

Chapter 14

SUMMARY

Most of us already believe that we have a right to migrate, and free migration is a popular idea. Movies, songs, poems, articles, editorials, and speeches that call for free migration are listed as examples. A few immigrants tell their stories of moving to America and a few bureaucrats explain why the idea of equal opportunity does not cross national borders. A review of television news stories shows that the fight between immigrants and governments at national borders has become violent.

Immigration brings peace, not war. When immigrants come to a nation in peace, the government that stops them and steals their freedom becomes our enemy. The citizens of a nation may decide to sit still, but their national government must let the rest of us move. Free speech lets us talk about a better life, but free migration lets us walk, or run, or drive, or fly, or cruise to a place where life is better.

Humans may migrate if they want to. Wild animals migrate because they have to. Every year, mammals run, fish swim, and birds fly from one nation to another to escape from bad weather and predators. Animals look for new food and new nests as the seasons change. For them, migration is not a march toward death. Migration is a sign of life.

People need to migrate because good sources of food, shelter, clothing, and jobs may be far away. Some nations have many nice places to live while other nations have little to offer. The land area needed to support one average American citizen must be shared by nine citizens in China. Farmland is hard to move whereas people can move easily. Each nation could support an equal share of people only if two billion of us move. In the past, most migrants were from Europe. Today, 200 million Chinese immigrants and 470 million total immigrants should move to America to fill the empty land.

The race, religion, language, and skills of an immigrant may differ from the average citizen's. Immigrants and citizens may hate each other and both should be put in jail or fined if they hurt others. Citizens hurt immigrants by kicking them out of one nation and forcing them to stay in another. Immigrants do not hurt citizens just by traveling, working, and living in more than one nation.

If you want to move from your nation to mine, I won't stop you. If I want to leave my nation and come to yours, let me visit. Let me stay. Let me be where I choose to be. I have a right to migrate. You have a right to migrate.

The Right To Migrate
by Paul VanRaden

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paul VanRaden lived in the United States while writing the *The Right To Migrate*. He was born and raised in Illinois, an Indian word meaning “no whites allowed.” His ancestors were white and decided to immigrate anyway. They came from Europe by ship during the 1800's and moved into Illinois as illegal aliens. Paul's ancestors were poor, but the government of the aliens (located in Washington, DC) was kind and gave them welfare payments of prime Illinois farm land. The government got this land by being unkind to the Indians and charging them a property tax of nearly 100%.

The VanRaden family failed to learn the native language and spoke only in foreign languages such as German, Dutch, and English. Instead of blending in with the American natives, his family kept their European looks and customs for 150 years. The author's ancestors treated the natives as second-class citizens, or worse. The author hopes the illegal aliens of today will treat him as a friend and an equal.

Paul promotes immigration not just because of high moral principles or to be good to other humans. His own relatives and friends might profit from immigration. The value of his family's farms and the crops they produce will increase if consumers move from Phnom Penh to Peoria or from Shanghai to Chicago. His friends' and neighbors' houses and his own house might increase in value. Americans may profit more than anyone from related investment opportunities such as building more houses, schools,

grocery stores, and other businesses to exploit the new immigrants. Some of Paul's closest relatives work in health care, engineering, banking, and churches, and demand for all these services will rise when individuals again can move freely from the Shannon valley of Ireland to Shannon, IL, or from Germany to German Valley, IL, like his ancestors did.

The author's own income may increase if millions of new taxpayers immigrate. Then, the federal government will have more money to spend on Paul's research. In 1995, the author was named the best young scientist in USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

With more people in the United States, agricultural research might be seen to be as important here as it is in other cultures. The author's college degrees in agriculture might be looked up to instead of down on. For the record, Paul has Doctor of Philosophy (1986) and Master of Science (1984) degrees from Iowa State University and a Bachelor of Science (1981) degree from the University of Illinois.

The author looks forward to a very positive reaction to this book. People in North America, Europe, and Australia might not like it, but many people in Asia, Africa, and South America might be moved by *The Right To Migrate*.

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RELATED READING

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THANK YOU

Learning about migration was easy for me; I didn't have to move or memorize any other language. The foreign students in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin told me in plain English how unfair the immigration laws really are.

Rita Simon encouraged me to write on this topic. Suzanne Hubbard helped me to improve the style of writing. The musicians that recorded immigration songs inspired me over and over again while I wrote. The writers for the Rockford Area Literacy Council deserve thanks for learning English and sharing their experiences.

Two of the pictures that follow are sold as postcards: "Ms. Liberty at High Tide" from Argonaut Press, 109 E. Lakeside Street, Madison, WI 53715, and "Black Hawk Statue" from Photo Views, 112 North Main, Galena, IL 61036.

My family, friends, and a few trained specialists did their best to keep me sane. A few others were sane enough to recognize the right to migrate long before I did. I thank you, the readers, if you can bring this idea to life.

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