

## HISTORY AND HUMAN MIGRATION

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### **Abstract**

*The study examines the history of human migration which includes the peopling of the world to regions where there was previously no human habitation, during the Upper Paleolithic. The inquiry starts from the pre-modern history of migration of human populations beginning with the movement of Homo erectus out of Africa across Eurasia and Homo sapiens appears to have occupied all of Africa and had spread across Australia, Asia and Europe by 40,000 BC. The study explores some places, such as Turkey and Azerbaijan, which had substantial cultural transformation after the migration of relatively small elite populations. The evidence indicates that early humans migrated due to many factors, such as changing climate and landscape and inadequate food-supply. The Age of Exploration and European colonialism has led to an accelerated pace of migration leading to the local populations, such as the Aboriginal people in Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, Japan and the United States, to be numerically overwhelmed by incoming settlers. On the side of Modern History, the study posits that Industrialization encouraged migration wherever it appeared. The First and Second World Wars, genocides, and crises sparked by them, had an enormous impact on migration. For example, Muslims moved from the Balkan to Turkey, while Christians moved the other way, during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Also the Russian Civil War caused some three million Russians, Poles, and Germans to migrate out of the new Soviet Union. Furthermore, the paper interrogates the contemporary history of migration and concludes that many people leave their home countries in order to look for economic opportunities in another country. Others migrate to be with family members who have migrated or because of political conditions in their countries. Education is another reason for international migration, as students pursue their studies abroad. Finally, using oral and written sources and applying the narrative and analytical tool, the study also employed the qualitative analysis method (a scientific method of gathering non numerical data). The method seeks to understand phenomena from the perspective of the individual or group. Finally, being one of the modest attempts at documenting the history of human migration, this study has extended further the frontiers of the historiography of human migration which until recently has remained unexplored.*

**Key words:** Pre-modern History, Modern History, Contemporary History, Human Migration

## **Introduction**

Human migration is the movement of people from one place to another with the intention of settling temporarily or permanently in the new location. It typically involves the movements over long distances and from one country or region to another. Historically, early human migration includes the peopling of the world, i.e. migration to world regions where there was previously no human habitation, during the Upper Paleolithic. Since the Neolithic, most migrations (except for the peopling of remote regions such as the Arctic or the Pacific), were predominantly warlike, consisting of conquest on the part of expanding populations; which takes the form of modern colonialism. This in turn, involves expansion of sedentary populations into previously only sparsely settled territories or territories with no permanent settlements.

In the modern period, however, human migration has primarily taken the form of migration within and between existing sovereign states, either controlled: i.e. legal immigration or uncontrolled and in violation of immigration laws: i.e. illegal immigration. In this context, it is important to note that migration can be voluntary or involuntary. Involuntary migration includes forced displacement in various forms such as deportation, slave trade, trafficking in human beings and flight from war situations in the form of ethnic cleansing which ultimately gives rise to refugees. Put differently, a person who moves from their home because of natural disaster or civil disturbance may be described as a refugee or, especially within the same country, a displaced person. A person seeking refuge from political, religious, or other forms of persecution is usually described as an asylum seeker. The distinction between involuntary (fleeing political conflict or natural disaster) and voluntary migration (economic or labor migration) is difficult to make and partially subjective, as the motivations for migration are often correlated.

## **The Pre-modern History**

Migration of human populations begins with the movement of *Homo erectus* out of Africa across Eurasia about 1.75 million years ago. *Homo sapiens* appears to have occupied all of Africa about 150,000 years ago; some members of this species moved out of Africa 70,000 years ago or, according to more recent studies, as early as 125,000 years ago into Asia (Bae, C., Douka, K., et al., (2017);

and even as early as 270,000 years ago, Zimmer, C., (2017) and had spread across Australia, Asia and Europe by 40,000 BC.

Migration to the Americas took place 20,000 to 15,000 years ago. By 2000 years ago humans had established settlements in most of the Pacific Islands. Major population movements notably include those postulated as associated with the Neolithic Revolution and with Indo-European expansion. The Early Medieval Great Migrations including Turkic expansion have left significant traces. In some places, such as Turkey and Azerbaijan, there was a substantial cultural transformation after the migration of relatively small elite populations, Tatjana, Z.; Wells, R.; Tyler-Smith, Chris; et al., (2002).

