Chapter 3: Migration

The Cultural Landscape:
An Introduction to Human Geography
11 LAWS OF MIGRATION are based on the Gravity Model = the influence of a location on another is inversely related to its distance and directly related to its size:

1. Most migration is over a short distance.
2. Migration occurs in steps.
3. Long-range migrants usually move to urban areas (economic hubs).
4. Each migration produces a movement in the opposite direction (although not necessarily of the same volume).
5. Rural dwellers are more migratory than urban dwellers.
6. Within their own country/region females are more migratory than males, but males are more migratory over longer distances.
7. Most migrants are adults.
8. Large towns grow more by migration than by natural increase.
9. Migration increases with economic development.
10. Most migration moves from rural to urban.
11. Migration is mostly due to economic causes.
Mobility
(the ability to move from one place to another)

– **Circulation** is regular **non-permanent** movements
  - “cyclical” (shorter time periods)
    – Commuting to work or school
  – **Activity space** = created by cyclical patterns
  - “periodic” (longer time periods)
    – seasonal = college students/“snow birds”
    – migrant labor/military service
    – transhumance (migratory travel with herds of livestock) = significant
• **Migration**  
  – is a *permanent* move to a new location  
    • leads to *relocation diffusion of culture*  

– **Emigration**  
  • leaving a country/location (emigrant)  

– **Immigration**  
  • coming to a country/location (immigrant)  

– **Net in-migration/net out-migration**
Why Do People Migrate?

- **Push factors**
  - unfavorable conditions which force people away

- **Pull factors**
  - favorable conditions which draw people in

- **Intervening obstacles/opportunities**
  - Historically, environmental (oceans, etc.)
  - Today, improvements in transportation have reduced environmental obstacles
  - Modern obstacles = governmental restrictions
  - Ravenstein’s Law # 2 = **step migration**
• Economic
  – poverty, no job opportunities, lack of land (push)
  – opportunities, availability of land (pull)
  – **ECONOMICS** is the biggest migration factor!
    • Ravenstein #11

• Environmental
  – Famine, natural disasters (push)
    • Irish Potato Famine (1848)
    • Hurricane Katrina (2005)
  – Water (too much or too little) = most common
  – Desirable features/climate, etc. (pull)

• Cultural (Rubenstein) = all other factors
  – Social, political and cultural
Reasons

- More specific types of “cultural” migration
  - legal status
    - Amnesty, guest worker, visas etc.
    - Most common modern intervening obstacle
  - power relationships
    - ethnicities viewed as “certain types” = stereotyping
      » Filipinos in Saudi Arabia
  - political circumstances
    - escape from or expulsion by oppressive regimes
      » Vietnam, Uganda, Cuba (Mariel Boatlift)
  - war/conflict = Former Yugoslavia, Rwanda
  - culture and traditions
    - migration to safely practice culture
      » Partition of India (Hindus and Muslims)
      » Jews to Israel
Migration Patterns

- Technological advances increase migration
  - "chain migration" = MOVEMENT along kinship links
  - create "immigration waves"
    - Immigration bubbles from one hearth to the same destination
      - Haitians, Cubans ⇒ “Little Haiti”, “Little Havana” in Miami
      - Turks ⇒ Germany = need for migrant labor
      - Poles ⇒ Northwest Side of Chicago
  - Form of expansion diffusion (hierarchical) which results in relocation diffusion
Migration patterns (distance)

• Internal migration (2 spatial types)
  – Interregional
    • movement between regions within a country
      – westward migration, Great Migration, etc.
      – “Rust Belt” to “Sun Belt” (1970s – current)
    – urbanization = “rapid growth of cities”
      » biggest migration in LDCs (stage 2)
      » Ravenstein #1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11
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  – Intraregional
    • movement within a region
      – suburbanization
        » biggest post WWII migration pattern in US
International migration

• Two action types
  • Voluntary
    – subject of Ravenstein’s Laws
    – migration/urbanization/out-migration most prevalent in Stage 2 countries
      » Less agricultural workers needed
      » Industrial jobs in cities
      » Most migration is rural to urban. (Ravenstein #10)
    – In-migration most prevalent in Stage 3 and 4
      » Economic opportunity pull factors
      » Ravenstein #11
ANNUAL NET MIGRATION

- 500,000
- 100,000
- 10,000
Zelinsky’s Migration Transition

**Stage 1**
- Very little migration, transhumance, 1\(^{st}\) wave of imperialism
- Massive Interregional urbanization (Great migration, squatter settlements)

**Stage 2**
- International out-migration (LDCs → MDCs)
- International in-migration
- Rural to urban continues but slows
- City-to-city migration begins

**Stage 3**
- International in-migration (urban areas grow through migration)
- Intraregional migration (suburbanization)
- Internal rural to urban stops

**Stage 4**
- Discourage emigration/Encourage immigration?
International Migration Flows in LDCs

- Migration to neighboring countries
- Short term economic opportunities
- To reconnect with cultural groups across borders
- To flee political conflict or war
- What other model/theory is this connected to?

**Islands of development**: Places where foreign investment, jobs, and infrastructure are concentrated
International migration

- Two action types
  - Forced
  - Refugee = person forced to leave their home and cross an international border and can’t return for fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a social group, or political opinion.
  - “displaced person” or
    - Internally displaced person (IDP)
    - does not cross a border
  - Examples of large forced migrations
    - Slavery (Atlantic Slave Trade)
    - “Trail of Tears”/Native Americans made to live on reservations
Refugees: Sources and Destinations
Hotspots for refugees and IDPs

- major sources of refugees/IDPs:
  - Iraq
  - Afghanistan
  - Palestinian Territories
  - Sudan
  - Somalia
  - Colombia
  - Congo
  - Myanmar (Burma)
– Gender

• International migration
  – males outnumbered females
    » More willing to migrate long distances
  – But: In the United States today
    » 55% of immigrants are female

• Internal migration
  – Women are a more significant migrants (urbanization flow in LDCs)
  – Ravenstein #1, 5, 6
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- **Family status/age**

  - In the United States *today*
    - about 40% of immigrants = young adults, aged 25–39

- **Therefore:**

  - Most long-distance migrants are *young single male adults* rather than families with children
    - Ravenstein #6 and #7