

Chapter

3 Migration

KEY ISSUE 1

Where Are Migrants Distributed?

The chapter focuses on migration, which is a specific type of relocation diffusion. It examines why people move permanently or migrate, both internally and internationally. Migration patterns are analyzed as well as the obstacles faced by migrants.

Learning Outcome 3.1.1: Describe the difference between international and internal migration.

Migration can be international (between countries, either voluntary or forced) or internal (within a country, either interregional or intraregional).

Learning Outcome 3.1.2: Identify the principal sources of immigrants during the three main eras of U.S. immigration.

The United States has had three main eras of immigration. The principal source of immigrants has shifted from Europe during the first two eras to Latin America and Asia during the third (current) era.

At a global scale people generally migrate from the developing to the developed world. The three largest flows are from Asia to Europe and North America, and from Latin America.

More than most other countries, the United States is a land of immigrants. About 75 million people migrated to the United States between 1820 and 2010. There have been three major eras of immigration to the United States. The first era was the original settlement of colonies in the 1600s. The second was from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, and the third was from the 1970s until the present. All three eras have involved people coming to the United States from countries that were at stage two of the demographic transition.

Immigration to the American colonies consisted of mostly forced migration from Africa and a mixture of forced and voluntary migration from Europe. There were three peaks of the second era of immigration. The first peak of immigration was during the 1840s and 1850s and consisted of people largely from Western Europe. The second peak was during the late 1800's and again most migrants were from Western Europe, especially Germany and Ireland, although there were increasing numbers of people from Scandinavia. The third peak was from the late 1800s until the early 1900s and consisted of people largely from Southern and Eastern Europe who came to work in the factories of the Industrial Revolution.

Recent immigration to the United States has been from less developed regions, especially Asia and Latin America. The three leading sources of U.S. immigrants from Asia are China, India, and the Philippines. In the 1980s Mexico became the leading source of immigrants to the United States. Although the pattern of immigration to the United States has changed, the reason for immigration remains essentially the same. People are pushed from their homeland by economic and political conditions, and are attracted to the economic and social potential of life in the United States.

Today's immigrants to the United States are clustered in California, New York, Florida, and Texas. New immigrants often move to places where family members and friends from their home country have already migrated. This is called **chain migration**.

Key Issues Revisited

3.1. Where are migrants distributed?

- At a global scale, the largest flows of migrants are from Asia to Europe and from Asia and Latin America to the United States
- The United States receives by far the largest number of migrants

Review Questions

3.1.1. A permanent move from one country to another is

- A. interregional migration.
- B. internal migration.
- C. intraregional migration.
- D. tourist migration.
- E. international migration.

3.1.2. The largest flow of migrants is from

- A. Asia to Europe.
- B. Asia to North America.
- C. both A & B.
- D. Asia to Oceania.
- E. Africa to Europe.

KEY ISSUE 2

Why do People Migrate Within a Country?

Learning Outcome 3.2.1: Describe the history of interregional migration in the United States.

Migration within the United States has primarily occurred from east to west, though at varying rates. Recently, interregional migration has also occurred from north to south.

Learning Outcome 3.2.2: Describe interregional migration in Russia and Canada.

The world's two largest countries have distinctive patterns of interregional migration. These patterns derive unequal distribution of population within these countries.

Learning Outcome 3.2.3: Describe interregional migration in China and Brazil.

China and Brazil also have unequal population. Chinese have been migrating from the rural interior to the large coastal cities. Brazilians have been encouraged to move from the large coastal cities to the interior.

Learning Outcome 3.2.4: Explain differences among the three forms of intraregional migration.

Three intraregional migration patterns are from rural to urban areas, from urban to suburban areas, and from urban to rural areas.

Historically the most significant migration trend has been **interregional migration** westward in United States to obtain cheap land and potential wealth. The population center of the United States has moved westward and more recently southward. In the 1960s and 1970s large numbers of white, middle-class Americans moved from the older northeastern and midwestern states to the south and the west coast. At this time northern industrial states were known as the **Rust Belt** because their economy was declining as factories closed and people moved. The towns that are left behind are sometimes referred to as the **Hollow Core**. At the same time the south, which had been known as the **Cotton Belt** because of its agricultural poverty, became known as the **Sun Belt**, a land of opportunity. The migration of African-Americans followed a different pattern, from the rural south to large cities in the north. Interregional migration in the United States has not been as significant in the first decade of the twenty-first century, largely because of a narrowing of regional differences in employment opportunities.

