

# IS 101

Week 8: Human Migration

# Main idea 1: Understanding legal restrictions on migration

Legal restrictions on human migration are a recent phenomena.

Before there were nation-states, it was far easier to travel.

\*How do you think it was different for early explorers to travel? Would it have been easy for them to travel from one country to another?

Make a picture of a ship in which you would travel if you were in the 1800s vs today. Is there any way in which travelling by sea was actually easier in the 1800s then it is today?

Whatever you produced on paper, many of you should have imagined something like this. However, the part that would be easier is that the travellers on the ship on the left, have to plan their visas and landing documents...

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In other words, states now coordinate information through organizations like intelligence agencies in order to control human migration much more effectively than before.

Let us look at an example of this from  
Canada.

What kind of people  
were undesirable in  
Canada in the 1950s?

How does this relate  
to human migration  
and the making of an  
international order?

*Prohibited Classes.*

5. No person, other than a person referred to in sub-section two of section seven, shall be admitted to Canada if he is a member of any of the following classes of persons:

- (a) persons who
  - (i) are idiots, imbeciles or morons,
  - (ii) are insane or, if immigrants, have been insane at any time,
  - (iii) have constitutional psychopathic personalities, or
  - (iv) if immigrants, are afflicted with epilepsy;
- (b) persons afflicted with tuberculosis in any form, trachoma or any contagious or infectious disease or with any disease that may become dangerous to the public health, but, if such disease is one that is curable within a reasonably short time, the afflicted persons may be allowed, subject to any regulations that may be made in that behalf, to come into Canada for treatment;
- (c) immigrants who are dumb, blind or otherwise physically defective, unless
  - (i) they have sufficient means of support or such profession, trade, occupation, employment or other legitimate mode of earning a living that they are not likely to become public charges, or
  - (ii) they are members of a family accompanying them or already in Canada and the family gives satisfactory security against such immigrants becoming public charges;
- (d) persons who have been convicted of or admit having committed any crime involving moral turpitude, except persons whose admission to Canada is authorized by the Governor in Council upon evidence satisfactory to him that
  - (i) at least five years, in the case of a person who was convicted of such crime when he was twenty-one or more years of age, or at least two years, in the case of a person who was convicted of such crime when he was under twenty-one years of age, have elapsed since the termination of his period of imprisonment or completion of sentence and, in either case, he has successfully rehabilitated himself, or
  - (ii) in the case of a person who admits to having committed such crime of which he was not convicted, at least five years, in the case of a person who committed such crime when he was twenty-one

Prot  
class

Men  
defec  
pers

Dise  
pers

Phy  
defec  
pers

Crim



- or more years of age, or at least two years, in the case of a person who committed such crime when he was under twenty-one years of age, have elapsed since the date of commission of the crime and, in either case, he has successfully rehabilitated himself;
- Prostitutes, etc. (e) prostitutes, homosexuals or persons living on the avails of prostitution or homosexuality, pimps, or persons coming to Canada for these or any other immoral purposes;
- Procurers. (f) persons who attempt to bring into Canada or procure prostitutes or other persons for the purpose of prostitution, homosexuality or other immoral purposes;
- Beggars and vagrants. (g) professional beggars or vagrants;
- Public charges. (h) persons who are public charges or who, in the opinion of a Special Inquiry Officer, are likely to become public charges;
- Alcoholics. (i) persons who are chronic alcoholics;
- Drug addicts (j) persons who are addicted to the use of any substance that is a drug within the meaning of *The Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, 1929*;
- Drug pedlars. (k) persons who are engaged or are suspected on reasonable grounds of being likely to engage in any unlawful giving, using, inducing other persons to use, distributing, selling, offering or exposing for sale, buying, trading or trafficking in any substance that is a drug within the meaning of *The Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, 1929*, or persons who at any time have been so engaged unless, in the latter case, at least five years have elapsed since they were so engaged and they are not, in the opinion of the Minister, likely to unlawfully use or deal in any way in such substances or cause other persons to do so;

