

Ch 5: On the Move

Introduction: Migration

It is impossible to be still.

Even when a person tries to be still, their body betrays them. The heart beats 60-120 beats per minute, pumping blood through 100,000 miles of arteries and veins. The brain sends electrical impulses through 100 billion nerves along a 46 mile nervous system. Outside, the body spins on planet earth at a rate of 1,040 miles per hour, speeding through outer space at 11,000 miles per second.

Nothing about the human experience is ever still. We are a species on the move.

PERSONAL CONNECTION:

In your notebook, describe what comes to mind when you hear the term “immigrant”? How would you describe them demographically? What personality or character traits come to mind?

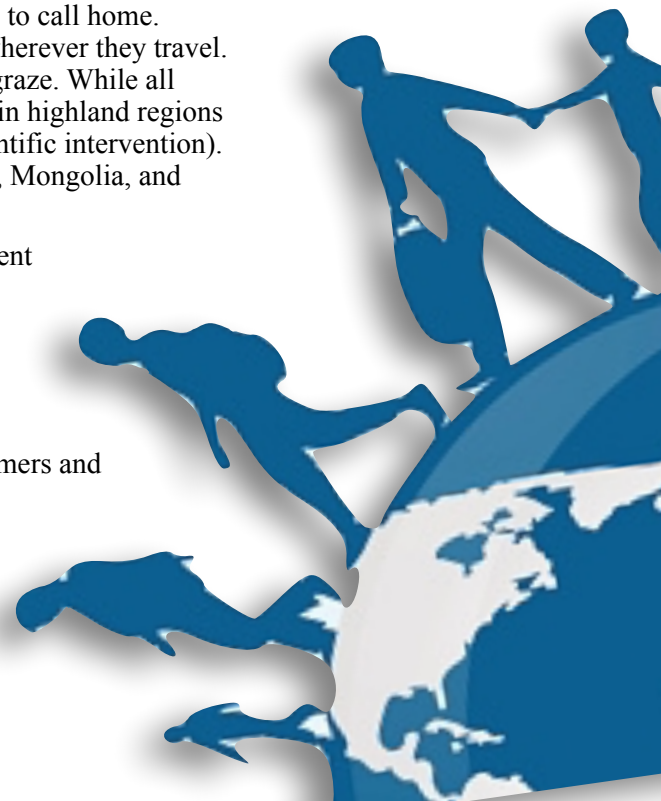
A. Types of Migration

Local Scale

Not all movement is the same. There are different types or categories of movement that are classified based on the starting and ending location, the distance the person travels from home, and the borders a person crosses during the process:

- **Cyclical Movement.** Cyclical movement begins and ends at home. Cyclical movement takes place within the activity space of a person’s daily life, as they cycle or circle through their normal daily activities. Activity space comprises where a person works, goes to school, plays, and shops. It can also include short overnight or multi-night stays, such as a vacation or work trip. As long as the person in transit keeps the same start and end destination (i.e., their home), the movement is cyclical.
- **Periodic Movement.** Periodic movement is cyclical but comprises a longer time away from home with no change in permanent residence. A person starts at home, moves away for a long period of time, but then returns to home. Periodic activities include guest workers and seasonal laborers. Businesses invite guest workers to be employed in another region or in another country for a set period of time before returning home. Seasonal workers leave their homes in the late winter, move between harvest fields selling their services, and then return home at the end of the growing season. A second example of periodic movement are college students. They leave home at the beginning of the semester and live on the college campus before returning home for breaks. Even though the students are gone for prolonged periods of time, the permanent address or place they consider “home” does not change. A final example is soldiers on military deployment.
- **Transhumance.** Transhumance refers to hunter/gatherers and tribes that herd animals for their living. They do not own property or maintain a physical structure to call home. Instead, transhumance groups follow their animals and food sources wherever they travel. Transhumance groups follow herds across regions where the animals graze. While all humanity started off as transhumance groups, it is now most common in highland regions where it is not possible for agriculture to grow (without the aid of scientific intervention). More specifically, transhumance groups are still found in Central Asia, Mongolia, and Central Africa.
- **Rural to Urban Migration.** Rural to Urban Migration is the permanent relocation of people from rural/farming regions into urban/city spaces. Before 1800, 95% of the world’s population lived in rural settlements and worked in the primary sector. There were two main causes of the rural to urban migration movement.

The first factor that created the surge towards urbanization was *modernization*. As farms industrialized and commercialized, fewer farmers and farm workers were needed to complete the work. As a result, people were no longer needed on farms and searched for other economic opportunities. New urban centers were founded around factories, creating a combination of economic opportunity and food availability; attracting people who lacked both. These migrants

