

Migration as a cross-culture phenomenon

Valery N. Soyfer

Clarence Robinson Professor

Nina I. Soyfer

Research Professor

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA 22030, USA

Abstract

Migration was historically a key process in the history of mankind. Several massive migrations of groups, such as the Hebrew migration from Egypt to Israel, Arab invasions, Crusades, the Turkic-Mongolic expansion, and many others facilitated the formation of new nations. The migration of large groups of people at the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries was very important for the Artistic, Scientific and Cultural development of both individual countries and all of mankind. Intensive migration to America in the 19th and 20th centuries was critical for the success of American civilization. Large-scale immigration occurred during and after the second World War. The decomposition of the former British Empire led to the process of the formation of new states, including India and Pakistan. During this process more than 16 million people moved from one country to another. After the 1960's, migration consisted of a stream of agricultural and industrial workers and people of different nationalities, due to nationalistic tendencies in their countries. Another group of migrants, both inside of countries and on the international scene, was a group of political refugees and prisoners. The problem of control of society and feedback between society and government played a very important role in the problem of migration and will be discussed in this presentation. "Brain drain," the migration of artists, musicians, and scientists will also be covered. Finally, mixed marriages between migrants and natives of the various countries and what role they play in societal development will be discussed.

relocated from Europe; three-fifths of them settled in the USA. Then, the USA and Australia posed restrictive limitations on emigration from these countries, and migration from Europe declined.

Emigration from Europe, thousands

Table 1.

Years	Total	To USA	to Canada
1851-1860	2,697	2,453	
1861-1870	2,825	2,065	709.6
1871-1880	3,144	2,272	
1881-1890	6,994	4,737	667.2
1881-1900	6,090	3,559	
1901-1910	12,377	8,136	1,453.5
1911-1920	8,852	4,377	1,854.5
1921-1930	5,925	2,478	1,369.0
1931-1939	1245	445	158.5

A very active migration of people developed in China and India during the first third of the 20th century when hundreds of thousands people were recruited to work in foreign plantations in Southern Eastern Asia and Western Africa.

Migration in the middle of the 20th century

Another large scale migration happened during and after the Second World War. During the war, the majority of migrants was composed of refugees, including political and cultural refugees, and

displaced persons. After the completion of the war, about 9.7 million Germans were expelled from the territories in Poland and Czechoslovakia which had been annexed by Germany. Within the same time period, about 5 million of Poles and nearly 2.3 million of Czechs and Slovaks returned back to their countries from formerly German and occupied territories.

Another very active process of migration happened in the territory of the former India, when modern India and Pakistan were created. Almost 16 million people, basically Muslims and Hindus, changed places.

Repatriation of Japanese from China, Korea and other regions of Asia involved nearly 6.3 million people after the completion of the Second World War.

Migration processes after the '60's.

Due to different restrictive limitations imposed by many countries relating to free emigration (USA, Canada, Australia, England or France) after the Second World War, the migration processes declined. For example, emigration from Europe to the USA after the beginning of 1970 did not exceed 150,000 per year, and to Canada and Australia did not exceed more than 100,000 Europeans. After that time, however, new processes of migration appeared. These processes played and continue to play a very important role in the development of the world, and should be described in more detail.

Migration due to economical, political, cultural and nationalistic reasons

Migration of agricultural and industrial workers. The migration of agricultural and industrial workers inside of their native countries, from one country to another, and intercontinental migration is still very important. This process overlaps another one: the migration of the rural population into urban areas. In total, from 1920 till 1970 urban populations have increased by almost 1 billion people.

Immigration of workers to European countries reached its peak after the second World War. The total number of immigrants reached eight million people, including France-3.4 million people; FRG--2 million; Switzerland--1 million, which was 16% of the population of the country. The countries from which the immigrants originated were Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Turkey and the countries of northern Africa.

