Chapter 3: Migration

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Migration is a permanent move to a new location while mobility is a general term that covers all types of movements from one place to another.

Migration is a form of mobility and always involves two-way connections. For example, given two locations, A and B, some people migrate from A to B while at the same time others migrate from B to A. Mobility is short-term, repetitive or cyclical movements that occur on a regular basis. Migration occurs much less frequently than other forms of mobility because migration produces profound changes for individuals and entire cultures.

People display mobility by journeying everyday from their homes to places of work or education and people display migration by moving to another state such as from Michigan to other places in the United States.
What is an intervening obstacle?

An intervening obstacle is an environmental or cultural factor inhibiting migration. Intervening obstacles result in migrants not always being able to reach their desired destinations. Environmental factors were the most common in the past (e.g. any large body of water or land). Migrants usually didn’t have the means to cross difficult terrain. Presently, transportation has overcome most physical interference. However, politics and government policies serve as a modern restriction. Policies in certain countries don’t allow certain people to pass under particular circumstances; thus preventing migration. For example, legal immigration requires a passport from an emigrant.

Image Source: theatlantic.com
Over the years the center of population in the U.S. has been moving from Maryland to Missouri. This is because in the past most people were farmers. The lack of farmland pushed people from the more densely settled regions of the country and lured them to the frontier.
What is a brain drain?

A brain drain is the emigration of highly trained or intelligent people from a particular country.

A large group of educated or highly skilled people leave one place or profession to another for better pay or living conditions. Brain drains usually occur in less developed countries, where people leave to migrate to more developed countries because there are more job opportunities.

An example of this would be, someone finishing their studies in one country, then moving away to a different country for more or better job opportunities.
What is net-in and net-out migration?

Net-In: Positive net migration where the number of immigrants are greater than emigrants.

Net-Out: Negative net migration where the number of emigrants are greater than the immigrants.

Image Source: census.gov
What is forced migration?

Forced migration, the opposite of voluntary migration, is when the migrant has been compelled to move because of cultural factors.

An example of forced migration would be the African slave trade. Slaves were forced to migrate to various parts of North America, Latin America, and the Middle East. Many slaves were forced and died on this journey.

www.slaverysite.com
What is a refugee?

A refugee is a person who has been forced to migrate from their home and cannot return for fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality or membership in a social group. Refugees have no home until another country agrees to allow them in, or improving conditions make it possible for them to return to their former home. Typically refugees camp out in tents, board in shelters, or lie down by the side of the road since they have no where to go.

The two largest group of international refugees are Palestinians and Afghans.

http://www.palestineremembered.com/Acre/Maps/Story578.html
Who were the “boat people”?

“Boat people” is the name given to Vietnamese refugees that used boats to flee after the Vietnam War.

Beginning in the late 1980s, the Vietnamese boat people retreated to nearby countries. However, some of those countries rejected the refugees due to fading memories of the war. They were then no longer considered as refugees by some countries and was then denied - some drowning after being sent back out to sea. An international agreement sent the boat people to other regions, such as the North Americas, but were considered as economic migrants and held in detention camps guarded by soldiers and surrounded by barbed fences. The camps were funded by the United Nations until they closed 1966.
Rapid population growth limited prospects for economic advancement at the immigrant home. The Europeans left when their country entered stage 2 of the demographic transition in the nineteenth centuries. Latin Americans and Asians began to leave in large numbers in recent years after their countries entered stage 2.
Counterurbanization is the net migration from urban to rural areas:
- Results from rapid expansion of the suburbs
- Pull factors include the lifestyle type; farm life and the slow pace compared to cities
- First began to be noticeable in the late 1900’s in the more developed North America and Western Europe areas