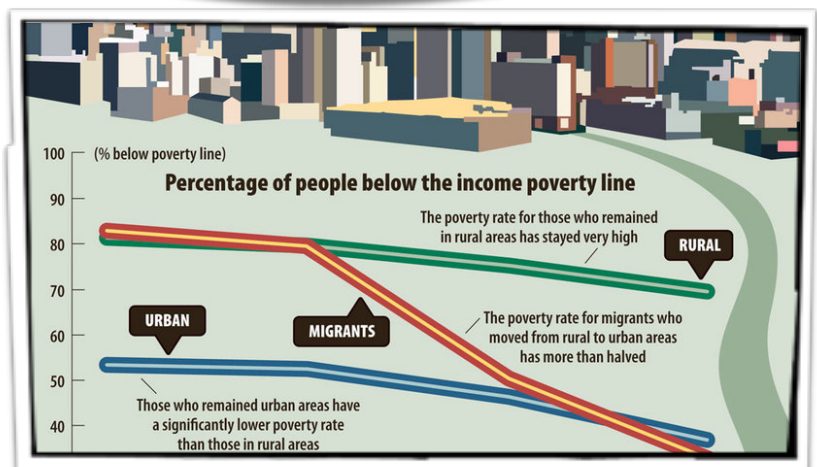
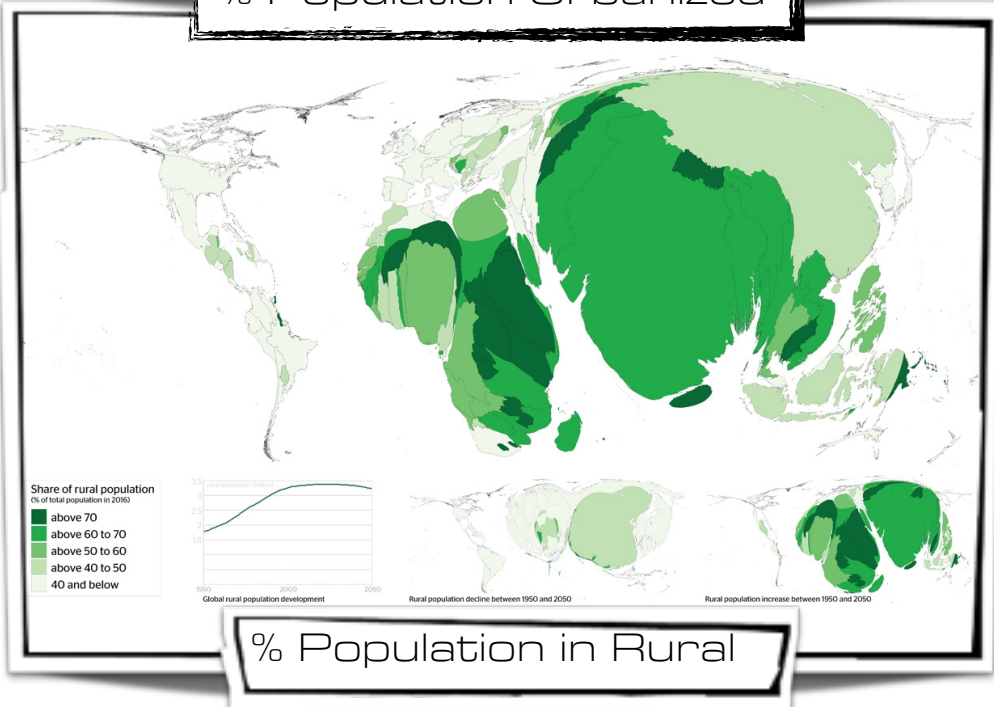
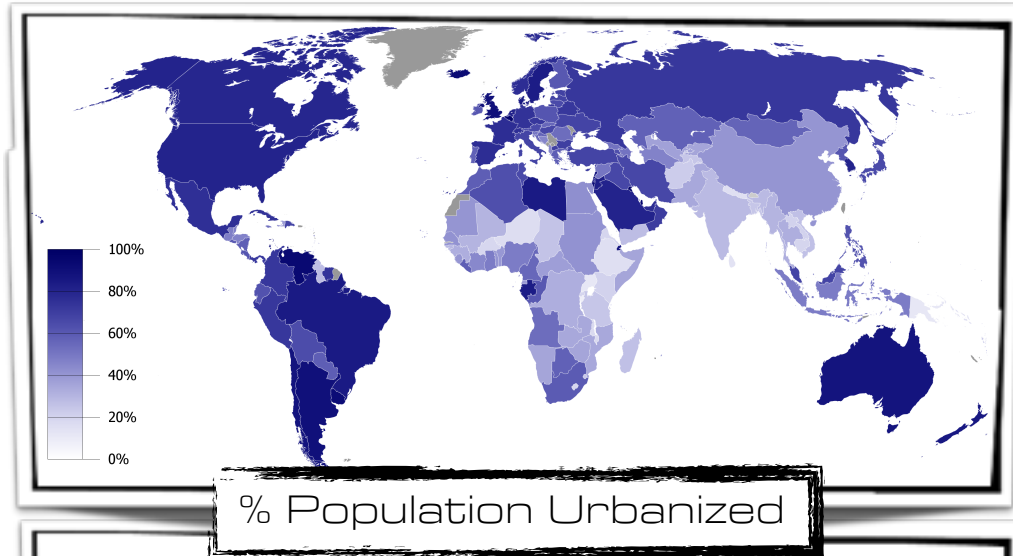


arrived with little-to-no resources; having spent everything just to arrive at the city to start a new life. As a result, waves of migrants left rural settlements for urban spaces, creating cities with high arithmetic population density.

The second cause of urbanization was *global trade*. As a country connected to the global market, other regions with comparative advantages began to sell goods into the country's market. Access to cheap foreign primary resources could put local farmers out of business. An example is USA, Mexico, and NAFTA. The USA produces massive amounts of cheap corn and wheat, subsidized by US tax dollars. As Mexico entered NAFTA, the mass availability of cheap US corn flooded the Mexican market. The Mexican farmers could not produce corn cheap enough to compete with American imported corn; putting Mexican corn farmers out of business. Many Mexican farmers and farm workers had to leave their farms, migrating to urban centers.

- **Suburbanization & Counter-urbanization.** A more recent migratory trend has been Suburbanization and Counter-urbanization. Both feature the migration away from the Central Business District at the heart of the cities. As transportation technology has developed, the reduced space-time compression has allowed for people to live farther away from urban centers while still having access to the vital infrastructure cities provide (electricity, water, sanitation, internet, etc). The creation of the car and light rail trains have allowed for suburbs to form low density housing and retail communities far away from the central business district (CBD), but along the highway and commuter rail lines that connect into the CBD. The proliferation of low-density suburbs in core countries has caused urban sprawl to fill up the landscape around major cities.

