

Chapter 12

HOW TO MIGRATE

Paths can help us to find our way. For birds, or wildebeasts, or whales, migration is easy because parents show offspring which way to go. Our parents may not know which way is best for us because for generations migration was limited or illegal for them. Today, we can end these old laws, start new paths of migration, and teach the next generation that they have a right to move even if others try to stop them. We can move forward one step at a time until our toes get stepped on. We can try to make migration easier in the future.

PEOPLE

Some people already know where to go, but they can't get there. Their plans to migrate may have to wait until they 1) save more money, 2) learn another language, and 3) get permission. After solving these problems, life in their new home might still be lonely if family or friends don't want to go or can't go along. At times, too many people try to migrate to the same place at the same time and step on each other's toes. If nobody went anywhere, then no toes would get sore and no laws would get broken. People could just sit where they are and watch the wildebeasts run, the whales swim, and the birds fly over.

Many people don't want to go anywhere and might not know what they're missing. Such people may want to improve their own place instead of discovering a better place to

live. Until 1492, few people dreamed of leaving their homes and going to America. Five hundred years later, the rest of the world has discovered much about America from television, or music, or textbooks, or American exports, or American tourists, or American soldiers, or family and friends who visited America and took pictures, or relatives who live in America and send back letters. Billions of people may have learned by now that life is hard where they are and easy where I am.

A few people don't want to migrate because they have carefully studied the map of the whole earth and they know that they sit on the best spot. Such people may not like the right to migrate because they fear that other people will study the map of earth and want to move to the best place, too. Then, the best places might become only average. The average person would choose not to stay in the worst place. Each person on earth could have "a fair chance in the race of life," as Lincoln called for. The babies born far from the finish line would not always lose if the rules were made a little more fair.

VOTES

To change the laws about migration, we should vote. The numbers that follow show how many people would vote for or against the right to migrate if everyone understood the issue and voted. These numbers are not

The Right to Migrate

based on sample-resample theory or latitudinal and longitudinal surveys but instead are based on the “how I would vote if I were in your shoes” principle. The vote totals show that the right to migrate would pass.

The voters around the globe differ widely in their support for free migration. Voting districts such as North America and Australia with low population and high income will vote to stop migration to preserve what they have. The poorer districts such as Africa and China will vote “yes” for a chance to emigrate and won’t worry that a few rich people might immigrate. When each person’s vote is counted, the poor and crowded win. Free migration already may be favored by 75% of earth’s citizens.

The people living in America, Australia, Europe, etc., believe in democracy and thus they will respect the voters of the world. Then, we will have the right to travel and to move and to work in peace in the places we choose. The old rules that made us stop will be replaced by new rules that let us go. Any place can be yours if you don't step on too many toes on your way or when you get there. Save some money, buy a ticket, find a place to stay, and make yourself at home. That's how to migrate.

WHERE TO MIGRATE

The last question is where to migrate. Migration is much easier to places where people already live. Migration to large cities is easier than to rural areas, or deserts, or rainforests, or the earth's poles, or to nearby planets. Ask a travel agent for details.

Table 9. Worldwide Votes for the Right To Migrate.

Voting District	Yes	No	Yes
	(millions)		%
South and			
Central America	240	80	75
North America	10	270	3
Western Europe	5	295	2
Eastern Europe, etc.	340	40	90
Africa	475	25	95
China	1,100	100	90
Other Asia	1,500	300	85
Australia	0	17	1
WORLD	3,670	1,127	75