Nationality and migration. This problem is very broad and cannot be considered without a detailed analysis of the conditions in each distinct country. Very often this problem is related to the political side of migration and requires mainly a political analysis of the totalitarian or egalitarian nature of the government or leaders. Nevertheless, it is possible to outline such characteristic examples, as there are numerous instances of religious groups and even nationalities being pushed to start massive migration. The first example that comes to mind: the long story of Jewish migration. Exodus from Egypt to Israel, from Israel to Europe, inside of Europe from Spain to Poland and Russia (as well as to some other countries), from Poland to Israel

in the 1950's and '60's, from the USSR to the USA and Israel after the 1970's. This is an extremely abridged list of the migration of that nation.

Migration due to political pressure. I have already mentioned the flux of people from Nazi Germany to other countries. A similar process of 'exodus' of talented people from another totalitarian country, Soviet Russia, has led to the serious weakening of Russian science, culture and education.

Within the 20th century, Russia has experienced four or five huge waves of mass emigration. As was mentioned, pogroms in the last quarter of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th century led to the mass immigration of Jews into North America. This group worked hard, using every opportunity to give the best education to their children, and as a result was successful in the fields of finance, economy, politics, science, culture, and the governmental service in the U.S. The great success of this ethnic group is obvious and has been investigated by many scholars. The financial and entrepreneurial giants created by these families of Jewish immigrants are well known.

After the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, an overwhelming majority of the representatives of the Russian noble families, as well as artists, writers, musicians and scientists, left the country and emigrated. It is estimated that from 2 to 4 million people left the country, according to different sources. Colonies of Russians settled in such European countries as France, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and others. A large colony of Russians appeared in China.

Following the Second World War, a large new group of Russians appeared in the West: civilian captives and people who were captured as slaves from the occupied territories, captive officers and soldiers of the Red Army, and those people who preferred to leave the country with the retreat of the German Army from the territories within the Soviet Empire. These people felt that their energy was suppressed under the communist order and hoped that they would be able to become productive in new circumstances of life in the West. This wave of emigration gave many examples of a broad spectrum of middle class successes.

At the beginning of 1970, Soviet Jews started their unprecedented struggle for emigration from the Soviet Empire. Their desire was punished severely in the beginning, but the scale of efforts and energy with which this group of Soviet citizen fought for freedom and democracy led to the unique result that despite all attempts of Soviet leaders to prevent this emigration, almost 400,000 Jews were able to leave the country. (It is very important to note that a substantial number of Russians used this channel as an umbrella for their emigration from Russia, as well). Nearly 70-80% of them didn't go to Israel, preferring to settle in the U.S. and, to a lesser extent, in Canada, Australia, West Germany, and other countries. Within this group, there were a lot of outstanding scientists, brilliant artists, musicians, ballet masters, prolific writers, and talented engineers and technicians. It is obvious that they brought to the West new ideas which are in the process of cultivation.

Totalitarian control of the society and forced deportation of large groups of population and even whole nations. This tragic page in the history of mankind should be discussed separately from migration due to political reasons. The terrible practice of such believers in a socialistic way of development as the national-socialists in Germany and communists in Russia, Vietnam, and Cuba form the most misshaped forms of migration of large masses of people. The Nazis collected Jews from all of Europe and transferred them to extermination camps. Over 6 million Jews were killed in gas chambers and in places of massive killing such as Babiy Yar in Ukraine. Local antisemites helped the Nazis and have restored this terrible practice in our times.

Another example is the activity of the communist dictators Vladimir Lenin and Josef Stalin. Lenin arbitrarily changed the borders of the states which were a part of the Russian and then the Soviet Empire. He artificially organized new Republics which had enclaves of other nationalities. One of the most illustrative cases of this is the inclusion of Armenian-populated Nogorny Karabakh into Azerbaidzhan SSR. Now a real war is going on in this place, and the fighting will hardly stop soon.

Josef Stalin's deportation of millions of peasants during the so-called collectivization of Soviet agriculture led to the mass migration of peasants from the central part of European Russia, from Ukraine and Byelorussia into Urals, Siberia, Kazakhstan and the Far East -- which in

turn led to a massive number of deaths of deported people and to the abnormal suffering of families and persons.

