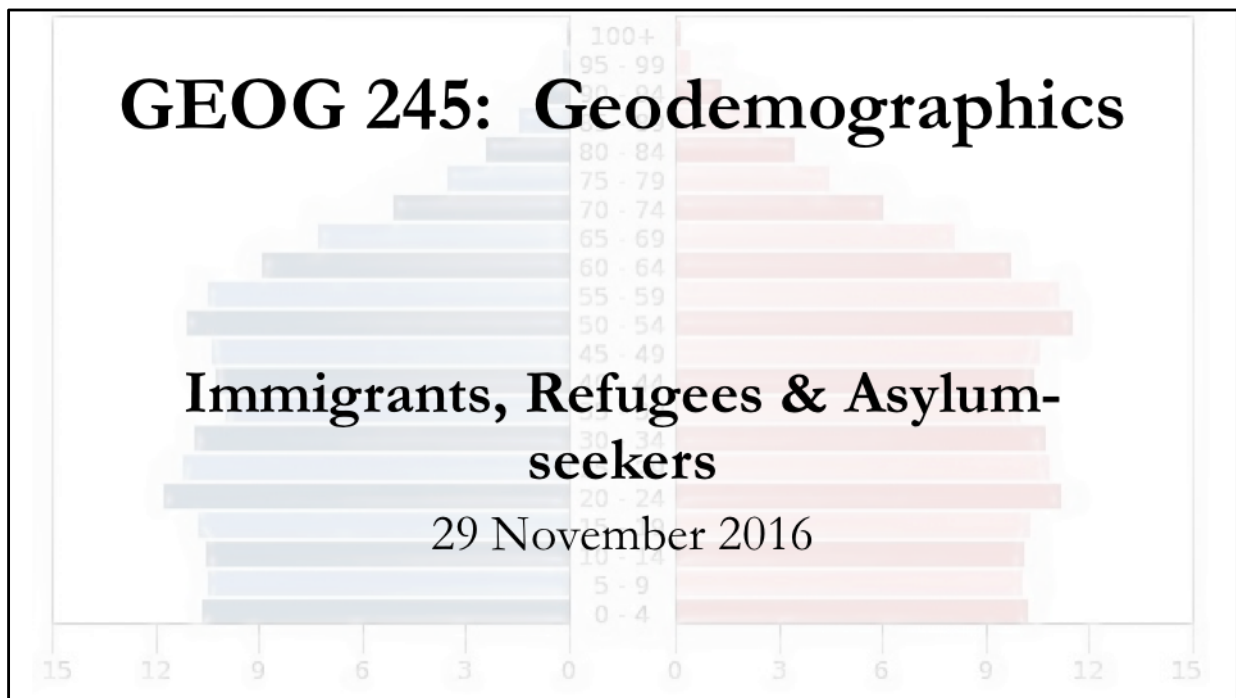


GEOG 245: Geodemographics

Immigrants, Refugees & Asylum-seekers

29 November 2016



Announcements

- Final exam on December 8th in class
- Assignment 4 due by midnight Thursday
 - Question A: the default is in fact level 3 (it is level 2 for all other parts, but not the treemap). I will accept answers for both level 2 and level 3 (note that if you did it at level 2, it is still two diseases, but grouped in one box; if you did it at level 3, it is two diseases in two boxes).
 - Question N: should be 300 per 100,000
- Extra office hours tomorrow: 9:30-11:00am in Smith 411

Extra office hours tomorrow in Smith 411 if anyone wants to work on Assignment 4 in a space in which they can ask questions if any come up.

Plan for Today

- Immigrants, Refugees & Asylum-seekers
 - Who are they?
 - Why are they moving?
 - Where are they from?
 - Similarities and differences between refugees and immigrants
 - Internally Displaced Persons
 - Where are refugees moving to?
 - Discussion

Who are the Hmong?

Yesterday you talked about the film Gran Torino in sections. I want to return to a specific piece of the film. If you remember from the film, Thao and Sue and their families are Hmong. Who were the Hmong?

Who are the Hmong?

- Ethnic group from the mountains of China, Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand

Why are there large Hmong populations in the US?

Who are the Hmong?

- Ethnic group from the mountains of China, Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand
- Were recruited by the US and France to fight in both the Indochina Wars/Vietnam War against communist forces in Laos and Vietnam
 - Following the war, many Hmong were forced out of Vietnam and Laos due to political persecution

So what does this make the Hmong people?

Refugees

- *According to the United Nations' 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, refugees are:*

People outside of their home countries who are unable to return owing to fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or adherence to a political opinion.