## PART VII

### GENERAL

#### *Regulations.*

General regulations	<b>61.</b> The Governor in Council may make regulations for carrying into effect the purposes and provisions of this Act and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, may make regulations respecting,
Persons who require assistance to come to Canada.	(a) the terms and conditions under which persons who have received financial assistance to enable them to obtain passage to Canada or to assist them in obtaining admission to Canada may be admitted to Canada;
Literacy and other tests.	(b) literacy, medical and other examinations or tests and the prohibiting or limiting of admission of persons who are unable to pass them;
Funds, passports, etc.	(c) the terms, conditions and requirements with respect to the possession of means of support or of passports, visas or other documents pertaining to admission;
Non-continuous journey.	(d) the admission to Canada of persons who have come to Canada otherwise than by continuous journey from the countries of which they are nationals or citizens;
Passengers brought by certain companies.	(e) the prohibiting or limiting of admission of persons brought to Canada by any transportation company that fails to comply with any provision of this Act or any regulation, order or direction made under it;
Nationals of countries that refuse to readmit.	(f) the prohibiting or limiting of admission of persons who are nationals or citizens of a country that refuses to readmit any of its nationals or citizens who are ordered deported; and
For reasons of occupation, customs, etc.	(g) the prohibiting or limiting of admission of persons by reason of (i) nationality, citizenship, ethnic group, occupation, class or geographical area of origin, (ii) peculiar customs, habits, modes of life or methods of holding property, (iii) unsuitability having regard to the climatic, economic, social, industrial, educational, labour, health or other conditions or requirements existing, temporarily or otherwise, in Canada or in the area or country from or through which such persons come to Canada, or (iv) probable inability to become readily assimilated or to assume the duties and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship within a reasonable time after their admission.



- You are a student who has gotten admitted to a US university. You are trying to get a visa to go study in the US and you also have to figure out how you will pay for your university. You have gotten a scholarship to pay for your tuition. Each group should answer questions (a) and (b) for their specific scenario. Please look up visa and document requirements for your scenario. (By “scenario” I mean begin by thinking about where you are located. Be as specific as possible. Are you in a major city? Or a rural area where you may not have easy access to an embassy?)
- Plan out your itinerary. List
  - (a) what documents you need to get and where you need to travel to get those documents.
  - (b) Your plan to make money. Will you be allowed to work under the visa you get?
  - (c) Comment on whether or not, given these circumstances, you will choose to go.
- Group 1: You are a student who was born and went to school in Ghana. Your parents cannot afford to contribute to your education or your living in the new city.
- Group 2: You were born and raised in Iran. Your parents are wealthy enough to provide for part of your accommodation, but you will still need to cover living expenses (like food etc.) yourself.
- Group 3: You were raised in Toronto, you are a Permanent Resident, but you do not have Canadian citizenship. Your family is able to cover your cost of living and accommodation.