Then Stalin, without a legal basis, started the practice of massive arrests over the country. Tens of millions of people whom he accused of sabotage were arrested. Following their arrest these people were placed in labor camps in the North of Russia, Siberia and the Far East.

Such massive migrations in the contemporary world are a clear illustration of the barbaric practices employed by politicians when they are able to capture unlimited power.

Lastly, Josef Stalin issued an order to remove whole nations from their historic places of settlement. Crimean Tartars, Germans of the Volga river German Republic, Chechens, Ingushes and other nationalities from the Caucasus were translocated without any legal reason. This terrible practice created nationalistic tensions which have now begun to disturb the world.

The deportation of so-called undesirable people from Vietnam and Cuba is another illustration of the tragic decisions of communist leaders, who are ready to crush the human spirit and lives of anyone who expresses even minimal disagreement with the politics of these dictators.

"Brain drain". The practice of inviting outstanding scientists to help develop scientific institutions has very long history. In the Roman Empire and Ancient Egypt, in Europe and the Middle East, such

invitations were issued by many monarchs. At the end of 17th and in the beginning of the 18th centuries the Russians Tsars, first of all, Peter the Great and Catherine the Great, invited many Europeans to Russia. With their help, the Russian Academy of Sciences was established (Table 2).

Table 2.

The First Presidents of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Years	President
1725-1733	L. Blümentrost, physician
July 1733 to December 1733	H. Keizerling
September 1734 - March 1740	J. Korf
April 1740 - April 1741	Karl von Breveri

Such eminent scientists as mathematician J. German, astronomer J. Deleigle, physiologist and mathematician D. Bernoulli and his brother mechanical engineer N. Bernoulli, physicist G. Bülfingerm, mathematician L. Euler and other leading European scientists composed the core of the Russian Academy.

Later, this practice became popular and very common. As a general rule, talented people can apply for and received good positions practically anywhere. In the 1930's, many German scientists left the Nazi-controlled country and established very productive laboratories and groups in the USA. One name alone, Albert Einstein, gives us an example of the caliber of those talented people. Now 'brain drain' is one of the major processes of scientific development. Indian H.Korana

won the Nobel prize in the USA for his pioneering work in the field of artificial synthesis of the oligo and polynucleotides, the segments of DNA. Many Russians, whom I mentioned earlier, influenced American science and gave brilliant examples of the highest rank of discoveries. Now this process of migration of scientists from India, China, Russia and other countries poses serious problems for the countries of their origin, because this flow creates a shortage of high-class specialists in those countries.

Migration of artists and musicians. Throughout the history of Art, the migration of artists and musicians, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries, helped to develop new trends, schools and directions. In the 19th century, Rome was the city in which many painters spent years for education. In practically every museum throughout the world can be found the paintings of artists from different countries devoted to either illustration of Italian harbors, mountains, forests or faces of Italian girls. These paintings can belong to Russian, American, Hungarian, Polish, Scandinavian painters. They spent time in Italy. They honed their artistic skills in Italy, and as a result, Italy left an indelible impression in their souls.

In the 20th century, several places have become most attractive for artists and writers, foremost being Paris. Italian, Spanish, Russian artists and artists of other European countries founded a sort of hot-spot of creation for new artistic expression. Such a migration of artists helped to cross-fertilize their styles and methods of self-expression. The Russian avant-garde pollinated the European art which has led to

the formation of several new trends in modern expression including impressionism, constructivism, abstract art and expressionism.

Mixed marriages. In our days, it has become very common that the very strict bans formerly forbidding the establishment of marriages of people from different religious sects or groups, as well as representatives of different nationalities, were suspended. The result of this new tendency is hardly predictable. Mixed marriages help people to leave their countries and find themselves in a new environment. They cannot forget completely their origins, and as a result, we can see the formation of multi-national families, a wide distribution of languages, and a much more broad intercultural education. This process is widely prevalent in Europe and in the USA, where mixed marriages have become common.