So what does this mean? What does “fear of persecution” mean? Who might fall under this definition?

If you are a refugee you have the right, under these agreements (most countries (145 countries) are signatories of these), to not be returned to your home country against your will (called nonrefoulement). Note: US is only signatory to the 1967 Protocol (not the 1951 Convention)

Who decides?

Who decides?

- National Governments

Until a government decides to recognize you as a refugee, you are classified as an asylum-seeker.

Why might this pose a problem? (given the economic and political responsibilities put on nationals that accept refugees, many countries are selective about what refugee claims they accept). Who gets accepted? (often groups with political connections: ex. Cubans in the 1980s) Who doesn't get accepted? (climate refugees, economic refugees)

Who decides?

- National Governments
 - Often follows a nation's foreign policy (ex. Refugees from communist countries more commonly resettled during the Cold War than other refugee groups)

Until a government decides to recognize you as a refugee, you are classified as an asylum-seeker.

Why might this pose a problem? (given the economic and political responsibilities put on nationals that accept refugees, many countries are selective about what refugee claims they accept). Who gets accepted? (often groups with political connections: ex. Cubans in the 1980s) Who doesn't get accepted? (climate/environmental refugees, economic refugees)

What are Economic Refugees?

- People fleeing a lack of economic opportunities in their home countries

Why might countries oppose economic refugees? (fear that that opens the doors for all immigration!) Who is doing that opposing? (Global North countries (fearing Global South refugees))

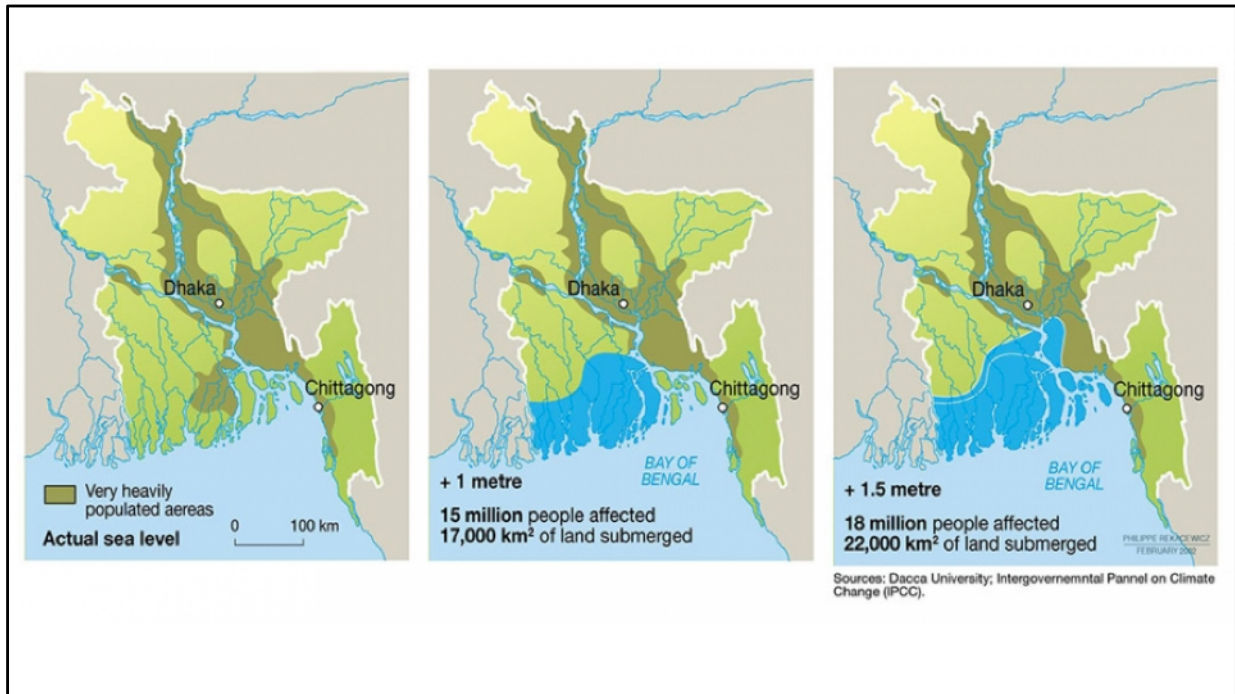
What are Climate/Environmental Refugees?

- People fleeing loss of land and/or livelihood as a result of climate change

What might this entail? (rising sea levels, drought/desertification) Who is likely to suffer most from the results of climate change? (people in the Global South)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mkzt9aZypZ0>

Video on rising sea levels in Bangladesh and its effect on the local people.



