle: a barrier that hinders the movement from the origin to the destination
  - E.g. tariffs made trading much more difficult
  - Transportation improvements have diminished the importance of environmental features as intervening obstacles
  - The major obstacles faced by most immigrants are political

- A migrant needs a passport to legally emigrate from a country and a visa to legally immigrate to a new country

#### A) Controlling Migration

- Most countries have adopted selective immigration policies that admit some types of immigrants but not others
- U.S. Quota Laws
  - Quota: maximum limits on the number of people who could immigrate to the United States for one year
  - Because the number of applicants for admission to the U.S. far exceeds the quotas, Congress has set preferences
    - Family reunification
    - Skilled workers
    - Diversity
  - The number of immigrants can vary sharply from year to year because the numbers in these two groups are unpredictable
    - Refugees will be admitted if they're approved to be genuine refugees
    - Spouses, children, and parents of U.S. citizens will also be admitted without limits
  - Asians have made especially good use of the priorities set by the U.S. quota laws
    - Well-educated Asians enter the U.S. under the preference for skilled workers
    - They could bring in relatives under the family reunification provisions → can bring in a wider range of other relatives from Asia
    - Chain migration: the migration of people to a specific location because relatives or members of the same nationality have previously migrated there
- Other countries charge that by giving preference to skilled workers
  - Brain drains: a large-scale emigration by talented people
  - Talented people could migrate to make better use of their abilities

#### B) Unauthorised Immigration

- Unauthorised immigrants: those who migrate without proper documents
- Characteristics of unauthorised immigrants
  - 50% from Mexico
  - Illegal immigrants have given birth to children in America, who are legal citizens of the United States

- Unauthorised immigrants were much more likely than the average American to be employed in construction and hospitality jobs, and less likely to be in white-collar jobs
- California and Texas have the largest number of unauthorised immigrants

### C) Attitudes Toward Immigrants

- Gender of Migrants
  - Ravenstein theorised that males were more likely than females to migrate long distances to other countries because searching for work was the main reason for international migration, and males were much more likely than females to be employed
  - The increased female migration to the U.S. partly reflects the changing role of women in Mexican society
    - In the past, rural Mexican women were obliged to marry at a young age and to remain in the village to care for children
    - Now, some Mexican women are migrating to the U.S. to join husbands or brothers already in the U.S.
    - Women feel increased pressure to get jobs in the U.S. because of poor economic conditions in Mexico
- Age and Education of Migrants
  - Ravenstein believed that most long-distance migrants were young adults seeking work rather than children or elderly people
    - 40% of immigrants are young adults
    - More children come with their mothers as more women migrate
    - Recent immigrants have attended school for fewer years and are less likely to have a high school diploma than are U.S. citizens

### D) Immigration Concerns in the U.S.

- Border patrols
  - Better border patrols = fewer unauthorised immigrants
  - But they don't want to see money spent to build more fences along the border
- Workplace
  - Most Americans recognise that unauthorised immigrants take jobs that no one else wants → they support work-related programs to make them legal
- Civil rights

- Americans favour letting law enforcement officials verify the legal status of anyone they suspect of being an unauthorised immigrant
- But they also fear this would violate the civil rights of U.S. citizens
- Local initiatives
  - Most Americans believe it's the federal government's duty to find unauthorised immigrants
  - Residents of some states along the Mexican border favour stronger enforcement of authorised immigration
- How to call the group of immigrants
  - Unauthorised immigrant: term preferred by academic observers (neutral term)
  - Undocumented immigrant: the term preferred by groups that advocate for more rights for these individuals
  - Illegal alien: term preferred by groups who favour tougher restrictions and enforcement of immigration laws

#### E) Immigration Concerns in Europe

- Opponents of immigration
  - Immigration from other regions fuelled population growth (not in favour of Europeans)
  - Hostility to immigrants has become a central plank in the platform of political parties in many European countries
    - Blame immigrants for crime, unemployment, and high welfare costs
    - The anti-immigration parties fear that long-standing cultural traditions of the host country are threatened by immigrants who adhere to different religions, speak different languages, and practice different cultural habits
- Europeans as emigrants
  - Europe is the source of most of the world's emigrants
  - Population increases during the Industrial Revolution → limited opportunities for economic advancement → migration
  - Regions that were sparsely inhabited before European immigration have become closely integrated into Europe's cultural traditions
  - Europeans frequently imposed political domination on existing populations and injected their cultural values with little regard for local traditions