

CBCS B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE
SEM-IV HONS - CC-10 : Global Politics:
TOPIC-II : Contemporary Global Issues - d. Migration
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CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES - MIGRATION

Introduction:

Human migration denotes any movement by human beings from one locality to another, often over long distances or in large groups. Humans are known to have migrated extensively throughout prehistory and human history. The movement of populations in modern times has continued under the form of both voluntary migration within one's region, country, or beyond, and involuntary migration, which includes trafficking in human beings and ethnic cleansing. The people who migrate are called migrants, or, more specifically, emigrants, immigrants, or settlers, depending on historical setting, circumstance, and perspective.

Human migrations, initiated for whatever reason, have affected the grand epochs in history, changing forever the demographic landscape of lands throughout the world, bringing, on some occasions, innovation and mutual benefits, and on others destruction and suffering. External causes for these happenings, including climate change and political or religious oppression, religious scholars and people of faith regard many such events.

Types of migrations

There are two main types of migrations: Domestic and international. In domestic migration people move within their homeland, be it from one town to the next or across the country. This may take the form of moving from one level of density to another such as rural to urban (or vice versa).

International migration involves crossing international borders. International migration can occur over relatively short distances such as that in between the member states of the European Union or can involve moves to entirely different continents such as from Asia to Africa.

The UN Migration Agency defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is. Migration is generally considered a permanent action, although some people migrate to other places for rather long periods of time (months or years) rather than permanently.

History of Migrations : Human migration has taken place at all times and in the greatest variety of circumstances. They have involved tribal, national, class, and individual levels. Causes have been climatic, political, economic, religious, or simply

for love of adventure. Its causes and results are fundamental for the study of ethnology, of political and social history, and of political economy.

Early migrations: Historical migration of human populations began with the movement of Homo erectus out of Africa across Eurasia about a million years ago. Later population movements notably include the Neolithic revolution, Indo-European expansion, and the Early Medieval Great Migrations including Turkic expansion. The Age of Exploration and European Colonialism led to an accelerated pace of migration since Early Modern times.

Bronze Age : The earliest migrations from historical sources are those of the second millennium B.C.E. It is speculated that the Proto-Indo-Iranians began their expansion from ca. 2000 B.C.E., the Indo-Aryan migration hypothesis suggests that they reached Assyria in the west and the Punjab in the east by ca. 1500 B.C.E.

The great migrations : Western historians refer to the period of migrations that separated Antiquity from the Middle Ages in Europe as the Great Migrations or as the Migrations Period.

European Colonialism from the sixteenth to the early twentieth centuries led to an imposition of European colonies in many regions of the world, particularly in the Americas, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Australia, where European languages remain either prevalent or in frequent use as administrative languages. Major human migration before the eighteenth century was largely state directed.

Mass immigration was not encouraged due to a labour shortage in Europe (of which Spain was the worst affected by a depopulation of its core territories in the seventeenth century). Europeans also tended to die of tropical diseases in the New World in this period and for this reason, England, France, and Spain preferred using slaves to free labour in their American possessions.

This changed in the eighteenth century due to population increases in Europe. Spanish restrictions on emigration to Latin America were revoked and the English colonies in North America saw a major influx of settlers attracted by cheap or free land, economic opportunity, and religious toleration. By 1800, European emigration had transformed the demographic character of the American continent. Their influence elsewhere was less pronounced as in South Asia and Africa, European settlement in this period was limited to thin layer of administrators, traders, and soldiers.

Industrialization

While the pace of migration had accelerated since the eighteenth century (including the involuntary slave trade), it would increase further in the nineteenth century. Manning distinguished three major types of migration:

- Migration,
- Refugee migrations, and lastly
- Urbanization

Millions of agricultural workers left the countryside and moved to the cities causing unprecedented levels of urbanization. This phenomenon began in Britain in the late eighteenth century and spread around the world, continuing to this day in many areas.