Globally, up to 100s of millions are expected to be displaced by climate change by 2080.

What do we do with asylum-seekers?

There are three options when someone applies for refugee status. What do you think they might be?

What do we do with asylum-seekers?

- Voluntary Repatriation (return to home country once safe)
- Settlement in Country of First Asylum (usually a neighboring country)
- Settlement in a Third Country (usually in the Global North)

Voluntary Repatriation: This is simultaneously the easiest and hardest of the three options. Easiest, because no one will dispute it if possible, but hardest because in order to make it possible requires a change in the home country. It is often dependent on outside political pressure, foreign policy and \$ (government aid, donations, Red Cross, etc.). Best recent example: resettlement of Afghans in Afghanistan in the post-Taliban era.

What do we do with asylum-seekers?

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Settlement in Country of First Asylum: This is often the most practical solution, but it generally puts a lot of pressure on the nations neighboring countries in conflict (above already high pressures from the conflict itself). This tends to concentrate large numbers of refugees in small areas (small countries/small number of countries) and puts large economic strain on the host nation. This generally relocates people from one Global South country to another Global South country.

Examples: Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon & Syria. About a third of Jordan's population is Palestinian refugees and their children. Also, Rwandan refugees in Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo) following the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

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Settlement in a Third Country: This is generally a movement of Global South Refugees to Global North countries. The countries who take in the most refugees are the US, Canada, Australia, Sweden and Norway. This solution often requires the political will of the host country (something that fluctuates tremendously!)

Example: Hmong refugees resettling to the US after the Vietnam War.

Immigration Gap

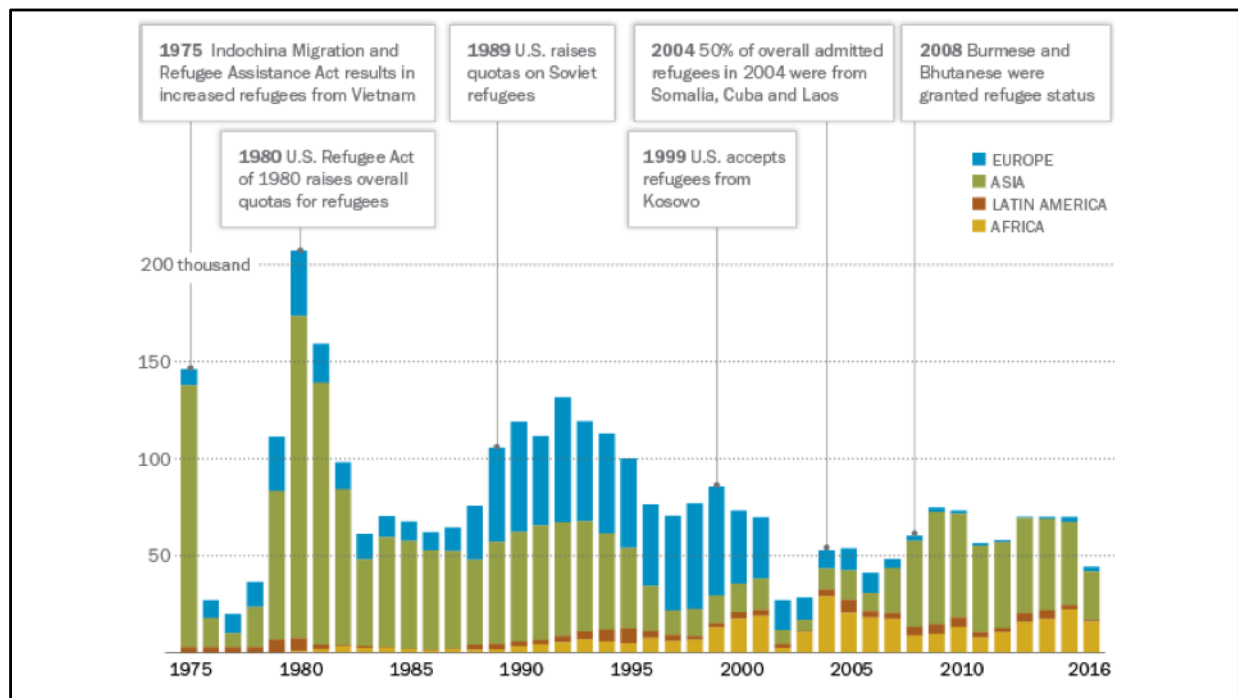
- The difference between immigration policy and outcome
- Arises from:
 - Shifts in economic pressures
 - Shifts in government policies (in the US, swings left and right of center)
 - “State policies that encourage immigration have worked to undermine state attempts to control it, provoking public opposition and calls for even tighter immigration policies.”

