Chapter 03

Key Issue 1:
Where are migrants distributed?
Migration

• **Mobility** is most generalized term that refers to all types of movements
  – Journeying each day to work or school
  – Weekly visits to local shops
  – Annual trips to visit relatives who live in a different state

• Short-term and repetitive acts of mobility are referred to as *circulation*.
  – Ex. College students moving to college each fall and returning home each spring
Migration

- A permanent move to a new location constitutes *migration*.
  - Emigration is migration from a location.
  - Immigration is migration to a location.
- Place “A” can have individuals migrating away from and to it.
  - Emigrant: Place A → Place B
  - Immigrant: Place B → Place A
- Difference between the number of immigrants and number emigrants is a place’s *net migration*. 
• Ravenstein’s laws for the distance that migrants typically move
  – Most migrants relocate a short distance and remain within the same country.
  – Long-distance migrants to other countries head for major centers of economic activity.
Distance of Migration

• Migration can be divided into two categories.
  1. International Migration- permanent move from one country to another
     • Voluntary
     • Forced
  2. Internal Migration- permanent move within the same country
     • Interregional
     • Intraregional
International Migration Patterns

• Approximately 9 percent of the world’s people are international migrants.
• Global pattern reflects migration tendencies from developing countries to developed countries.
  – Net Out-Migration
    • Asia, Latin America, and Africa
  – Net In-Migration
    • North America, Europe, and Oceania
Global Migration Patterns

- Width of arrows shows the amount of net migration.

- Countries with net in-migration are those in red, and those with net outmigration are in blue.
U.S. Immigration Patterns

• U.S. has more foreign-born residents than any other country: approximately 43 million as of 2010—growing by 1 million annually.

• Three main eras of immigration in the U.S.
  – Colonial settlement in seventeenth and eighteenth centuries
  – Mass European immigration in the late 19th and early twentieth centuries
  – Asian and Latin American integration in the late Twentieth and early twenty-first centuries
Immigration to the United States

The graph illustrates the number of immigrants to the United States from different regions over time. The regions are categorized as Europe, Canada, Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Oceania. The x-axis represents the year from 1820 to 2010, while the y-axis represents the number of immigrants (in million). The graph shows significant fluctuations in immigration trends over the decades.
Destination of Immigrants by U.S. state

~ Which states are leading destinations for immigrants?
Where Do People Migrate within a Country?

• Interregional Migration
  – Perceived economic betterment typically compels individuals to make interregional migrations.
    • Historically- enticement of abundant available land on the American Frontier.
    • Presently- most jobs, especially in services, are clustered in urban areas.
  – Westward expansion contributed to a shift in the center of population.
    • “Center of population gravity”
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Key Issue 2:
Where do people migrate within a country?
The population center is the average location of everyone in the U.S. or the “center of population gravity.”
Recent Interregional migration in the U.S.

Interregional migration has slowed in recent years to close to zero.

Why?
Recent Interregional migration in the U.S.

Interregional migration has slowed in recent years to close to zero.

Why?

~ Regional differences in employment opportunities
~ 2008 recession
Migration between Regions in Large Countries

- World’s five largest countries in land area are Russia, Canada, China, the U.S., and Brazil.
  - Russia: Interregional migration was encouraged eastward and northward by the government’s decision to locate new factories and to offer economic incentives away from existing population concentrations.
Where is the population clustered in Russia?
Migration between Regions in Large Countries

– Canada: Shares a similar east to west interregional migration pattern with the U.S. Three westernmost provinces are destinations for interregional migrants.

– China: Nearly 100 million people have emigrated from rural interior to large urban areas along east coast where manufacturing is prevalent.

– Brazil: Government moved its capital from Rio De Janeiro to Brasília (600 miles from Atlantic Coast) to encourage migration of Atlantic coast residents to move to the interior.
Interregional migration in China

~ Where are migrants heading in China?

Why?

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Interregional migration in Canada

~ Where are migrants heading in Canada?

Why?
~ Where are migrants heading in Brazil?