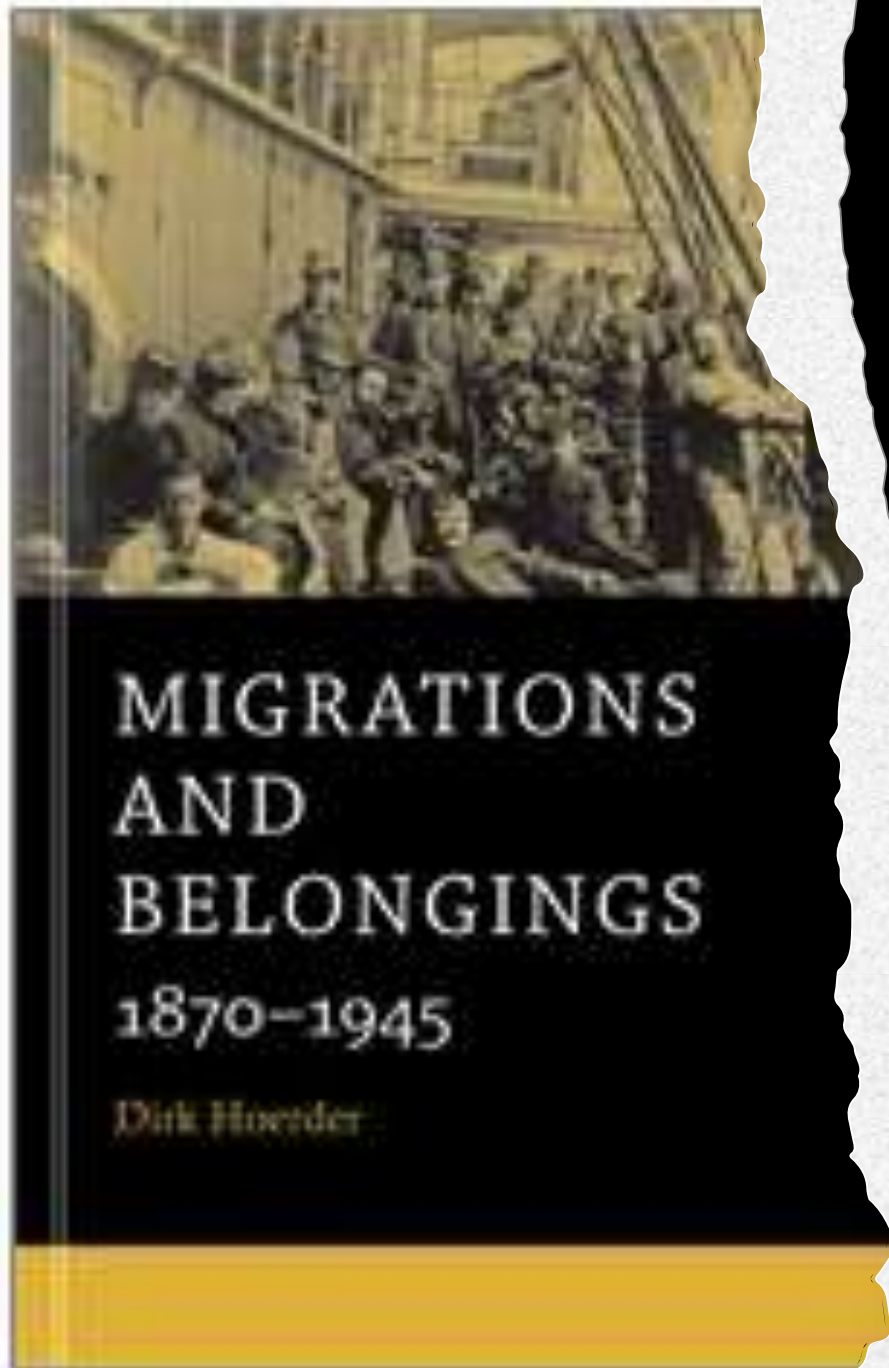
Group 4: You were born and raised in Toronto. Your family is only able to provide for your accommodation, but you will still need to cover living expenses (like food etc) yourself.

Group 5: You were born and raised in Spain. Your family cannot afford to contribute anything at all.

After the discussion on (a) and (b) explain what you learnt about the relationship between migration, power and race.

Main idea 2: human migration and identity. Our DNA actually can show our journey (this is covered in the first section of your reading by Sucheng Chan), but modern society functions to prioritize the country as our main marker of identity.

In other words, your right to mobility is conferred by your country even though your ancestors journey may mean you are part of a much bigger group.



Scholars have analyzed this concept in detail.

For instance, Dirk Hoerder on Migration and Belonging. Main argument: instead of looking at the “container” of nation-states, if we look at human migration, we find that the country we live in is only one form of belonging and crucially, that it is a form of belonging that people *choose* and *can opt out of*.

Your reading focuses on one main difference: the difference between voluntary and involuntary migration.

Involuntary migration as punishment (the deportation of 170,000 Koreans in 1937 from Russia)

Slavery

War and the end of Empire

Can you think of something more recent in our times?

# More recent example



## The Maher Arar Case

### What is the Maher Arar Case about?

Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen and father of two, was travelling home to Canada after visiting his wife's family in Tunisia in 2002. While changing planes at New York City's JFK airport, he was detained and held for 12 days by US authorities. He was then transferred secretly, via Jordan, to Syria, where he was held in degrading and inhumane conditions, interrogated, and tortured for a year.



Climate refugees  
[https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups\\_committees/loss\\_and\\_damage\\_executive\\_committee/application/pdf/ds\\_bangladesh\\_report.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/application/pdf/ds_bangladesh_report.pdf)

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# What is human migration?

Simply put, this term refers to the movement of people. There are many different types of migration. However, by far the most important difference discussed in your reading is the difference between voluntary and involuntary migration.

Immigration: moving into a new country

Emigration: leaving a country to move to another one.

Internal migration: moving within a country, continent or other region.

External migration: moving to a different country, continent or other region.

\*note that the idea of a country tends to dominate how we see migration.

Contrary to what you may have assumed, just because migration is such a big field of study, does not mean that international migration is very common. In fact, only one in 30 people in the world actually migrates.