Migration and the progress of Society Migration of intellectuals, artists, writers and creative persons in total was very important for humanity. What did these people bring to other nations? I will use as an example only Russian emigration. The great ballet of Diaghilev and Nizhinsky; avant-garde in art; new trends in structuralism and linguistics; brilliant examples of literature (I will mention only one name - Vladimir Nabokov); composers (first of all, Igor Stravinsky, Sergei Rachmaninov and Sergei Prokofiev, as well as George Gershwin who was born in the family of Gershowitz, emigre from Russia); musicians (such as Isaac Stern, Yehudy Menuhin, and many, many others); painters (Vassily Kandinsky, Kasimir Malevich, Marc Chagal, and others); outstanding scientific discoveries made by Russian refugees - Theodosius Dobzhansky and Michael Lerner in

genetics, Vladimir Ipatiev in chemistry, Georgy Gamow in nuclear physics, Vladimir Zworykin in electronics (founder of television), Igor Sikorsky in technics (pioneer of American aircraft industry) - this is only a small list of those whose talent and creativity flourished in the West. They brought many specific Russian characters to art, science and technology. It is definite that the spreading of the seeds of new thought, new culture, and the spiritual renaissance of Russia helped to inseminate European and American Culture with Russian ideas.

Conclusion

We can see that migration as a geographical and cultural phenomenon has played a unique role in the history of mankind. In the 20th century, however, together with the positive aspects, there are many negative sides. Migration helped to establish nations. It gave a powerful stimulus for the development of art and science. The transfer of national peculiarities to the new soil helped to fertilize traditional art and culture in those country where these seeds had been planted. This process enriched art, gave a brighter palette of colors, and very often introduced optimistic notes into old styles. In total, such process facilitates and invigorates the development of modern art, and broadly speaking, culture.

The migration of scientists was also very positive for the development of world science. The representatives of different scientific schools, in the process of sharing methods and gathering different ideas were able to speed up the development of many fields, such as physics, including nuclear physics, biology, including genetics,

chemistry, including polymer and quantum chemistry. The field of Economics was the arena of interrelation of the specialists with a different mentality, but with common goals. Interaction of American, European, and Japanese economists helped to develop a multi-national market of commodities. These topics will be considered during another session of our meeting.

Mixed marriages have played and continue to play a very positive role in establishing a wider view on humanitarian values and merits. Being a geneticist, I can mention one very specific aspect of this problem, some kind of effect of heterosis among the first progeny of the off-spring of mixed families. I understand that it is too early to measure the extent of such heterosis, but there are many examples of the increase of vigor among the hybrids, not only in the world of corn, but also among human beings. This problem should be studied in detail, but I am sure mixed marriages are helping a lot for the progress of humanity.

At the same time, not all processes of migration have been positive. Forced deportation of nations in totalitarian countries, extermination of Jews during the second World War, refugees of Vietnamese, Kurds, Cubans, Armenian, Azerbaizhanians and many other nations inside of the former Soviet Union are definitely very negative. Mankind lost not simply the lives of millions of people. Nobody can say how many gifted young people were unable to display their genetic opportunities and how many geniuses, new Einsteins and undeveloped Leonardo da Vincis, disappeared. It is our common tragedy. In one of my interviews during the eight years that I spent jobless in the USSR, I

remembered that one of the Russian Tsars granted life to one of the revolutionaries who was condemned to death due to his anti-governmental activity. The Tsar saved for us a person whose name is now known the world over, Fyodor Dostoevsky. I don't know whether among the tens of millions of Russian political prisoners in Stalin's time, any were comparable in their talents or potential talents with Dostoevsky. Maybe nobody, but it is definite that every man among those dozens of millions was able to create something which will be very important for our progress. Their "migration" to the death was a terrible price for the inability of society to control governmental actions. So, I think that the processes of migration which are accruing under the law of national and international communities will possibly produce important results. In another way, we meet tragedy for individuals, families and countries.