**Migration Assignment Introduction to Geography**

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Identify and state the push and pull factors that might be at play in each of these situations. What would you do if you were in this person’s shoes?

1. Maryam lived most of her life in Damascus, Syria. She was studying as a political science student with a minor in German (because her aunt and uncle live in Germany) at the University and got involved in protests during the Arab Spring of 2010-11. When the Syrian government cracked down on protests, she had to decide whether to reintegrate into Syrian society or flee to Europe.

Push factor: The political instability and crackdown on protests in Syria. Poses a threat to Maryam.

Pull factor: Her aunt and uncle in Germany provide an avenue to for a new life in Europe.

Action: If I were Maryam, I would flee to Europe where I can seek safety with the support of my extended family and continue my education.

1. Enele grew up on the island of Nanumea in Tuvalu in a family of taro farmers. Over the past couple of decades, taro crops have been declining as rising sea levels have salinized the low-lying soils in his family’s fields that are all less than 2 meters above sea level. A recent typhoon wrecked the year’s crop and flooded his home village. During the “king tide” full and new moons, he has to walk through sea water to get to the village center. He is not well-educated, but his cousin says there is a possible job in food processing available in Sydney, Australia.

Push factor: Climate change is threatening Enele’s livelihood and safety on Nanumea.

Pull factor: The opportunity for a job in food processing in Sydney offers stability and security.

Action: If I were Enele, I would most likely relocate to Sydney for the job opportunity. Avoiding the conditions on his island in favor of a more secure and stable future for myself.

1. Sara just celebrated her quinceanera in San Salvador, El Salvador. Her father was murdered last year for refusing to pay protection money to keep his shoe shop open. As the oldest in a family of four children, she helps to take care of her younger siblings and is ready to start working to contribute to her family’s meager income. She was recently accosted by a gang of young men on her way home from school and was helped by her uncle, Angel, who happened to be nearby. Angel is pushing her to join some of his friends who are joining a group of migrants headed for the United States.

Push factor: Gang Activity, violence, and insecurity in El Salvador.

Pull factor: The prospect of safety and potentially better economic opportunities in the United States, with the support of her uncle and migrant group.

Action: If I were Sara, I would likely consider join the group of migrants heading to the United States for a chance at safety and a better future.

1. Jeanne and Hardy (Professor Jolly-Ballantine’s parents) are retired university professors who have lived in the small town of Yellow Springs, Ohio for more than 40 years. They have developed a strong community in this thriving village, and have had a good career of traveling to other countries on programs like Semester at Sea. Many of their older friends are beginning to pass away and other friends are moving to be near children and grandchildren. All three of their children have settled with their families within two hours of one another in Massachusetts and Connecticut. They have a decade or two of active retirement ahead of them, but are nervous about integrating into a whole new community. However, Amherst MA has a lot of cultural offerings and strong religious community they might feel at home in.

Push factor: Aging, loss of friends and little prospects in their current community.

Pull factor: Proximity to their family in Massachusetts and Connecticut and religious communities in Amherst, MA offers a new community to contribute to and benefit from.

Action: If I were Jeanne and Hardy, I would most likely join my family on the east coast as I value time with family over friends, while still attempting to remain connected to the Ohio community online.