Those who wish to completely abandon the density, pollution, crime, and overcrowding of city-life all together have begun counter urbanization. Counter-urbanization is the movement back into the rural regions. This is a growing movement, but still tiny in numbers compared to the larger waves moving into some form of urban space.

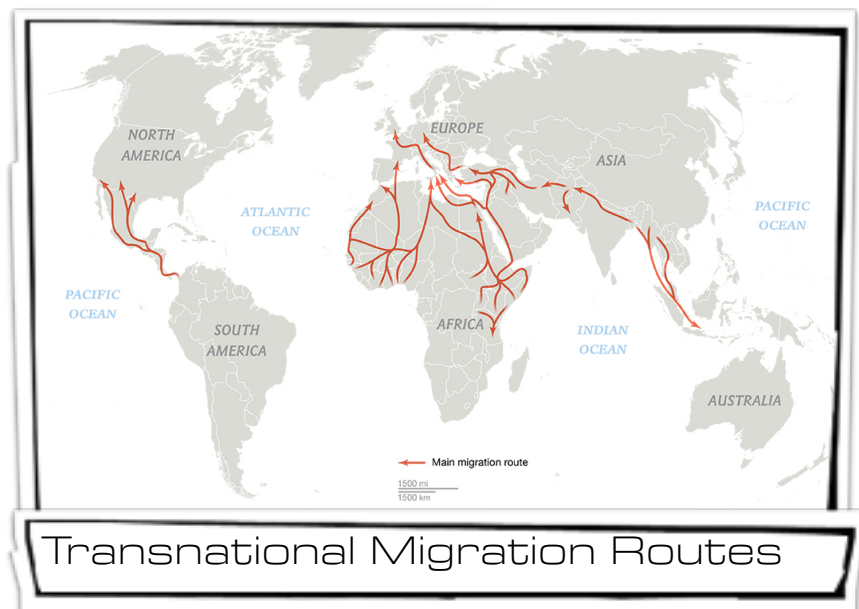




National & Global Scales

Expanding the scale, there are a growing number of people migrating away from their place of birth, crossing a border to live in another region or country. As a person leaves for another destination, it is called *emigration*. When a person arrives from another area, it is called *immigration*. These terms can be confusing as certain ideas overlap with others, allowing a person to fit into more than one category.

- **Intraregional migration.** Intraregional migration describes people who permanently live in one location and choose to emigrate, or permanently leave/move away, to another city within the same formal region. An example would be a person who sells their house and moves from Chicago, Illinois to New York City, NY. The person has permanently left their home, with no foreseeable possibility of returning, but is still within the borders of the USA.
- **International migration.** International, or transnational, migration refers to people who permanently emigrate from one country and cross the border to live in another country. For example, a person who emigrates from Mexico City, Mexico to live in San Antonio, Texas, USA has taken part in international, or transnational, migration. They have crossed the border of the formal boundary of one country, to live permanently in another.



The Role of Choice

Why people move is as meaningful as where people move. Voluntary migration is defined as a person or group who could stay where they are at and live a safe and productive life BUT chooses to migrate in search of a better life. An example of voluntary migration would be when a person who has a job and a safe place to live gets a job opportunity in a new city with a raise or better career benefits. The person could stay at their current location and survive, but chooses to move for a better opportunity. A farmer currently grows enough food and earns enough money to feed her family, but chooses to move to give her children better educational opportunities. A retired couple relocates to be closer to family or for cultural features they enjoy better than where they used to live. In each scenario, the people involved could safely stay in their current situation but choose to emigrate.

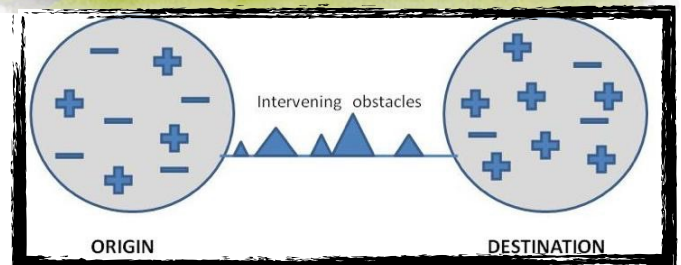
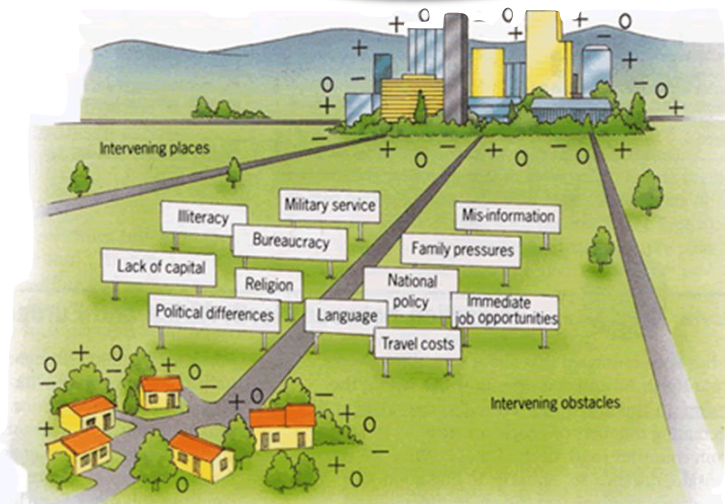


Conversely, forced migration occurs when the situation is so dire, people will die or be seriously harmed if they stay in their current location. People typically desire to stay in their location, but the situation they are living in now puts their lives at risk. Forced migration results from war zones, political instability, persecution, human trafficking, disease outbreak, natural disasters, loss of job opportunity, and economic crises. For example, in 2011, Syria's civil war put the lives of the citizens at risk. To avoid violence, 7.6 million Syrians emigrated. Climate change and drug wars in Central America have resulted in the forced migration of millions to Mexico and the USA. When factories closed down in Buffalo, NY, families emigrated because of the lack of job opportunities. If migrants stay within the borders of their country, they are considered Internally Displaced People (IDP). If migrants cross the border into another country, they are referred to as refugees.

