International School

Globalisation: Contemporary issues

5.5 Globalisation and migration

Causes of global migration

- Migration - internal and external

- Net migration = immigration - emigration

- Duration: permanent, semi-permanent, temporary

- Type: Economic, political, cultural

- Key drivers: industrialisation, urbanisation, globalisation

- Great Britain

  - 4 million in 1601

  - 30 million in 1901

  - More than 60 million people

Causes of global migration

- Economic, political, cultural, environmental factors

    - Push factors

    - Pull factors

- Urbanisation

    - In 1800, 2% of world population lived in towns

    - In 1950, 30% lived in urban areas

    - By 2050, 70% projected to be urban-dwellers

- Fragmentary urbanisation

- Khosla et al. (2002): in developing nations there is little evidence of growing investments in industrial infrastructure that could absorb the influx of urban population

Causes of global migration

- Contemporary migration trends are driven bz globalising processes, free movement of capital, relocation of industries etc.

- The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2012): majority is driven by economic factors

  - South-South migration, South-North migration, each 75 million migrants per year

  - North-South migration, 13 million people

  - South North is the main driver of global migration

  - Asia to Europe (20 million), Europe to Asia (8 million) - 2010.

- 'Bilateral migration' - movement between nearby countries

- Refugees - UN members signed treaties agreeing to protect refugees

Causes of global migration

- Response of HICs to migration

  - Victimisation of people who migrated legally - "Windrush generation"
  - Many overstay
  - Illegal entries
  - Illegal activities: arranging and selling passages, forging documents and bribing officials.

- Mass tourism - form of temporary cultural migration

  - It is important because of consumption process (material and non-material)
  - Change of identity of local areas
  - Majorca - 'British spaces"

- Diken and Lausten (2004): places such as Ibiza have been transformed from a 'paradise island' of alternative holidays in the 1960s, first into a place of package tourism and then into a destination for young people looking for nightlife.

Causes of global migration

- Sheller and Urry (2004) analyse the relationship between tourism, consumption and change in terms of the recreation and reinvention of places as:

    - Paradises that rapidly lose this characteristic through mass tourism

    - Global heritage sites, where places are re-designed as 'respectful playgrounds'

    - Remade playful places, by which global cities such as London, Hong Kong and Barcelona have 'refashioned' their built environments to perform as 'attractions' on highly competitive global stage of 'world-class' destinations

    - New playful places involving the exploration of 'unexpected sites', such as the slums and tenements of inner-city urban landscapes across the world

- Urry (2001): Western tourism increasingly involves the search for authentic experiences involving the discovery of 'new' and 'unspoilt' places. Through their 'discovery' and exploitation, they become no longer authentic destinations - changed by mass tourism and then discarded as tourists move on to the next 'authentic location'.

The consequences of global migartion

- Employment and new opportunities
- Remittances and improvements of the standard of living
- Undocumented workers - low pay and conditions similar to semi-slavery
- Resented by other workers as they are seen to keep wages down
- 'Brain drain effect'
- 'Fortress Europe' has been used to describe the ways in which Europe now polices the borders of the EU.
  - Canning (2015): Migrants are treated as criminals by being kept in detention centres
- Companies fined for transporting someone without valid passport or visa in UK
- People lose their lives to cross Mediterranean Sea to Europe
- Immigration helps country's economy
  - The British National Health Service relies heavily on migrant labour (doctors and nurses). Hann et al., 42% of doctors joining the service between 1992 and 2005 had obtained their main medical qualification outside the UK
- Grater cultural diversity

Stateless (2020)