

## Migration

### Introduction

Today global politics is not institutionalized and global coordination of migration is not high on the agenda of global institutions, strong governments and globally influential decision makers. Yet, it is generally argued that global migration puts pressure both on economically advanced democratic states and on global cities where migration is dense.

In the modern period of development of nationalism, migration was simply the movement of people over national borders. It can also be further divided into legal and recorded or illegal and unrecorded migration or according to purpose (family reunion, tourism, work etc.) or according to migration being voluntary or involuntary (refugees, asylum seekers and modern slave trades).

Today migration is a trend that reshapes society in general and has already triggered contentious debate over policies affecting liberal institutions such as those protecting human rights, group rights, women's rights, freedom of expression, freedom in university education, the relation between state and religion in the sense of extending freedom of worship and reducing the role of the government in social and economic life.

While many aspects of migration and displacement are relatively uncontroversial, it is the aspect of uncontrolled, poorly managed irregular migration and population displacement, which leads to policy controversy.

States differ markedly on their rules of entry.

In broad terms there are five types of rules.

(1) Unrestricted entry rules. Although no country freely permits entry to everyone, some countries grant virtually unrestricted entry to citizens of neighbouring countries.

(2) Promotional entry rules. Countries may actively promote entry in an effort to increase their population or to fill a temporary demand for labour. In the 1950s and 1960s Western European countries actively sought migrant labour from Turkey, Greece, and North Africa. And in the 1970s and early 1980s the oil-producing Persian Gulf states actively recruited labour from other Arab states and from Asia. Israel, in fulfilment of its nationalist ideology to create a homeland for Jews, promotes immigration of Jews irrespective of their country of origin.

(3) Selective entry rules. Many governments selectively admit but do not actively promote the entrance of migrants. They may permit family unification, selectively allow some to enter the labour force, or admit refugees, although there may be limitations as to their characteristics and numbers.

(4) Unwanted entry rules. Some governments that legally restrict or prohibit entry are unable or unwilling to prevent illegal entry. The result is an illegal migrant population often unprotected or even harassed by legal authorities.

(5) Prohibition entry rules. While all countries restrict immigration, a few (Japan, for example) effectively ban virtually all long-term entries and make it almost impossible for foreigners to become citizens

Actually, despite episodic efforts to control migration, national governments are generally unable to withstand private sector influences favouring migration and unable to systematically track and regulate individual migration. For example, in Israel, African refugees and asylum seekers make up almost half per cent of the population in the territory and many are currently employed in formal and informal economies, many of them, without any legal status.

The reasons why people decide to migrate are multiple and complex. They include the absence of employment opportunities in their countries of origin, the scarcity of health and education services, or the desire to reunite with family members already in other countries: they are a combination of choice and constraints. But we cannot overlook that armed conflict and other situations of violence are major drivers forcing people to leave their homes. Whatever the motives, mixed population flows are the result and a phenomenon, which challenges policy making today.

At the start of the new millennium, some 150 million people, or 2.5 percent of the world's population, live outside their country of birth. That number has doubled since 1965. With poverty, political repression, human rights abuses, and conflict pushing more and more people out of their home countries while economic opportunities, political freedom, physical safety, and security pull both highly skilled and unskilled workers into new lands, the pace of international migration is unlikely to slow any time soon.

Economic trends also influence migration patterns in many ways. Multinational corporations, for example, press governments to ease movements of executives, managers, and other key personnel from one country to another. When labour shortages appear, whether in information technology or seasonal agriculture, companies also seek to import foreign workers to fill jobs.

Frontex, the [European] union's border agency, also said the number of migrants from outside Europe known to have entered Europe illicitly this year was already close to the total for all of 2013 and was likely to rise as summer weather brings calmer seas, benefiting migrants crossing the Mediterranean from northern Africa.

While worldwide more than 250 million people live outside their home country, it is the estimated 65 million people who have been displaced by violence and conflict and those who are forced by other circumstances to choose irregular pathways of migration often outside legal frameworks foreseen for migration that represent a population of particular concern. One is the integration of displaced populations. Over 65 million people are currently displaced.

When they reach their destination migrants often face difficulties in accessing health care, housing, education or employment. They may become easy targets for abuse, extortion and exploitation due to a lack of a protective family network, a lack of information or missing documents. Many suffer accidents or illness and cannot benefit from medical care. Some lose contact with their families. Thousands die or disappear along the way every year. Many are held in prolonged detention for having entered or stayed irregularly in a foreign country, in disregard of the fact that detention should always be an exceptional measure of last resort and limited in time.

The movement of populations across international borders in recent years, especially from developing to developed countries and between developing countries, is having a significant impact on international relations. Theories of inter-national migration pay remarkably little attention to state interventions, while the literature on international relations says relatively little about population movements, except insofar as the refugee phenomenon is described as an outcome of conflicts. How do state actions shape population movements, when do such movements lead to conflicts and when to cooperation, and what do governments do in their domestic policies to adjust to or influence population flows are questions that have received far too little attention.

In conclusion, it is essential to have an appreciation for the complicated origins of migration: poverty, injustice, exclusion, armed conflict, violence, among others. And proper laws should be framed for the protection of the rights of migrants. Hence the issue of migration needs to be analysed and adequate humanitarian interventions should be made by the states in the world to look at these issues.