Interregional migration has also been important in other countries. Soviet policy encouraged people to move to Russia's Far North to develop industry. It didn't work very well and ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Brazil has encouraged people to move into the interior, especially since the building of Brasilia in 1960. The Chinese are also experiencing a mass exodus of people from the interior to large cities on the coast.

Intraregional migration has also been important in many countries. In the United States as well as most MDCs, the most important trend since the middle of the twentieth century has been the move to suburbs from central cities. A new trend in North America and Western Europe has been **counterurbanization**, from urban to rural areas for lifestyle preferences especially now that modern technology allows people to work more easily from their homes.

Migration from rural to urban areas has been very important in LDCs. Worldwide more than 20 million people are estimated to migrate each year from rural to urban areas. People seek economic opportunities with this type of migration and, especially in LDCs, are pushed because of failed agricultural systems.

KEY ISSUE 3

Why do People Migrate?

Learning Outcome 3.3.1: Provide examples of political, environmental, and economic push and pull factors.

People migrate because of a combination of push and pull factors. These factors may be political, environmental, and economic. Most people migrate for economic push and pull reasons.

Learning Outcome 3.3.2: Summarize the flows of migrant workers in Europe and Asia.

People migrate for temporary work, especially from developing countries to developed countries, where they take jobs that are not desired by local residents.

E.G. Ravenstein, a nineteenth century geographer, identified 11 laws of migration, which can be roughly organized into three main elements: the reasons migrants move, the distance they move, and the major characteristics of migration. Migration is a specific type of relocation diffusion and is a form of **mobility**, a more general term dealing with all types of movement. **Migration** is the movement of a person from one place to another. It can include movement at many different scales, such as short-term, repetitive, or cyclical movements called **circulation**, or **intercontinental migration**, which is from one continent to another. **Emigration** is movement *from* a location whereas **immigration** is movement *to* a location. The difference between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants is the **net migration**.

People generally migrate because of push and pull factors. **Push factors** include anything that would cause someone to leave their present location, such as the violation of a person's **activity space**. **Pull factors** induce people to move to a new location. Four major kinds of push and pull factors can be identified. These are economic, political, cultural, and environmental.

Economic factors that can lead to migration include job opportunities, cycles of economic growth and recession, and cost of living. The United States and Canada have been important destinations for economic migrants lured by economic pull factors. An example of this is **place utility**, where a place may

offer economic incentives in an effort to attract people to their town or city.

Armed conflict and the policies of oppressive regimes have been important political push factors in forcing out those who become refugees. A **refugee**, according to the United Nations, is a person who, “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.” The majority of the world’s refugees (2010) have migrated from Afghanistan and Iraq because of the recent wars. There are also a significant number of **internally displaced people (IDP)**, who are forced to migrate but are still within their national borders. The last type of forced migrant is **an asylum seeker**, a person who migrates to another country hoping to be recognized as a refugee. There are also political pull factors such as the promise of political freedom. It has been this factor that has lured so many people from the communist countries of Eastern Europe to Western Europe in the second half of the twentieth century.

Cultural factors can encourage people to move to places where they will be more at home culturally. A good example of a cultural pull factor is the relocation of Jews to the newly formed state of Israel after the Second World War. Israel is the ancestral hearth of Jewish culture and it serves as a place where Jewish people can reestablish social ties and create a sense of political unity.

Environmental pull and push factors are largely related to physical geography. People will be pulled towards physically attractive regions such as the Rocky Mountains and the Mediterranean coast of southern Europe. People might also be pushed from places by floods and droughts. The flooding in New Orleans and other Gulf Coast communities in 2005 following Hurricane Katrina caused around 1,400 deaths and forced several hundred thousand people from their homes. Indeed many people are forced to move by water-related disasters because they live in vulnerable areas, such as a **floodplain**.

Migrants do not always go to their intended destination because of an **intervening obstacle**, which is an environmental or cultural feature that hinders migration. Sometimes a migrant will stop and stay at a place en route to their intended destination because of an **intervening opportunity**, which is an environmental or cultural feature that favors migration.