International migration is not random. The largest numbers of migrants are concentrated in specific areas. Look at these images. What do they tell you is important in studying human migration across borders?

(a) SHARE OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION LIVING IN URBAN AREAS



(b)

**19%** OF THE WORLD'S  
FOREIGN BORN POPULATION

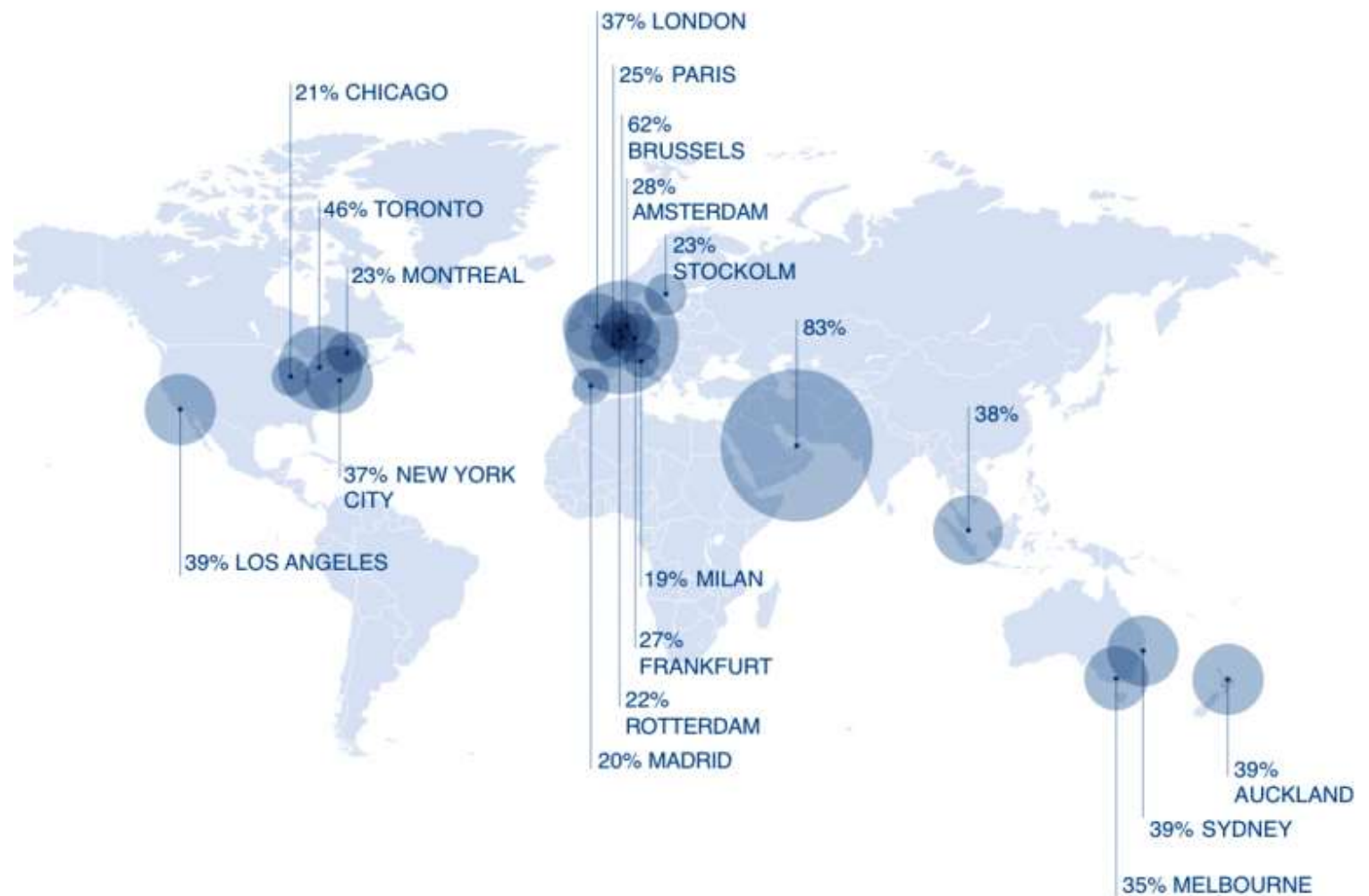
is estimated to live in global or world  
cities\*