Opportunities and Obstacles

When a migrant decides to emigrate, their journey does not always go according to plan. A migrant's path to their intended destination can be altered or hindered by obstacles.

- **Obstacles can be distance related.** Migration is directly affected by distance decay and friction of distance: the closer the destination - the more people are willing to travel because there are less difficulties. The farther the distance - the fewer people are willing to travel because of the increased cost and effort required.
- **Obstacles can be physical features** like a desert, mountain range, jungle, forest, or ocean. As people migrate from Chad to Libya, the Sahara desert serves as a barrier and keeps people from reaching their destination.
- **Obstacles can be political.** Governments may erect walls and fences to keep people out, guarding it with border patrols or immigration police. Governments can also institute immigration procedures that restrict who can enter or a country or place a quota on how many people from a certain country can immigrate. Laws can be instituted that allow illegal migrants to be arrested, separated from their families, put in prison, or deported (sent back to their country of origin).
- **Obstacles can be economic.** Travel is expensive and exhausting, especially when the person is emigrating from an isolated peripheral region. The cost of transportation becomes too expensive, forcing the migrant to stop or become delayed. Finally, there are social/cultural barriers. The migrant may run out of funds to pay for food, water and shelter.
- **Obstacles can be social.** Communities may not be welcoming to the migrants; physically keeping them out of the community, ostracizing the newcomers, or causing physical harm. Migrants may experience a language barrier, impeding the migrant's ability to communicate in order to fulfill basic needs or get day-labor jobs. The laws of the country may be more restrictive to women, or forbid the migrant's religion and lifestyle.

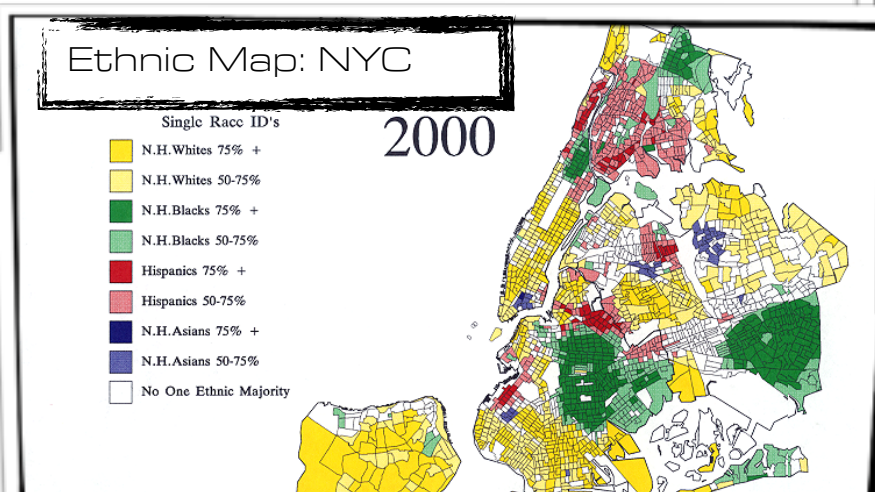
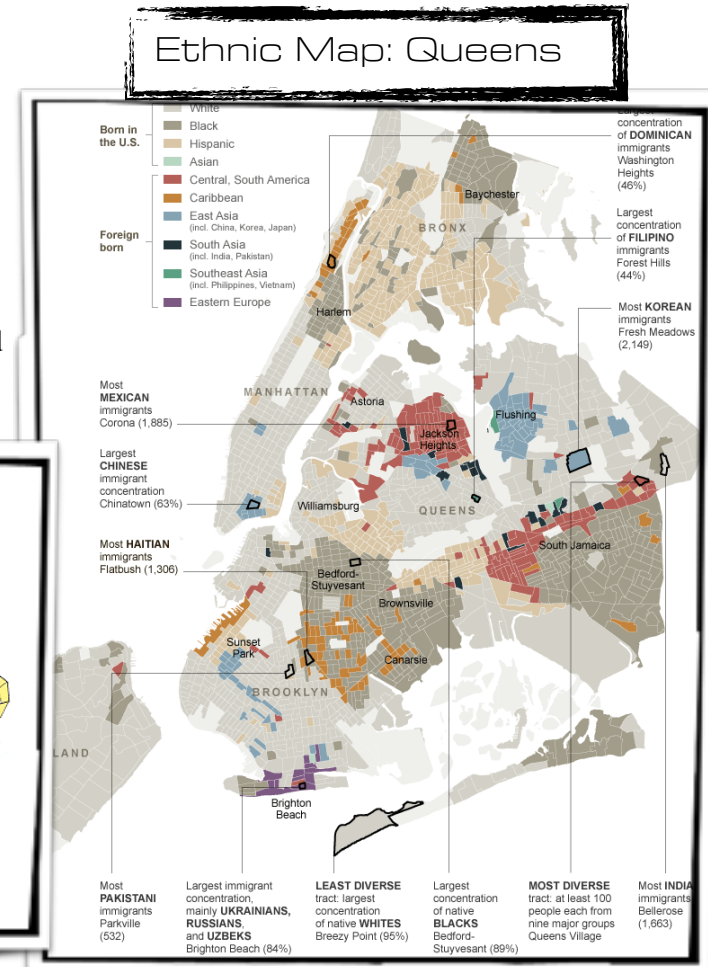
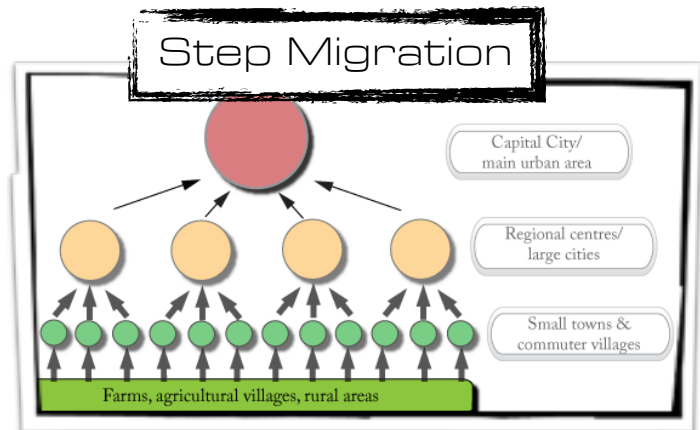