According to Ravenstein, most migrants move only a short distance and within a country. **Internal migration** is permanent movement within a country. This is the most common type of movement and is consistent with the principles of distance decay. **Interregional migration** is one type of internal migration, and is movement from one region of a country to another. Historically this has usually been from rural to urban, but developed countries are now experiencing more urban to rural migration. The other type of internal migration is **intra-regional migration**, movement within a region. In the developed world this has largely been urban to suburban but these patterns are now beginning to change.

One of Ravenstein's laws states that long-distance migrants to other countries usually relocate to major economic and urban centers. The permanent migration from one country to another is **international migration**, and it can be voluntary or forced. **Voluntary migration** is when someone chooses to leave a place as a result of push or pull factors. **Forced migration** is when someone is moved from their home without any choice.

A century ago Ravenstein stated that most long-distance migrants were male adults rather than families with children. Today there are much larger numbers of females migrating internationally together with their children, especially from Mexico to the United States. This is a reflection of the changing role of women. Much of the migration from Mexico to the United States is illegal and seasonal.

The demographer Wilbur Zelinsky has identified a **migration transition**, which outlines changes in the migration pattern in a society during different stages of the demographic transition. According to the migration transition, international migration usually occurs when countries are in stage two of the demographic transition. For example, international migrants moved from Western Europe to the United States as a result of the technological changes related to the Industrial Revolution. Internal migration becomes more important when countries are in stages three and four of the demographic transition. According to migration transition theory, people generally move from cities to suburbs during these stages. Zelinsky theorizes that countries in stages three and four of the demographic transition are the destinations of international migrants leaving stage two countries because of economic push and pull factors.

KEY ISSUE 4

Why Do Migrants Face Obstacles?

Learning Outcome 3.4.1: Identify the types of immigrants who are given preference to enter the United States.

Immigration is tightly controlled by most countries. The United States gives preference to immigrants with family members already in the country and to those who have special job skills.

Learning Outcome 3.4.2: Describe the population characteristics of unauthorized immigrants to the United States.

The United States has more than 11 million unauthorized immigrants, who are in the country without proper documents. Most have emigrated from Mexico.

Learning Outcome 3.4.3: Describe characteristics of immigrants to the United States.

In the past, most immigrants were males, but now an increasing share of immigrants to the United States are women and children.

Learning Outcome 3.4.4: Compare American and European attitudes toward immigrants.

Americans and Europeans have divided and ambivalent attitudes toward the large number of immigrants, especially those arriving without proper documentation.

The United States uses a quota system to limit the number of foreign citizens who can migrate permanently to the country. **Quotas** are maximum limits on the number of people who can immigrate to the United States from one country during a one-year period. Initial quota laws were designed to allow more Europeans to come to the United States, rather than Asians. Quotas for individual countries were eliminated in 1968 and replaced with hemisphere quotas. In 1978 the hemisphere quotas were replaced by a global quota, which was set at 700,000 in 1990. The majority of legal immigration today is chain migration. Some preference is also given to skilled workers, which leads to **brain drain**, the emigration of talented people. According to the World Bank in 2012, 8 out of 10 Haitians with a college degree lived abroad.

There have been increasing numbers of illegal, **unauthorized**, or **undocumented immigrants** to the United States. In 2010 the Urban Institute estimated that there might have been as many as 11.2 mil-

lion undocumented immigrants, including about 58% from Mexico. It is a controversial topic because although undocumented immigrants take jobs that few others want, most Americans would also like more effective border patrols. Thus some favor **amnesty** for illegal immigrants whereas others believe that they should be deported.

Europe allows temporary **guest workers** to legally work for at least minimum wages in their countries. They serve the same purpose as the vast majority of illegal immigrants in the United States. Luxembourg and Switzerland have especially high percentages of foreign-born workers in their labor force. Between 1999 and 2008, the foreign-born population in Spain rose from around $\frac{3}{4}$ million to $5\frac{1}{4}$ million.

In the nineteenth century, **time-contract** workers migrated to work in mines and on plantations for a set period of time, although many of them stayed. More than 33 million ethnic Chinese currently live in other countries. Thus it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between economic migrants and refugees.