Why?
Intraregional Migration

• Since Industrial Revolution began in Europe in nineteenth century, a global trend for individuals to migrate from rural to urban areas
  – Percentage of urbanized population in U.S.
    • 1800: 5 percent
    • 1920: 50 percent
    • 2010: 80 percent
  – Motivated by economic advancement
Intraregional Migration

• Most intraregional migration in developed countries is from cities out to surrounding suburbs.
  – Motivated not by economic advancement but by a desired lifestyle
    • Additional privacy associated with single-family detached houses
    • Garages and driveways offer parking at no additional fee
    • Often superior suburban schools
Intraregional migration – United States

- 2,631,000 From suburb to city
- 711,000 From nonmetropolitan to suburb
- 473,000 From suburb to nonmetropolitan
- 4,895,000 From city to suburb
- 448,000 From nonmetropolitan to city
- 501,000 From city to nonmetropolitan
Intraregional Migration

• Developed countries experienced a new migration trend during the late twentieth century when rural areas were characterized by net in-migration.
  – Net migration from urban to rural areas is called *counterurbanization*.

• Counterurbanization most prevalent in places rich with natural amenities
  – Rocky Mountain States (Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming)
Percentage of Americans moving in a year

~ Why has intraregional migration slowed?
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Key Issue 3:
Why do people migrate?
Why Do People Migrate?

• People decide to migrate because of a combination of two factors.
  – *Push* factors induce people to move out of their present location.
  – *Pull* factors induce people to move into a new location.

• Three major types of push and pull factors
  1. Political
  2. Environmental
  3. Economic
Reasons for Migrating

• *Political* factors can be especially compelling push factors, forcing people to migrate from a country.

• United Nations High Commissions for Refugees recognizes three groups of forced political migrants.

  1. A *refugee* has been forced to migrate to avoid a potential threat to his or her life, and he or she cannot return for fear of persecution.
Reasons for Migrating

2. An *internally displaced person* (IDP) is similar to a refugee, but he or she has not migrated across an international border.

3. An *asylum seeker* is someone who has migrated to another country in hope of being recognized as a refugee.
Reasons for Migrating

• *Environmental* factors can prompt migration from hazardous environments or pull migrants to attractive regions.
  – Environmental Pull Factors
    • Mountains
    • Seasides
    • Warm Climates
  – Environmental Push Factors
    • Water: most common environmental threat
      – Flood
      – Drought

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Reasons for Migrating

• Most people migrate for economic reasons.
  – **Push** factor: migrate away from places with few jobs
  – **Pull** factor: migrate to places where jobs seem to be available

• U.S. and Canada have been prominent destinations for economic migrants.
  – Historically individuals migrated from Europe.
  – More recently Latin America and Asia are primary senders.
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Key Issue 4:
Why do migrants face obstacles?
Intervening obstacles, which hinder migration, can be categorized into two types.

1. Environmental Feature- i.e., mountain, ocean, or distance
2. Political Feature- i.e., countries require proper documentation to leave one country and gain entry in another
Controlling Migration

• Countries have adopted selective immigration policies.
  – Preference shown for specific employment placement and family reunification

• Passing of the Quota Act in 1921 and the National Origins Act in 1924 by the U.S. Congress marked the end of unrestricted immigration to the U.S.
Controlling Migration

- More seek admission to the U.S. than is permitted by the quotas, thus preferences are shown toward:
  - **Family Reunification**
    - About $\frac{3}{4}$ of immigrants
  - **Skilled Workers**
    - Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of immigrants
    - Sending countries alleged preference for skilled workers contributes to *brain drain*—a term for the disproportionate amount of highly skilled and intelligent citizens migrating away from sending countries.
  - **Diversity**
    - A few immigrants admitted, because their sending country historically has sent very few migrants
Unauthorized Immigration

- Unauthorized immigrants are those who enter a country without proper documents.
- Characteristics of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S.
  - Source Country
    - Roughly 58 percent emigrate from Mexico
  - Children
    - Of estimated 11.2 million unauthorized immigrants, nearly 1 million are children.
    - Unauthorized immigrants have given birth to 4.5 million children on U.S. soil making the children U.S. citizens.
Unauthorized Immigration

– Years in the U.S.
  • Duration of residency has increased for unauthorized immigrants.
  • In 2010, 35 percent of adults had been in U.S. for at least 15 years.

– Labor Force
  • Approximately 8 million unauthorized immigrants are employed in the U.S.

