

Globalization and Migration

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Overview

- Why is migration important today?
- Is migration different now than in the past?
- How has globalization affected migration?
- What are the political implications of the globalization of migration?

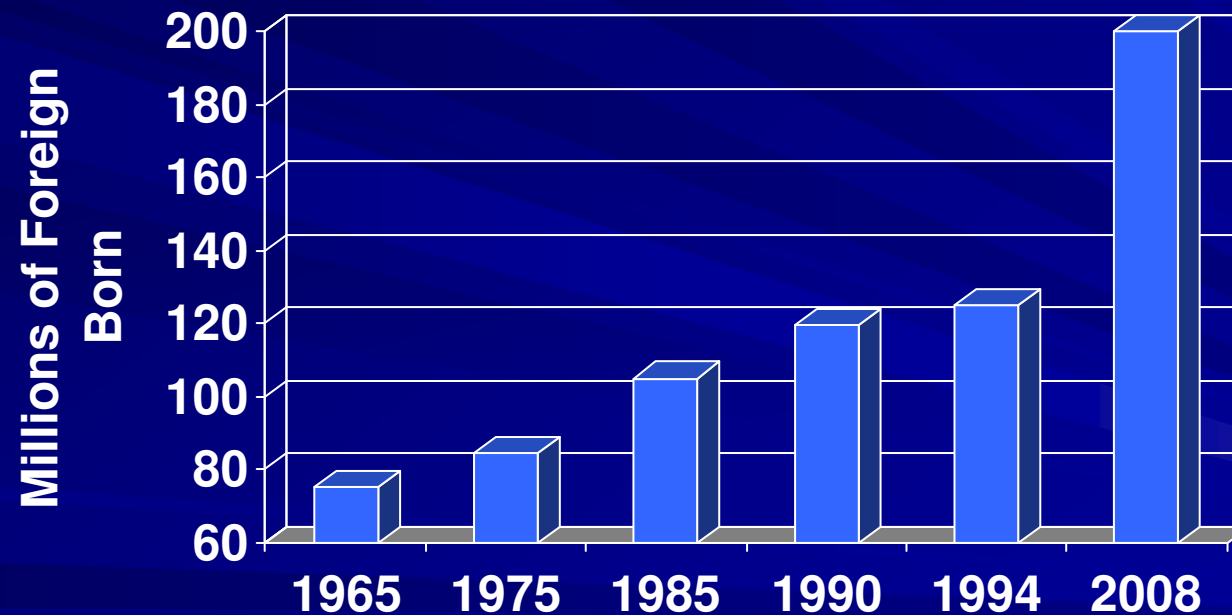
“International migration lies close to the center of global problems that now seize the attention of politicians and intellectuals around the world.”

--Jagdish Bhagwati
Columbia University



Current Trends in Migration

World Migrant Population



Source: International Organization for Migration and UNCTAD

Current Trends in Migration

- Migrants comprise 3% of the total global population
- 20-30 million unauthorized migrants, constituting 10-15% of the flow
- 26 million internally displaced persons in 52 countries in 2007
- In 2007, there were 11.4 million refugees

Historical Perspective

- Migration occurs in distinct waves
- Early flows were a function of imperialism and the slave trade
 - European emigration (a few large flows)
- From more developed to less developed
 - Migration expensive, dangerous

What is different now?

- Levels not historically unprecedented
- Different characteristics:
 - More flows to more places
 - Emigration from less developed countries
 - More diversity
 - Global phenomenon
- A globalization *of* migration

Globalization AND migration

- Globalization in other forms also contributes to the globalization of migration
- Migration is a function of globalization

Elements of Globalization

- Reduction in transportation costs
- Information technology
 - Social capital
 - Immigrant enclaves/Ethnic kin networks
 - Fraudulent documents
 - Smugglers' one step ahead of enforcement
- Chain migration/Recruitment

The State and Globalization

- Rise of the “Trading State”
- Global inequality
 - Push/Pull pressures for migration
- States are both affected by globalization, but also are partly responsible for it

Broad Political Implications

- Key political tension:
Globalization v. sovereignty
- Shift in relative power:
Agency shifts from state to migrants
(does not include refugee flows)

Why does this matter?

- Increases state interests for effective management (“migration state”)
- Domestic interest groups affected:
generates “bottom up” pressure
 - Gains and losses not distributed evenly
- Increasing difficulty of control

Losing Control?

- Challenges popular sovereignty: link between state & society
- Tension between community interests and individual interests
- Failure of control creates security dilemma
 - Can create a cycle of threat perception
 - Demands for greater levels of control
 - Political volatility

Migration: What is at stake

- Migration offers strong benefits and potentially high costs
- Migration as a source of union or balkanization?
- Globalization complicates these issues

Recap

- Why is migration important today?
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The Last Word

- How we manage migration speaks to who we are as a society, and as individuals
- What factors shape the politics of international migration?