Historians see elite-migration parallels in the Roman and Norman conquests of Britain, while the most hotly debated of all the British cultural transitions is the role of migration in the relatively sudden and drastic change from Romano-Britain to Anglo-Saxon Britain, which may be explained by a possible substantial migration of Anglo-Saxon Y chromosomes into Central England contributing 50%-100% to the gene pool at that time. Weale & Michael E.; et al, (2002).

### **Factors responsible for early human migration**

Early humans migrated due to many factors, such as changing climate and landscape and inadequate food-supply. The evidence indicates that the ancestors of the Austronesian peoples spread from the South Chinese mainland to the island of Taiwan around 8,000 years ago. Evidence from historical linguistics suggests that seafaring peoples migrated from Taiwan, perhaps in distinct waves separated by millennia, to the entire region encompassed by the Austronesian languages. Scholars believe that this migration began around 6,000 years ago. See the work on “Language trees support the express-train sequence of Austronesian expansion”, Holly Young (2015).

Indo-Aryan migration from the Indus Valley to the plain of the River Ganges in Northern India is presumed to have taken place in the Middle to Late Bronze Age, contemporary with the Late Harappan phase in India (around 1700 to 1300 BC). From 180 BC, a series of invasions from Central Asia followed in the northwestern Indian subcontinent, including those led by the Indo-Greeks, Indo-Scythians, Indo-Parthians and Kushans. See the appearance of Indo-Aryan speakers in Encyclopædia Britannica, (2000).

### **The Age of Exploration and European colonialism**

This has led to an accelerated pace of migration since Early Modern times. In the 16th century, perhaps 240,000 Europeans entered American ports. For example, people migrated from the Indian subcontinent to the United Kingdom during the Imperial era and afterwards. In the 19th century, during the great migration of 1915-1960, over 50 million people left Europe for the Americas alone, Stephanie C., (2007). The local populations or tribes, such as the Aboriginal people in Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, Japan and the United States, were often numerically overwhelmed by incoming settlers, Stephanie C., (2007).

### **Industrialization**

When the pace of migration had accelerated since the 18th century already (including the involuntary slave trade), it would increase further in the 19th century. Manning distinguishes three major types of migration: labor migration, refugee migrations, and 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 18th century and spread around the world and continues to this day in many areas.[http://www.oecd.org/about/0,3347,en\\_2649\\_33931\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/about/0,3347,en_2649_33931_1_1_1_1_1,00.html). (Accessed 18 May 2019)

### **Modern History**

Industrialization encouraged migration wherever it appeared. The increasingly global economy globalized the labour market. The Atlantic slave trade diminished sharply after 1820, which gave rise to self-bound contract regarding labour migration from Europe and Asia to plantations. Overpopulation, open agricultural frontiers, and rising industrial centres attracted voluntary migrants. Moreover, migration was significantly made easier by improved transportation techniques.

Romantic nationalism also rose in the 19th century, and, with it, ethnocentrism. The great European industrial empires also rose. Both factors contributed to migration, as some countries favored their own ethnicity over outsiders and other countries appeared to be considerably more welcoming. For example, the Russian Empire identified with Eastern Orthodoxy, and confined Jews, who were not Eastern Orthodox, to the Pale of Settlement and imposed restrictions. Violence was also a problem. The United States was promoted as a better location, a "golden land" where Jews could live more openly. James Axtell (2009). Another effect of imperialism, colonialism, led to the migration of

some colonizing parties from "home countries" to "the colonies", and eventually the migration of people from "colonies" to "home countries". David Eltis, (1873).

Transnational labour migration reached a peak of three million migrants per year in the early twentieth century. Italy, Norway, Ireland and the Guangdong region of China were regions with especially high emigration rates during these years. These large migration flows influenced the process of nation state formation in many ways. Immigration restrictions have been developed, as well as diaspora cultures and myths that reflect the importance of migration to the foundation of certain nations, like the American melting pot. The transnational labour migration fell to a lower level from the 1930s to the 1960s and then rebounded.