This contingent political will that is required for third country refugee resettlement is also required in overall immigration policy and fluctuates tremendously producing mismatches between policies and outcomes (or policies and enforcement).

Quote from Newbold 2007.

So where are refugees coming from?

Primarily from the global south.



From the PEW research center. Notes: doesn't include special immigrant visas and humanitarian parole entrants. Europe includes Russia. Asia includes the Middle East and North African countries. Africa refers to sub-Saharan Africa (including both Sudan and South Sudan). Latin America includes the Caribbean. Data for 2016 is only through June 10th.

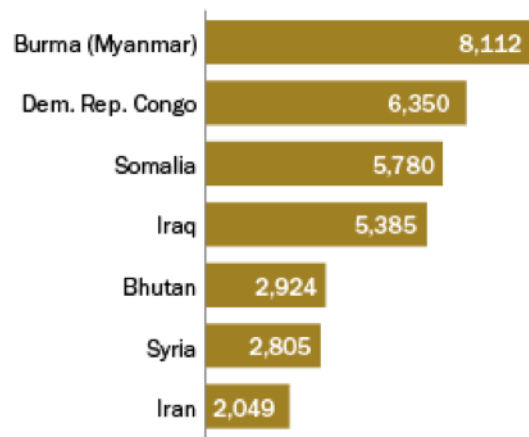
Note: European refugees all but gone. Latin American refugees consistently low. African refugees growing in number.

Peaked in 1980 (following Vietnam war, lots of refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia) at over 200,000 refugees.

Note the drop in refugees accepted after 9/11 by 60%. This was due to political climate and increased scrutiny in refugee screenings after 9/11.

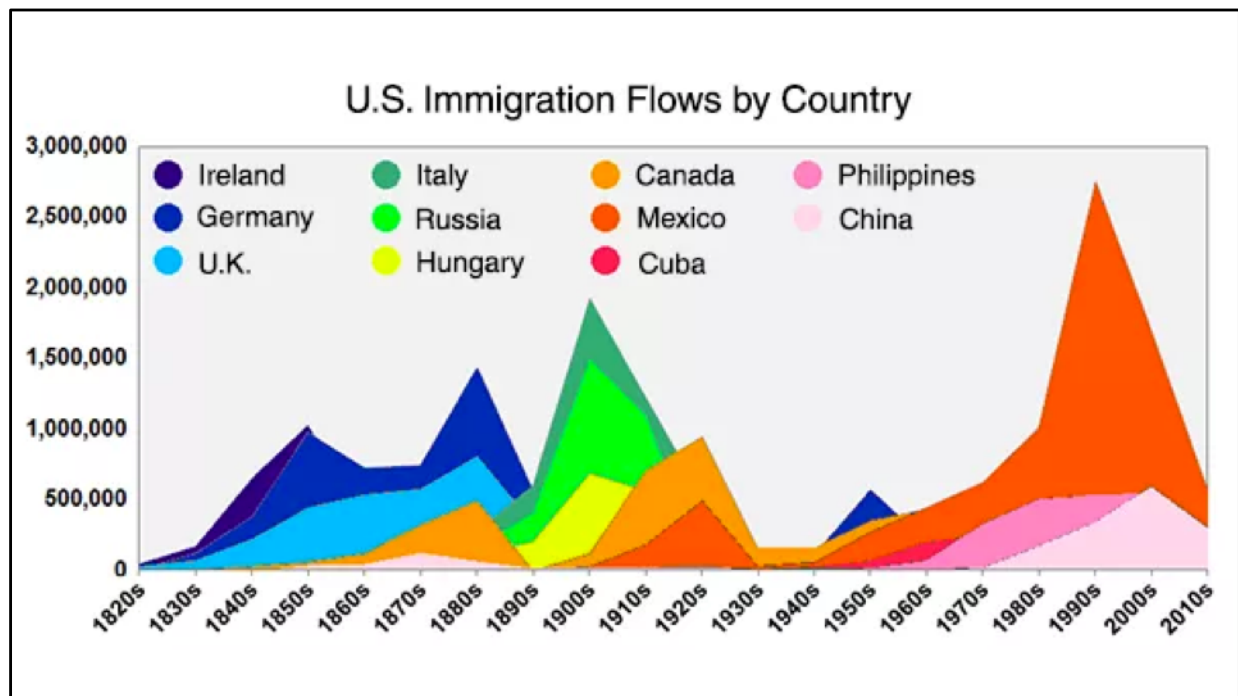
Leading countries of origin of recent refugees to the U.S.