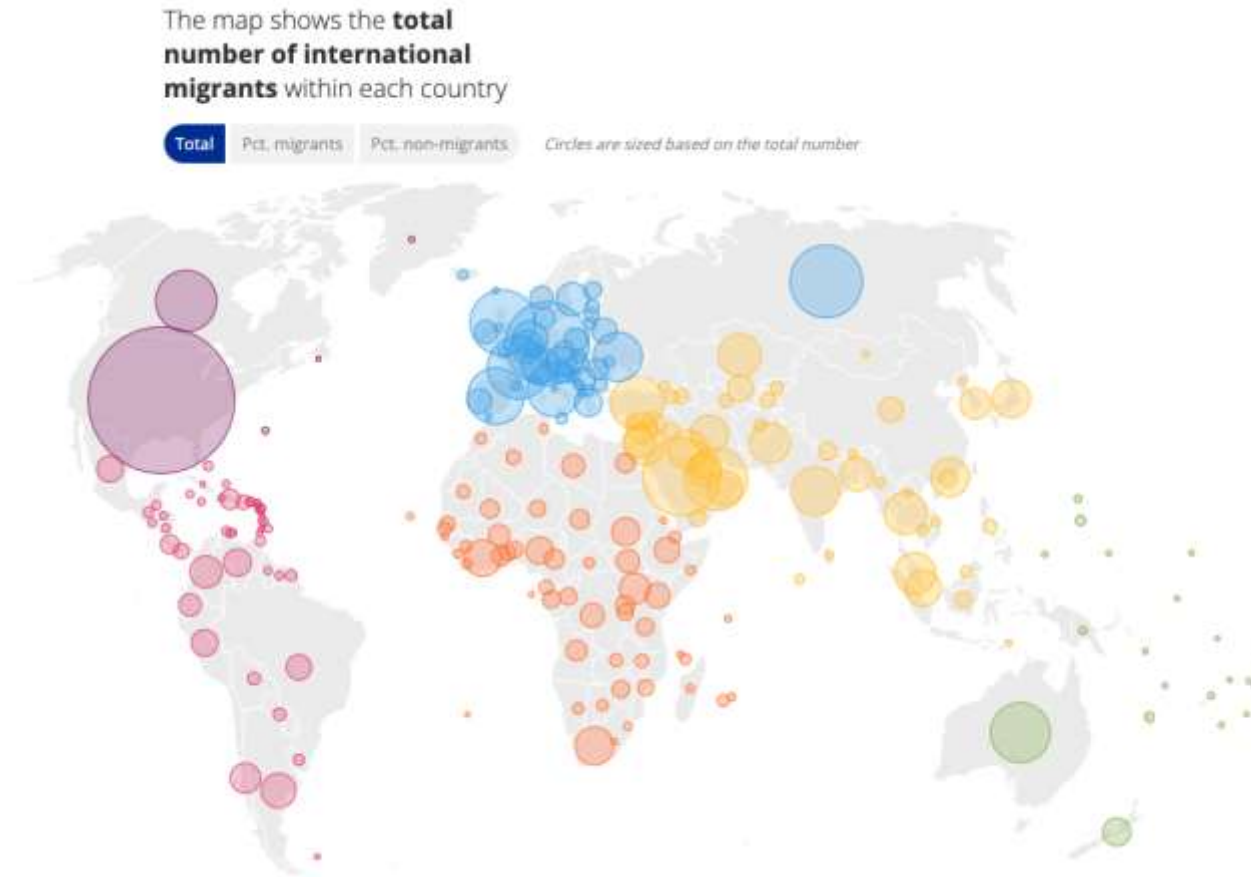
\*Global or world cities play a vital role in the international economic system.

How would  
your reading  
explain this  
distribution?

(c) FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION IN SOME MAJOR GLOBAL OR WORLD CITIES



# International migrants in each country



How would  
your reading  
explain this  
distribution?

1. History. The cities with the longest running networks of voluntary migration are consolidating already existing resources and networks.
2. Wealthy countries are places that people will go to in order to get jobs and money to send back home. It is not a coincidence that the report linked in your canvas lists the US as the top remittance sending country.
3. Ease of travel. Visa restrictions and political instability can affect migration. This has long term consequences for the demographic make up of the country and its major cities. (example 1: Crisis of doctos in BC example 2: immigration restrictions against Asians in Canada (see next slide for this example)).