The United States experienced considerable internal migration related to industrialization, including its African American population. From 1910 to 1970, approximately 7 million African Americans migrated from the rural Southern United States, where blacks faced both poor economic opportunities and considerable political and social prejudice, to the industrial cities of the Northeast, Midwest and West, where relatively well-paid jobs were available. This phenomenon came to be known in the United States as its own Great Migration, although historians today consider the migration to have two distinct phases. The term "Great Migration", without a qualifier, is now most often used to refer the first phase, which ended roughly at the time of the Great Depression: Stephanie C., (2007). The second phase, lasting roughly from the start of United States' involvement in World War II to 1970, is now called the Second Great Migration. With the demise of legalized segregation in the 1960s and greatly improved economic opportunities in the South in the subsequent decades, millions of blacks have returned to the South from other parts of the country since 1980 in what has been called the New Great Migration, Stephanie C., (2007).

### **World Wars and Aftermath**

The First and Second World Wars, other wars and genocides, and crises sparked by them, had an enormous impact on migration. Muslims moved from the Balkan to Turkey, while Christians moved the other way, during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. In April 1915 the Ottoman government embarked upon the systematic decimation of its civilian Armenian population. The persecutions continued with varying intensity until 1923 when the Ottoman Empire ceased to exist and was replaced by the Republic of Turkey. The Armenian population of the Ottoman state was reported at about two million in 1915. An estimated one

million had perished by 1918, while hundreds of thousands had become homeless and stateless refugees. By 1923 virtually the entire Armenian population of Anatolian Turkey had disappeared.

Four hundred thousand Jews had already moved to Palestine in the early twentieth century, and numerous Jews to America, as already mentioned. The Russian Civil War caused some three million Russians, Poles, and Germans to migrate out of the new Soviet Union. Decolonization following the Second World War also caused migrations, Irving Howe (2000). The Jewish communities across Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East were formed from voluntary and involuntary migrants. After the Holocaust (1938 to 1945), there was increased migration to the British Mandate of Palestine, which became the modern state of Israel as a result of the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine.

### **Contemporary History**

International migration occurs when people cross state boundaries and stay in the host state for some minimum length of time. See a comparative review of performance and engagement in PISA (2003). Migration occurs for many reasons. Many people leave their home countries in order to look for economic opportunities in another country. Others migrate to be with family members who have migrated or because of political conditions in their countries. Education is another reason for international migration, as students pursue their studies abroad, -en- OECD (2007).

While there are several different potential systems for categorizing international migrants, one system organizes them into nine groups, namely: temporary labour migrants; irregular, illegal, or undocumented migrants; highly skilled and business migrants; refugees; asylum seekers; forced migration; family members; return migrants; and long-term, low-skilled migrants. See a comparative review of performance and engagement in PISA (2003). These migrants can also be divided into two large groups, permanent and temporary. Permanent migrants intend to establish their permanent residence in a new country and possibly obtain that country's citizenship. Temporary migrants intend only to stay for a limited periods of time; perhaps until the end of a particular program of study or for the duration of their work contract or a certain work season International, -en- OECD (2007). Both types of migrants have a significant effect on the economies and societies of their chosen destination countries.

[http://www.oecd.org/about/0,3347,en\\_2649\\_33931\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/about/0,3347,en_2649_33931_1_1_1_1_1,00.html).  
(Accessed 18 May 2019)

Similarly, the countries which receive these migrants are often grouped into four categories, namely: traditional settlement countries, European countries which encouraged labour migration after World War II, European countries which receive a significant portion of their immigrant populations from their former colonies, and countries which formerly were points of emigration but have recently emerged as immigrant destinations, Stephanie C., (2007).

## **Conclusion**

So far, this paper examined the historical aspect of human migration in a systematic manner. Beginning with the pre-modern history of human migration within the purview of Turkey and Azerbaijan, juxtaposing the factors responsible for early human migration, the impact of the Age of Exploration and European Colonialism, delving into modern history with particular focus on industrialization, the part played by the World Wars I and II and other wars and genocides; ending with the contemporary history of human migration, this study concludes by stating the obvious, namely, migration is becoming a very important subject for the entire world.

As important as it is, however, human migration can have positive as well as negative effects on the life of the migrants. If we accept that people who move from one place to another in search of work or shelter are called *migrants*, then it is only proper to note that nowadays, many people decide to migrate to have a better life why because employment opportunities are the most common reason due to which people migrate. In addition to this, the study also identified and indicated that early humans migrated due to many factors, such as changing climate and landscape and inadequate food-supply, lack of opportunities, better education, globalization, natural disaster such as flood and drought and sometimes even crop failure forced people to migrate to cities and such exodus makes it expedient to explore and examine the history of human migration and that is exactly what this paper tried to achieve.

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