An *intervening opportunity* is when a better option becomes available, causing a migrant to stop short of their original destination or to change course. When the migrant is traveling, they come across opportunities that fulfill the needs that initially drove them to migrate before reaching the intended destination, whether those needs were economic or social in nature. In the periphery, as well as in the pre-industrial ages, people travel primarily by foot, bike, or boat. Intervening opportunities have a great influence. For example, a family leaves Bolivia by foot to head to America: the land of opportunity. After two weeks in the Andes Mountains, the family arrives in Lima, Peru. The economic opportunities in Lima, Peru may appear as an incentive to stay as opposed to continuing the trip through the treacherous mountains. Another illustration would be a woman fleeing Afghanistan in hopes of reaching the USA for better women's rights and job opportunities. As she is smuggled in the back of trucks and trains, she arrives in Europe, where she learns about Denmark and Sweden's offer to provide refugees an opportunity to work, go to school, and access health. She decides to accept Denmark's opportunity for work and schooling, foregoing her initial plan of making it to the USA. In this scenario, Denmark offered her the work, education, and liberty she was seeking, causing her to end her migration before arriving at her intended destination.

Step & Chain Migration

There are two final ways of discussing the relocation diffusion of migrants: *step migration* and *chain migration*. Rarely in human history have people migrated from their hearth to their final destination in a single non-stop journey. Instead, most of human history consists of step migration where migration occurs in a series of short movements. In conjunction with the friction of distance, it is easier to move to a location that is physically closer. It is more difficult to move to destinations that are farther away. Consider this: a person or family would move from a farm to a close town, then later move from the town to the city. Internationally, a migrant might move from Chad to Nigeria to Morocco to Spain in search of better economic opportunities and quality of life.

People are more willing to move to a place where they already know someone. *Chain migration* is the progressive movement of a family or group of culturally related people to a similar location. Chain migration begins with one person from the group moving to a new location and working to provide the financial resources to then bring a second or third person from the group to the location. Gradually over time, the entire group relocates to the new destination. As chain migration takes place over time, ethnic communities will form within cities and regions. For example, New York City and Ellis Island were the central hub for migrants arriving into the USA from across the Atlantic during the 1800s and early 1900s. Because of chain migration, ethnic enclaves, or ethnic communities formed, reshaping the cultural landscape of the city.



