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OCR Geography A-level

# Global Migration

PMT Education

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# Global Migration

## Globalisation and Migration

- Globalisation has led to extensive movements of capital, goods and people which has impacted migrations rates and traditional definitions of sovereignty.
- International migration changes the ethnic composition of populations which, although creating diversity, changes attitudes to national identity.



→ Globalisation has changed economic systems at a global scale as demand for labour has changed. This has encouraged rural to urban migration, such as in China, and international migration between countries, such as from the UK to Australia (a good program to watch is BBC's Wanted Down Under).

- For instance, the UK had a skills shortage of plumbers in 2004 which was filled by Polish immigrants under the EU Free Movement of People Agreement. However trends have now changed and there is a worry that British citizens are outcompeted by skilled European immigrants who work efficiently and demand less pay.

- Between 3 to 4% of the global population live outside their country of birth but this proportion varies greatly between countries because of governmental policies which regulate international migration. For example, Australia, Singapore and Japan have policies relating to international migration based on the levels of engagement immigrants make to the global economy.



- The pattern of international migration is always changing as the population grows and interacts. Environmental, economic and political events, such as war, natural disasters and financial crises, affect the source areas of migrants and their destinations. This produces flows of voluntary economic migration, refugees and asylum seekers.

## Causes of Migration

- Migrants move for economic benefits, such as finding work, or to re-join family members. Other reasons involve the displacement of refugees due to conflict and poverty in the source region but these are less common causes of migration. In 2016, there were 169, 846 migrants crossing the Mediterranean with 620 deaths. It is these alarming cases which often catch media attention.
- It is suggested that economic efficiency is maximised when goods, capital and labour can move freely across international borders but this poses challenges for national identity and sovereignty.

- Migration can however cause inequality as some regions may have an abundance of skilled immigrants, thus having an efficient labour force, whilst others may not.

- The Zelinsky Model of Migration Transition claims that as a country develops, the type of migration changes. In more developed states, there is a rise in international migration which increases global hub cities (e.g. New York) and deepens interdependence (elite migration: Australia have a point system to decide who enters the country). There are large migrant flows from India to the UAE and the Philippines to Saudi Arabia.



## Consequences of International Migration

- Migration changes the cultural and ethnic composition of states which can spark tension between migrants and natives. Tensions result from the differences in perceptions of social, cultural and demographic impacts of migration. For example, there is tension in the USA about Mexican migrant flows over the border.
- There are variations in the ability of people to migrate across national borders according to levels of skill, income, opportunities, age and the presence of border controls.



## Nation States

- National sovereignty is the concept of independent nations having an organised government who have the right to make laws and regulations without other nations interfering.
- National sovereignty states vary in their ethnic, cultural and linguistic unity and this results from the history of population growth, their isolation and the role of migration. If you were to compare two countries, such as Iceland and Singapore, the differences would be a result of variations in national sovereignty. National borders occur due to physical geography and historical development whilst other borders are a result of colonial history which may exclude different ethnic and religious groups from having an input. This can lead to problems of sovereignty and legitimacy, leading to tensions erupting within the nation, which becomes split.



- India was ruled by the British Empire. Once they left, there were overwhelming demands from Muslims to have their own country. Punjab was the agricultural basket of India, supplying the nation's crops and food demands. After intense conflict in 1947, Punjab was partitioned; West Punjab became Pakistan.
- The partition was devastating as riots erupted and widespread looting broke out. Women were kidnapped, raped and battered by Hindus and Muslims alike and trains filled with tortured women and children would arrive between the borders of India and Pakistan daily. There were 600,000 murders in just 7 days.
- During rioting, there was mass migration; in three months East Punjab was emptied of all Muslims and West Punjab of all Sikhs and Hindus.
- India also faced further partitions when Bangladesh was separated from India.
- There are many contested borders, such as between Ukraine and Russia or India and China, whilst not all nation states are recognised, such as Taiwan. This can stimulate conflict and complicate population movements.



## The Role of Nationalism in Developing the Modern World

- Nationalism is the extreme form of patriotism where one nation feels superior over other countries. 19<sup>th</sup> century nationalism was vital in the development of empires, such as the Roman Empire, but created a source of conflict as other nations became part of larger empires (the British Raj in India).
- Since 1945, many new nations emerged as empires disintegrated. Macmillan's "wind of change" speech was the first sign that the British government accepted that the Empire had collapsed. This speech was paramount in speeding up the process of African independence.
- Patterns of migration between former colonies and the imperial core country are still evident and important in changing the ethnic composition and cultural heterogeneity of those countries. Amongst its former colonies, the UK is still seen as a strong and powerful nation, with the potential of bettering the lives of migrants.



## Economic Migration

- Rural-Urban migration is a result of push and pull factors and, when coupled with natural population increase, is responsible for the growth of megacities, such as Mumbai.
- Rapid urban growth creates numerous social and environmental problems such as overcrowding, stress on housing/healthcare/resources, the growth of the informal sector and diseases.

Migration Pros to Source	Migration Cons to Source	Migration Pros to Host	Migration Cons to Host
Wealth from remittances	Reduced workforce	Larger workforce	Increased birth rate
Migrants improve lifestyle	Families forced to split	Large market	Rise in illegal migrants
Source country has international links	Reduced population size	New culture/ideas	Rise in hate crime/racism
	Forced labour abroad	Prevent ageing population	Stress on services

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