JANUARY 01, 1895

ASIA-CANADA

## Japanese Canadians Lose the Right to Vote in BC

British Columbia amends the *Provincial Voters' Act* to remove the right to vote from Japanese Canadians.

JANUARY 01, 1897

ASIA-CANADA

## First Sikhs in Canada

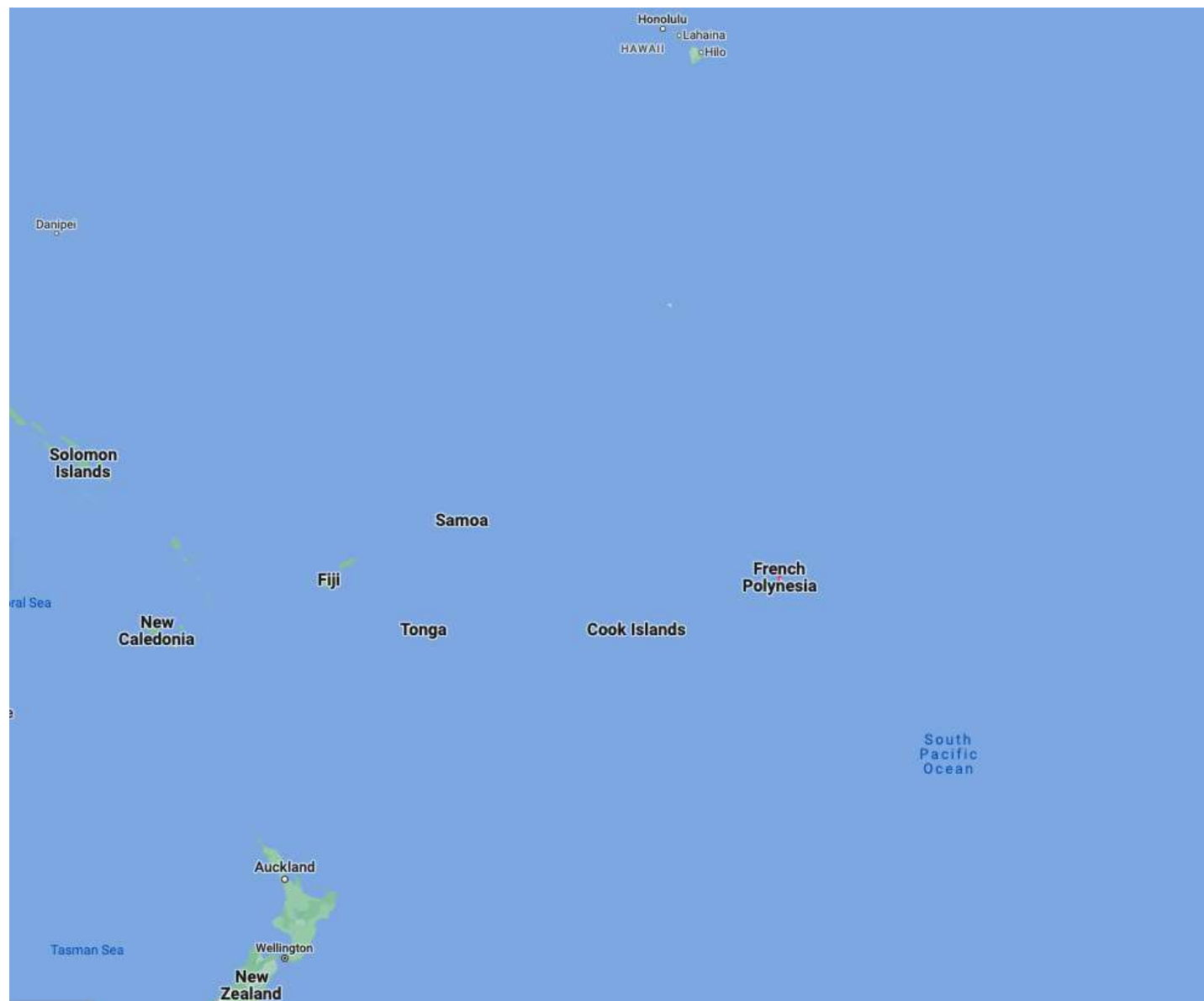
The first Sikhs came to Canada at the turn of the 20th century. Some came to Canada as part of the Hong Kong military contingent en route to Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee (1897) and the coronation of Edward VII (1902), and returned to Canada to establish themselves in British Columbia. More than 5,000 South Asians, more than 90 per cent of them Sikhs, came to British Columbia before their immigration was banned in 1908.