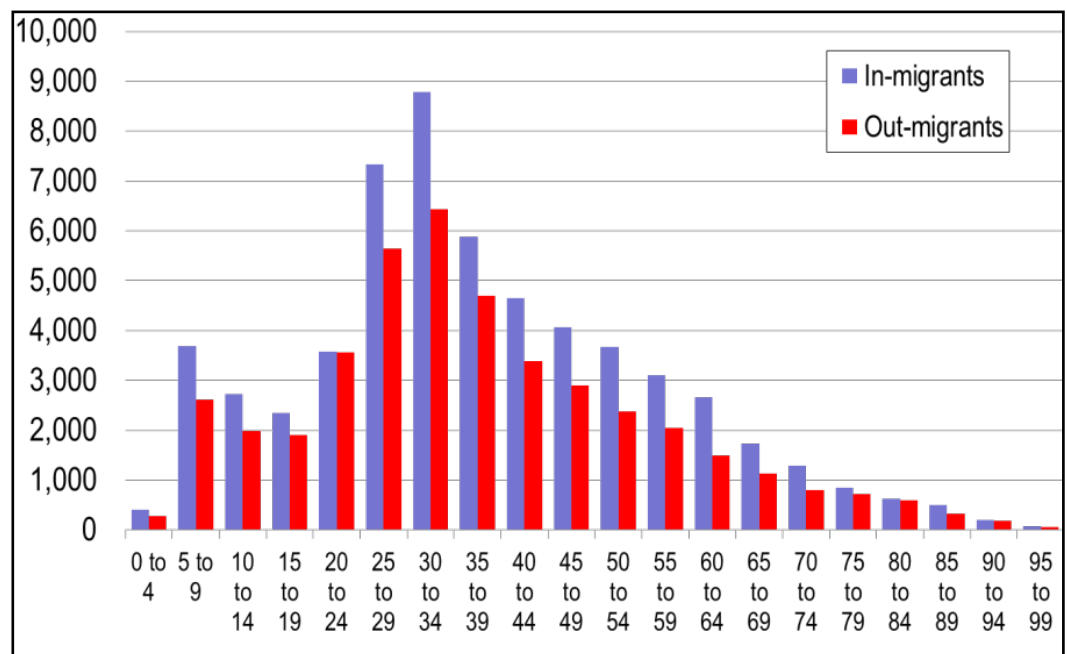
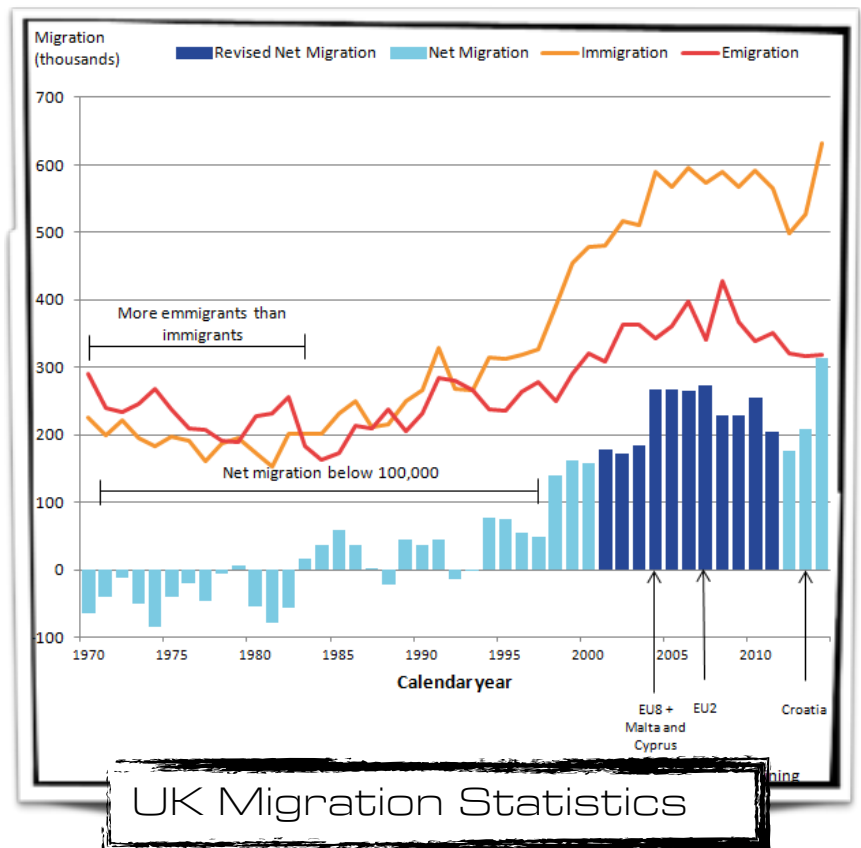
B. Measuring Migration

There are two primary ways of measuring migration: in and out. *In-migration* measures the number of migrants entering the region from other areas. *Out-migration* measures the number of migrants leaving. *Gross migration* is the total amount of in-migration combined with the out-migration. Gross migration measures the total number of people on the move in the designated location. *Net migration* is determined by taking the in-migration and subtracting the out-migration; measuring the difference between the numbers. A positive net migration reflects population growth due migration. Inversely, a negative net migration reflects a population shrinking due to people leaving. In the UK, the net-migration (in-migration minus out-migration) was +180,000 people: UK grew in population size. However, the gross migration (in-migration plus out-migration) was over 1.1 million people. The gross migration paints a significantly different picture of the number of people on the move in the UK.

Migration can be measured across all scales.

At a local city or county level it counts the number of people moving in from outside of the city. Wake County and the Research Triangle region in North Carolina have been one of the fastest growing regions in the USA. Wake County grew by 43% between 2000 and 2010. Wake County grew by an average of 63 people per day: 21 babies were born, 42 people in-migrated. On a regional and national level, statistics are kept regarding growth and decline. Demographic data is kept by every state and is analyzed frequently to determine trends, causes, and consequences. For example, the “Rust Belt” in the USA has a negative net-migration, while the “Sun Belt” has a positive net-migration.

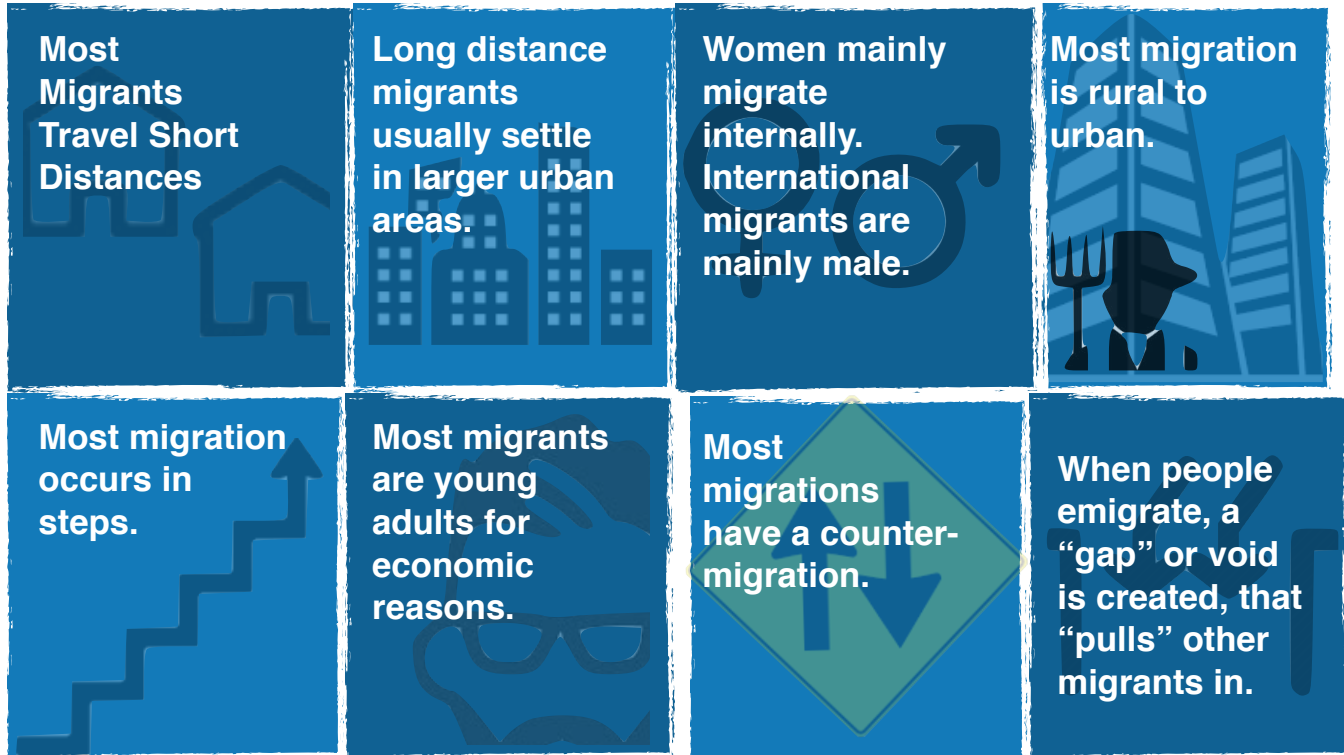
Based on statistics, there are various ways of categorizing and discussing migration, usually by gender, age, and ethnicity. This allows for age-specific and cohort specific data to be analyzed for trends and patterns. A migration stream categorizes migrants based on common origins and common destinations. This helps demographers, businesses, and governments simplify complicated data into patterns that can be discussed. For example, in 2010, the largest stream of immigrants entering the USA was from Mexico. Since 2008, there has been an increasing migration stream entering the USA from Nigeria.