*Number of refugees admitted to the U.S.
from Oct. 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016*



Based on the nationality of the principal applicant. Source: PEW research center.

But this is those admitted to the US. It doesn't reflect those applying or even global trends.



For Comparison, today, immigrants more broadly are largely coming from Latin America (predominantly Mexico) and Asia.

Before 1875, the US didn't regulate immigration. It was a 1875 supreme court case that gave the US that right. From 1875-1921 we were sort of figuring it out and settled on the quota system (quotas by nation; ensured most immigration was white immigration) which in 1965 changed to by hemisphere (eastern and western), focused on reuniting families (75% of immigrants), and considered the skills of immigrants. This meant that immigration shifted from primarily European to predominantly Latin American and Asian.

What similarities and differences do you see between the origin countries of immigrants vs. refugees?

Immigrants and Refugees: Similarities and Differences?

So what are some of the differences (and similarities) between immigrants and refugees in terms of what they look like when they move to a host country?

Immigrants and Refugees: Similarities and Differences?

- Refugees have less networks in the host country
- Refugees are less based on self selection, so tend to be poorer (haven't been saving up to immigrate)
- Refugees tend to have less work skills (often coming from war zones)
- Refugees tend to be less successful and assimilate slower than other types of immigrants

Questions?

Refugees by the numbers

- Immigrants, Refugees & Asylum-seekers
 - Who are they?
 - Why are they moving?
 - Where are they from?
 - Similarities and differences between refugees and immigrants
- Internally Displaced Persons
 - Where are refugees moving to?
 - Discussion

So, what are internally displaced persons?

Internally Displaced Persons

- People who have been forced out of their homes due to the fear of persecution or violence, but have not left their home countries
- In 2014: 26 million (11 million new that year)

There is often less political will, resources and money for these types of migrants. They are often from areas with protracted conflicts that are underrepresented in Western media and they typically fall through the cracks in humanitarian law because of the importance of national sovereignty.

Where are refugees moving to?

Where are refugees moving to?

- In 2010, 108,000 refugees were resettled by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees).
 - 71,400 to the US
 - 12,100 to Canada
 - 8,500 to Australia
 - 1,800 to Sweden
- In 2015, 107,100 refugees resettled (66,500 to the US)

This represents that third option (resettlement to a third country).

On average, the US takes in by far the most refugees (even post 9/11), though Canada takes in a much higher percentage of its population in refugees.

Where are refugees moving to?

- In 2015, 200,000 refugees returned home
 - Mostly to Afghanistan, Somalia, and the Central African Republic.

For every refugee that moves on to a third country, two are returned home.

Where are refugees moving to?

- Turkey currently hosts 2.5 million externally displaced people
- Pakistan hosts 1.6 million
- Lebanon hosts 1.1 million
- Iran hosts 979,000
- Ethiopia hosts 736,000

And millions more are in limbo/in the original country of asylum. (2015 data)

Refugees in the first country of asylum is almost always the highest level (though many are never fully processed as refugees and remain asylum-seekers), but it has spiked tremendously in the last year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvOnXh3NN9w>

A film clip explaining the current refugee crisis. This is not an unbiased film (it is pro-accepting refugees), but it does a good job of explaining the situation.

Initial Reactions?

<http://abc11.com/news/mccrory-nc-will-cease-to-accept-syrian-refugees/1086509/>

Here is a less biased version that goes a bit more into the reasons why in the US, many are resistant to allowing Syrian refugees in.

Why are countries resistant to
accepting Syrian refugees?

On a Piece of Paper:
Why is the refugee crisis so
complicated? And how might the
global community best solve it?

Pull out a piece of paper. Put your name on it and take 5 minutes to respond to the question above.

There are no right or wrong answers. It's a thinking exercise.

Discuss with your neighbors.

Some further context:

- The refugee crisis is small compared to overall global immigration
 - In 2010, 214 million people migrated internationally (3.1% of the global population)
 - Over 120 million of that was to developed countries.
 - Most migration is:
 - Global North to Global North (highly skilled workers)
 - Global South to Global South (mostly unskilled or lightly skilled workers)
 - And Global South to Global North (over half of immigration)

Reminder: push and pull factors.

Looking toward the future

- Global population is increasing
 - Population pressure is increasing
 - Conflict over resources is increasing
 - Refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons likely to increase as well.

Questions?

A more human look:

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/greece/>

This is a web tour of five refugee camps in Greece. It presents a more human look at the refugee crisis and the refugee experience.