Industrialization encouraged migration wherever it appeared. The increasingly global economy globalized the market. The Atlantic slave trade diminished sharply after 1820, which gave rise to self-bound contract labour migration from Europe and Asia to plantations.

Also overpopulation, open agricultural frontiers, and rising industrial centers attracted voluntary, encouraged and sometimes coerced migration. Moreover, migration was significantly eased by improved transportation techniques.

Twentieth century

Between 1846 and 1940, mass migrations occurred world-wide. The size and speed of transnational migratory movements became unprecedented. About 55 millions of migrants moved from Europe to America, and an additional 2.5 million moved from Asia to America. Of this transatlantic migrations, 65 percent went to the United States. Other major receiving countries were Argentina, Canada, Brazil, and Cuba.

During this same period similar large numbers of people migrated over large distances within Asia. South-eastern Asia received 50 million migrants, mainly from India and south China. North Asia—Manchuria, Siberia, Central Asia, and Japan together—received another 50 million. Less is known about exact numbers of the migrations from and within Africa in this period, but Africa experienced a small net immigration between 1850 and 1950, from a variety of origins.

The twentieth century also experienced an increase in migratory flows caused by war and politics, with large numbers of refugees feeling their homelands that had been taken over by factions hostile to their ethnicity or religion. Muslims moved from the Balkans to Turkey, while Christians moved the other way, during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. 400,000 Jews moved to Palestine in the early twentieth century. The Russian Civil War caused some 3 million Russians, Poles, and Germans to migrate out of the Soviet Union. World War II and decolonization also caused migrations.

Causes

The causes of migration can be seen as a series of push and pull factors—those factors which either forcefully push someone into migration or attract them. Push and pull factors are usually considered as north and south poles on a magnet.

Push factors : A push factor is a forceful factor, and a factor which relates to the country the person is migrating from. It is generally a problem which results in people wanting to leave. Different types of push factors included:

- **Poor medical care**
- **Not enough jobs**
- **Few opportunities**
- **Primitive conditions**

- **Political fear**
- **Fear of torture and mistreatment**
- **Not being able to practice religion**
- **Loss of wealth**
- **Natural disasters (including changes in climate)**

Pull factors : A pull factor is something concerning the country a person migrates to. It is generally a good thing that attracts people to a certain place.

- **Chances of getting a job**
- **Better living standards**
- **Enjoyment**
- **Education**
- **Better medical care**
- **Security**
- **Family links**

Effects :

Migration, like any other process, shapes many fields of life. These effects, which have both advantages and disadvantages, include:

- **Changes in population distribution:** Human migration has had a significant effect on world geography, contributing to the development of separate cultures, the diffusion of cultures, and the complex mix of cultures and multi-cultural populations found in many parts of the world.
- **Mixing of different cultures and races:** This has often led to negative social behaviors—tensions in society between majorities and minorities, followed often by local struggles, racism and racial discrimination. Increases in criminality may also result. However, effects in different societies vary. There are also some positive cultural effects of migration, for example exchange of cultural experience and new knowledge.
- **Demographic consequences:** Since migration is selective of particular age groups, migrants are mostly young and productive. This can cause a demographic crisis—population aging, that in turn can be followed by economic problems (a shrinking economically active population has to finance an extending inactive population). Since the earliest times, humanity has been on the move. Some people move in search of work or economic opportunities, to join family, or to study. Others move to escape conflict, persecution, terrorism, or human rights violations. Still others move in response to the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters, or other environmental factors.

Today, more people than ever live in a country other than the one in which they were born. In 2019, the number of migrants globally reached an estimated 272 million, 51 million more than in 2010. International migrants comprise 3.5 per cent of the global population. Compared to 2.8 per cent in 2000 and 2.3 per cent in 1980, the proportion of international migrants in the world population has also risen

- **Economic results**, which are of the greatest importance for the development of countries.

UN member states adopted a set of commitments, known as the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, in which they recognize the need for a comprehensive approach to migration. The New York Declaration acknowledges the positive contribution of migrants to sustainable and inclusive development, and commits to protecting the safety, dignity and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status.