Main point in this section: How we see human migration is informed by our assumptions. It is important to look at what peer reviewed literature states in order to avoid essentialist readings of migration and, as future policy makers, to respond appropriately to global challenges.

You are writing a book on human migration.  
Think about *where* and *when* your book  
would begin this study.

New slide – just to show you the map of where Polynesia is located – lets zoom in





1. History.  
Dirk Hoerder  
divides this  
into stages  
(see below).

African slave migration from the 1440s to the 1870s;

migration of free and indentured men and women across Asia;

Russo–Siberian migration across parts of Asia, North America, and Europe;

a North China–Manchurian migration;

and an Atlantic system connecting Europe and the Americas



Let us look at another scholar. Adam Mckeown at Columbia writes about Global Migration






Table 1. Major long-distance migration flows, 1846–1940

Destination	Origins	Number	Auxiliary origins
Americas	Europe	55–58 million	2.5 million from India, China, Japan, Africa
Southeast Asia, Indian Ocean Rim, South Pacific	India, southern China	48–52 million	4 million from Africa, Europe, northeastern Asia, Middle East
Manchuria, Siberia, central Asia, Japan	Northeastern Asia, Russia	46–51 million	

Sources: See Appendix.

In the contemporary period, reflect on the best and worst passports. What are the reasons for this? How does this affect human migration and belonging? (this is from 2022)

	Singapore	1	194
	Japan	2	192
	Germany	3	191
	Italy	3	191
	South Korea	3	191
	Spain	3	191
	Austria	4	190
	Finland	4	190
	Luxembourg	4	190
	Sweden	4	190
	Denmark	5	189
	France	5	189
	Ireland	5	189
	Netherlands	5	189
	United Kingdom	5	189

	Yemen	108	34
	Pakistan	109	31
	Iraq	110	29
	Syria	110	29
	Afghanistan	111	26

# From the Forbes reading...

“For global citizens, a better measure of economic mobility and fiscal opportunity afforded by their passports is to look at the percentage share of global GDP accessible to them visa-free,” says Dr. Christian H. Kaelin, Chairman of [Henley & Partners](#). “Our latest research into how much global economic access each passport provides is a useful tool for investors and gives new insight into the ever-widening inequality and wealth disparity that defines our world.”

In other words, the inability to move around affects freedom of economic opportunity.

What  
explains  
this?

**By Nick Beake, Europe correspondent & Kostas Kallergis, senior Europe producer**

BBC News in Kalamata

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**The BBC has obtained evidence casting doubt on the Greek coastguard's account of Wednesday's migrant shipwreck in which hundreds are feared to have died.**

Analysis of the movement of other ships in the area suggests the overcrowded fishing vessel was not moving for at least seven hours before it capsized.

The coastguard still claims that during these hours the boat was on a course to Italy and not in need of rescue.

Greek authorities have not yet responded to the BBC's findings.

At least 78 people are known to have died, but the UN says up to 500 are still missing.



Conversely, changes in law can impact migration patterns across the world

### **the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965**

On Oct. 3, 1965, at the base of the Statue of Liberty and with the island of Manhattan gleaming in the background, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Immigration and Nationality Act, also known as the Hart-Celler Act.

In the previous 40 years before the act was signed, those who wanted to come to America were subject to a quota system. Immigration law favored immigrants from northern Europe and the British Isles, discriminated against those from southern and eastern Europe, and barred those from Asia and non-whites from entering the country.

The Immigration and Nationality Act abolished quotas, opening the doors to "those who can contribute most to this country – to its growth, to its strength, to its spirit." The new law created a preference system that focused on immigrants' skills and family relations with citizens or U. S. residents.

President John F. Kennedy, whose Irish ancestors had faced prejudice, wanted immigration reform. As president, Johnson turned to Kennedy's brother, Ted, to help steer the bill through Congress. In a March 8, 1965 telephone conversation, the two men talked about strengthening their working relationship and dispelling rumors about a strain between Johnson and Kennedy supporters. The conversation can be heard below.

For historical perspective, the LBJ Presidential Library has collected related photos, videos, audio, and text from the bill signing. All are public domain.