C. Theories of Migration

Ravenstein

In the 1880s, E.G. Ravenstein composed the “laws” (rather, theories) of migration. With the birth of industrialization and improved space-time compression, more people began to move farther distances. Ravenstein studied the emerging migration patterns as people diffused over space and determined “laws” that governed this movement. These laws are not fixed regulations, but instead are trends to help understand the vast majority of movement.



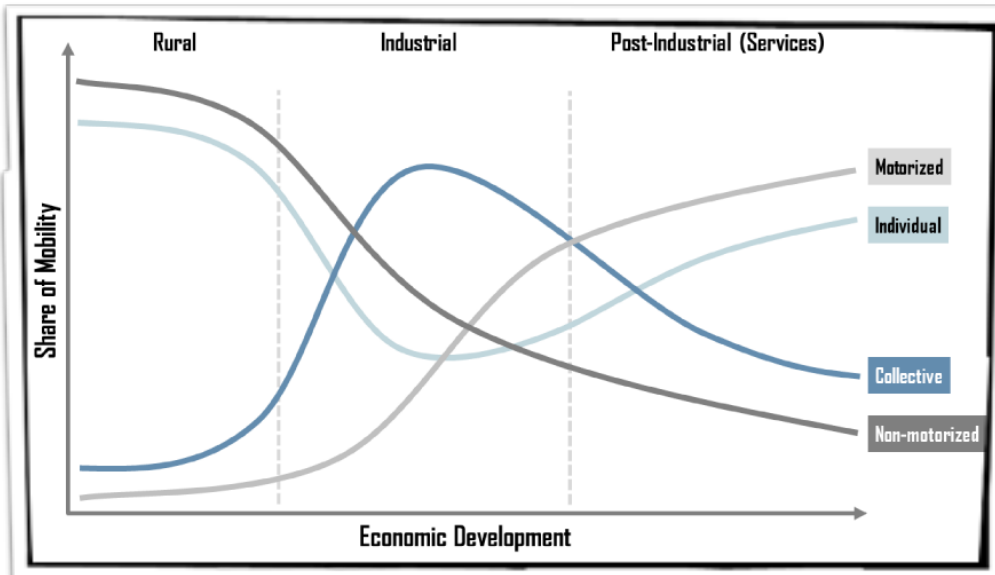
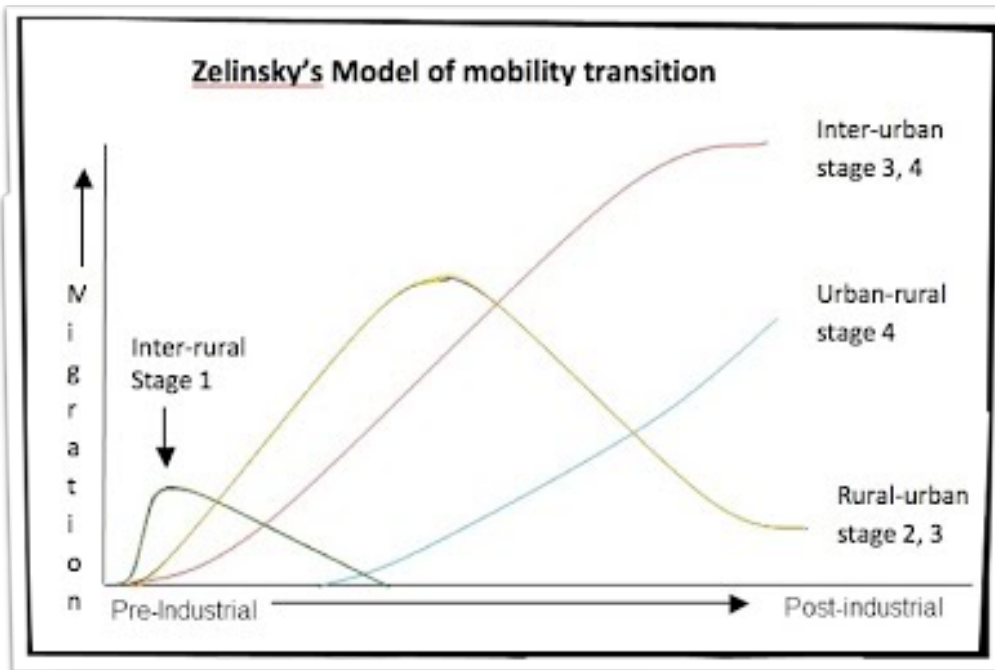
Zelinsky Model of Mobility Transition

In following the tradition of Rostow and the Demographic Transition Model, Zelinsky crafted a theory of migration that explained the types of migration and mobility at each stage of modernization.