– Distribution
  • Texas and California have largest number of unauthorized immigrants
~ The border between the U.S. and Mexico is the longest border between a 1st world and a 3rd world country at 1,933 miles. Texas shares 1,241 miles of border.
Unauthorized Immigration

• Mexico’s Border with the United States
  – View from the U.S. recognizes motives that compel unauthorized immigrants to enter illegally
    • Employment Opportunities
    • Family Reunification
    • Better Way of Life
  – View from Mexico is more complex
    • Residents of northern Mexico wish for compassion to be shown to unauthorized immigrants.
    • Residents of southern Mexico are less tolerant because of number of unauthorized immigrants entering Mexico from Guatemala.
U.S.- Mexico border: pedestrian crossing
~ Vehicles are backed up trying to cross the border from Matamoros Mexico (R) to Brownsville, TX (L)
Attitudes toward Immigrants

• Immigration Concerns in the U.S.
  – Most views of immigration by U.S. citizens are ambivalent in nature.
  • Border Patrol
    – They would like more effective border control, but they don’t want to spend more money to solve the issue.
  • Workplace
    – Most recognize that unauthorized immigrants take jobs from U.S. citizens, but they understand most citizens wouldn’t take the jobs so they support a path to U.S. citizenship for these unauthorized immigrants.
Attitudes toward Immigrants

• Civil Rights
  – U.S. citizens favor letting law enforcement officials stop and verify the legal status of anyone, but they fear civil rights will be infringed upon of U.S. citizens, as a result of racial profiling.

• Local Initiatives
  – Polls suggest U.S. citizens believe unauthorized immigration is a pressing matter to the nation, but it should only be dealt with at the federal level and not the local level.
    » Many were opposed to Arizona’s 2010 law that obligated foreigners to carry a proof of citizenship with them at all times.
    » More than 100 localities across the nation support additional rights for unauthorized immigrants—such a movement is known as a “Sanctuary City.”
~ The Schengen Treaty (1985) gave a citizen of one European country the right to hold a job, live permanently, and own property elsewhere.
Attitudes toward Immigrants

• Immigration Concerns in Europe
  – Population growth in Europe is fueled by immigration from other regions of the world, a trend disliked by many Europeans.
  • Biggest fear is that the host country’s culture will be lost, because immigrants:
    – adhere to different religions
    – speak different languages
    – practice different food and other cultural habits
  • Hostility to immigrants has become a central plank of some political parties in many European countries.
    – Immigrants blamed for crime, unemployment rates, and high welfare costs.
Attitudes toward Immigrants

~ Immigration controversy in France

Protestors supporting immigrant rights

Protestors supporting tighter restrictions
Attitudes toward Immigrants

~ Immigration controversy in the U.S.

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Attitudes toward Immigrants

• Europeans as Emigrants
  – Inhospitable climate for immigrants in Europe is especially ironic.
  • Europe was the source of most of the world’s emigrants, during the nineteenth century.
  • Most Europeans fear losing their cultural heritage to that of new immigrants, while:
    – Indo-European languages are now spoken by half of the world, as a result of European emigrants.
    – Christianity has the world’s largest number of adherents.
    – European art, music, literature, philosophy, and ethics have diffused throughout the world.
Characteristics of Migrants

- Ravenstein noted:
  - Most long-distance migrants are male.
  - Most long-distance migrants are adult individuals rather than families with children.
  - Most long-distance migrants are young adults seeking work rather than children or elderly people.
Attitudes toward Immigrants

• Characteristics of Migrants
  – More males migrated to the U.S. during the nineteenth century and most of the twentieth century.
  • Gender reversed in 1990s when women constituted about 55 percent of U.S. immigrants.
    – Most likely a reflection of the changing role of women in Mexican society.
  – About 40 percent of immigrants in U.S. are young adults between the ages of 25 and 39.
  – Recent immigrants to the U.S. tend to be less educated than U.S. citizens.
• On a global scale, the largest flows of migrants are from Asia to Europe and from Latin America to the U.S.
  – Third-world to first-world
• The decision to migrate is a conclusion influenced by a mixture of *push* and *pull* factors.
• Migrants face obstacles in migrating not as much by environmental factors anymore but by political or cultural factors.
Summary

• Worldwide, the most prominent type of intraregional migration is from rural areas to urban areas. In the U.S., it is from cities to suburbs.

• Americans and Europeans share mixed views about immigration. They recognize their importance to the local economy, but key features of immigration trouble them.