The United States has generally regarded emigrants from Cuba as political refugees since Castro's 1959 revolution. Economic and political refugees from Haiti have not been quite as welcome in the United States. Vietnamese boat people were regarded as political refugees after the Vietnam War, when thousands fled the war-ravaged country. Vietnam remains an important source of immigrants to the United States today, but largely because of the pull of economic opportunity rather than the push of political persecution.

Immigrants often face opposition from some citizens of host countries because they are often culturally, ethnically, and religiously different. For example there have been open ethnic and racial conflicts between citizens and migrants in Western Europe and Australia in the first decade of the twenty-first century.

1. Where are the three largest migration flows in the world? (list the FROM and TO areas)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. How many immigrants came to the US from 1820-2010? What stage in the demographic transition were these countries of origin?
3. Recent immigration to the US has been from _____ regions.
4. What are the THREE predominant countries of origin for Asian immigrants to the US?
5. What country is the leading source of immigrants to the US?
6. Define **Chain Migration**:
7. Review Question 3.1.1. A permanent move from one country to another is
 - A. interregional migration
 - B. internal migration
 - C. intraregional migration
 - D. tourist migration
 - E. international migration
8. Review Question 3.1.2. The largest flow of migrants is from
 - A. Asia to Europe
 - B. Asia to North America
 - C. both A & B
 - D. Asia to Oceania
 - E. Africa to Europe
9. Define **Interregional Migration**:
(use textbook if necessary)
10. Why didn't Russia's encouragement of interregional migration work?

11. Define **Intraregional Migration**:

12. What is **counterurbanization**?

13. Migration from rural to urban areas has been very important in _____. Why?

14. Review Question 3.2.1. Historically the “center of population gravity” in the US has been moving which direction?

- A. eastward
- B. north
- C. northeast
- D. westward
- E. southeast

15. Review Question 3.2.2. The government of Brazil encouraged interregional migration by

- A. punishing those who refused to move
- B. cleaning out the Favelas
- C. moving the capital
- D. building a transcontinental railroad
- E. setting up a quota system.

16. What THREE groups did Ravenstein organize his 11 laws of migration into?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

17. Define **Migration**:

18. What is circulation migration?

19. What is the difference between emigration and immigration?

Emigration:

Immigration:

20. Define **Net Migration**:

21. What is the difference between push and pull factors?

Push Factors:

Pull Factors:

22. What are the FOUR kinds of push and pull factors?

23. List an example of an economic factor:

24. What is **Place Utility**?

25. List an example of a political push factor:

26. What is a **refugee**? (according to the UN)

27. Where have the majority of the world's refugees originated from as of 2010 and WHY?

28. What is an **IDP? (internally displaced person/people)**

29. What is an **asylum seeker**?

30. List a political pull factor:

31. List an example of a cultural pull factor:

32. What are environmental pull and push factors largely related to?

33. List an example of an environmental pull and push factor:

34. What is an **intervening obstacle**?

35. What is an **intervening opportunity**?

36. What is **internal migration**?

37. What are the TWO types of internal migration? (also define them)

1.

2.

38. What is **international migration**?

39. What are the TWO types of international migration? (also define them)

1.

2.

40. According to the migration transition, international migration usually occurs when countries are in what stage of the DT?

41. Review Question 3.3.1. According to EG Ravenstein the most common reason people migrate is for

- A. political reasons
- B. environmental reasons
- C. war
- D. authoritarian reasons
- E. economic reasons

42. Review Question 3.3.2. Most immigrants in Europe who are in search of work come from

- A. Poland
- B. Egypt
- C. Spain
- D. Portugal
- E. Italy

43. What is a **quota**?

44. Define **Brain Drain**:

45. In 2010, approximately how many unauthorized immigrants are there estimated to have been in the US?

Where were about 58% of them from?

46. Europe allows temporary _____ to legally work for at least minimum wages in their countries.

47. What TWO European countries are listed to have especially high percentages of foreign-born workers in their labor force?

48. List THREE countries where political and economic refugees to the US have originated from since the 1950's.

49. Review Question 3.4.1. Congressional preferences for people wishing to immigrate to the US include all of these EXCEPT

- A. family reunification
- B. skilled workers
- C. ethnic diversification
- D. refugees
- E. professionals

50. Review Question 3.4.2. Many localities have passed resolutions to help unauthorized immigrants, this movement is called

- A. sanctuary city
- B. illegal interference
- C. federalism
- D. egalitarianism
- E. civil disobedience