- **Stage 1: Pre-Industrial or Transitional Society.** Stage 1 economies are made up of intensive subsistent agriculture, transhumance hunting and gathering, and other primary sector activities like mining. The available transportation is primarily limited to walking or animal power, with a few owning bikes. All three modes of transportation are heavily effected by friction of distance; the further away the migrants travel, the more time and effort are expended, leading to greater fatigue. As a result, very few people travel further than 30 miles from their place of birth. If they migrate, they focused on intraregional movement between rural settlements. As society develops out of Stage 1 into Stage 2, migrants begin to pour out of the rural regions and into the industrial cities.
- **Stage 2-3: Newly Industrialized or Transitional Society.** As industrialized agricultural technology became integrated into society, jobs shifted from primary sector to secondary sector activities. Due to the increased use of industrialized infrastructure and transportation, there was an improvement in space-time compression allowing people to travel farther-faster. This resulted in a massive increase in migration, as people urbanized in large numbers. Because of trains, urban centers began to be established in the heartland of countries; away from the coasts. As the death rate declined, population exploded. This resulted in more people being available to migrate. There was also an increase in international emigration from impoverished countries to the major urban centers in the economic core countries.

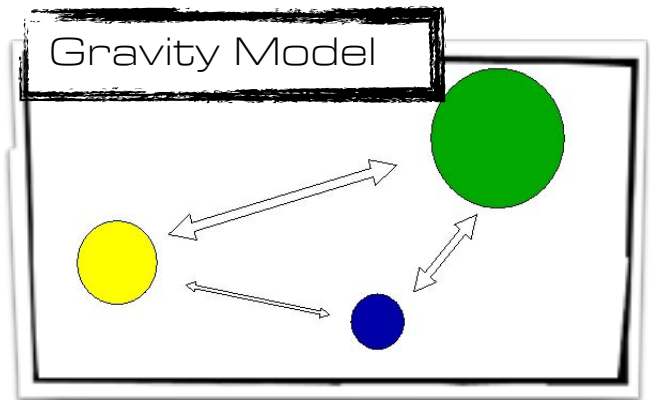
In the **late Stage 3**, a shift begins to emerge. The rural to urban migration that dominated Stage 2 declines to relatively low rates because 90%+ of the population now lives in an urban center. During this phase, transportation networks connect all major urban hubs. This caused urban to urban migration to increase, as people moved to find better economic opportunities for themselves and their families. This also increased in the cyclical movements within the urban center, with people having to move through the activity space to where they work, play, eat, shop, and sleep.

- **Stage 4 & 5: Post-Industrial or Advanced Society.** With the increased use of cars and commuter trains, people moved out of the city centers and into the suburbs. This increased the distance and time spent in cyclical activities (work/eat/play/shop). Because of improved telecommunication, the Internet, and improved airplane transportation, people can conduct business around the world from their living rooms. This reduces the need for physical migration. More people live where they want to live, not where they need to live. Travel is driven more by tourism, then by survival.



Gravity Model

Urban centers follow the principles of Newton's Laws of Gravity, which state: the bigger an object's mass, the greater the gravitational "pull" it places on the objects surrounding it. The Earth has more gravitational pull than the moon. The Sun has more gravitational pull than the Earth, etc. When it comes to migration, the cities are the "objects" with varying degrees of mass (i.e., total population). The Gravity Model promotes that the larger and more important the city, the more "pull" the city possesses. The size and strength of a city can be measured by GDP and total population size. The more mass and importance the city has, the greater the flow of people, ideas, and wealth into and out of the city. For instance, New York City is the largest and most financially productive city in the USA with a population of 8 million. According to the Gravity Model, NYC will get the largest number of migrants, the largest number of business opportunities, the most trade deals, etc. Meanwhile, Wellington, Ohio has less than 5,000 people and a gas station. According to the Gravity Model, Wellington will receive less migrants and less economic opportunities.



Keeping with the Gravity mindset, the distance between the cities impacts the flow of people, money, and ideas between those cities. If two cities are close, there will be a strong flow of people and goods between them. The greater the distance between the cities, the greater the impact distance decay will have on the strength of the connection between the cities, and the flow goods. Because the Gravity Model can be abstract, here are some important key points to keep in mind:

- Big Cities interact and exchange ideas and goods frequently with each other. Ex: Chicago, LA, Washington, DC, NYC, Tokyo, Paris, and London interact frequently with a regular flow of goods and people.
- Big Cities located closer to each other share more goods and people more frequently. Ex: NYC, Boston, and Washington, DC share a **STRONG** flow of people and goods.
- Big Cities located farther apart interact less frequently than with those located near them. Ex: NYC interacts more frequently with Washington, DC than with Tokyo or London.
- Small towns and villages send goods and people to the nearest small towns and big cities. But, the big city does not interact (or really care) about the small towns near them. This is especially true if the small town is far away. Several people from Tobaccoville, NC may have been to NYC, however businesses from NYC have had very little interaction with Tobaccoville.

