

Chapter 2

THE NEED TO MIGRATE

Without migration, we wouldn't be where we are today. We would still live in the places where we, or our parents, or our ancestors lived in the past. We would all still be where we came from. Migration has given us and many other living things a chance to move to more interesting places and to live better lives. If nothing and no one moved, life might seem more like death. Our futures would be very limited. We can't get very far without migration.

With migration, people can go from where they are now to where they want to be. They might go there just to visit, or to study, or to work, or to stay. They might change their minds many times or just wander around. Or, like migrating animals, they might plan ahead and use different homes to match the needs of the time and season. **People need the freedom to boldly go where other people have gone before.** With migration, we wouldn't have to wait for life to come to us. With a right to move, we could go far.

TOOLS

Many methods have been invented to make migration easier. Sandals and shoes helped people to move farther and faster even over very rocky roads. Winter clothes let them move away from the earth's warm equator and toward its cold poles. Donkeys, horses, and camels began to carry people

from here to there. Wheels let people carry more of their things to places further away. Now, with ships, planes, technology, and a ticket, each of us can go anywhere easily.

By tomorrow, you could walk the sidewalks of any of the world's major cities or sit on the shore of some minor island barely on the map. Before buying your ticket and before packing, you should first study the map to be sure the place you choose is right for you. Be sure you have enough money to survive. Before you go to live somewhere, try to determine if the life you're going to is better than the life you have now.

RESOURCES

Wherever they go, people need to find resources such as food, water, and shelter just to stay alive. One resource required to support people is land, particularly farmland. Table 1 shows how much farmland each nation has and ranks those nations by the number of people supported by each hectare. A hectare is 10,000 square meters or 2.3 acres. Nations such as Japan, China, and the United Kingdom have little farmland but many people while others such as Australia, Canada, and the United States have much farmland but few people.

With modern transportation, each person might find a place with the resources they seek. Unfortunately, many people remain without resources because others have taken

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vast land areas or whole continents for themselves. Europeans once felt the need to migrate to places like Australia, North America, and South America, but today their descendants can't see why another person might need to migrate.

Resources stay in one place. You can go get them, or you can pay extra to have them sent to you. You and your descendants should not have to stay in one place, waiting for someone else to give you a permit to move. Why should people remain planted in place? Our nations should allow us to migrate. Limits on immigration are not needed even for crowded nations and are especially immoral for a nation with resources that far exceed its people's need.

FOOD

Nations with the highest population densities may have difficulty producing enough food for their citizens from their limited land, while other nations easily produce more food than their citizens can consume. As a result, only rice and vegetables may be affordable for people in the most crowded nations while citizens of empty nations with lots of land more frequently can choose to eat steak, eggs, and ice cream.

Export of food is one strategy to make living conditions more equal, but sometimes the eggs break, the ice cream melts, and the steak gets cold before it reaches the consumers halfway around the world. A better strategy is to let consumers move closer to food sources. Consumers may want to move not only for economic efficiency but also for food security, so that political instability, natural disaster, or even war would not necessarily leave them hungry.

Population densities could remain unequal and unfair for hundreds of years unless limits on migration are removed.

Average population density in the world in 1994 was 3.9 people per hectare of farmland, while the United States had only 1.4 people per hectare. If 10 million new immigrants began entering the United States each year, its population density would not equal the current world average until 2041, more than a generation away. If immigration is held to its current .5 million, the United States will not support its fair share of the world's people before 2933, more than 30 generations from now.

These calculations ignore population growth independent of migration, which may increase rather than decrease national differences in population over time. If current laws remain in effect, Americans may rest peacefully knowing that their great, great, great, etc. grandchildren will have the same unfair advantages that Americans now enjoy.

Population densities could become equal only if a minimum of 2 billion people moved out of overpopulated nations and into underpopulated nations. Numbers of immigrants that might come from and go to each of the major places to live are listed in Table 2 along with the 1994 population.

In Table 2, each nation's fair share of the world's population was calculated as its hectares of farmland multiplied by 3.9. This fair share for each nation will increase in the future as the world population grows. Only the most overpopulated and underpopulated nations as of 1994 are listed. Potential emigrants (from) and immigrants (to) are the difference between the nation's current population and its fair share. Total immigrants for the world were summed from the nations in Table 1 plus 28% for the smaller nations not listed.

The immigrants to each nation are assumed to come from each other nation in proportion to that nation's surplus. Similarly,

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Table 1. Nations Ranked by People Per Hectare of Farmland

Rank	Nation ¹	People (millions)	Hectares of Farmland (millions)	People per Hectare
1	Japan	125	4.5	27.8
2	Egypt	62	2.8	22.1
3	China	1,209	96.0	12.6
4	Bangladesh	118	9.7	12.2
5	Viet Nam	73	6.7	10.9
6	United Kingdom	58	6.1	9.5
7	Philippines	66	9.2	7.2
8	Germany	81	12.1	6.7
9	Pakistan	137	21.3	6.4
10	Indonesia	195	31.0	6.3
11	India	919	169.7	5.4
12	Italy	57	11.9	4.8
13	Mexico	92	24.7	3.7
14	Nigeria	108	29.9	3.6
15	Iran	66	18.2	3.6
16	Brazil	159	49.0	3.2
17	France	58	19.4	3.0
18	Thailand	58	20.8	2.8
19	Poland	39	14.7	2.7
20	Turkey	61	27.5	2.2
21	Spain	40	19.7	2.0
22	Ukraine	51	34.4	1.5
23	United States	261	187.8	1.4
24	Argentina	34	27.2	1.3
25	Russia	147	129.5	1.1
26	Canada	29	45.5	.6
27	Kazakhstan	17	34.8	.5
28	Australia	18	46.5	.4
	WORLD	5,630	1,447.5	3.9

¹ Nations listed are those that contain more than 1 % of the world's farmland or more than 1 % of the world's people.

Source: FAO Production Yearbook, United Nations, 1994.

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Table 2. Immigrants and Emigrants Needed to Make Population Densities Equal.

(millions)		Migrants					1994 Popu- lation	Immigrants (millions)
		From China	From India	From Japan	From Bang- ladesh	From Indo- nesia		
To	United States	192	59	25	19	17	261	+470
To	Russia	149	45	19	14	13	147	+363
To	Australia	67	20	9	6	6	18	+163
To	Canada	61	19	8	6	5	29	+150
To	Kazakhstan	48	15	6	5	4	17	+118
To	Argentina	29	9	4	3	3	34	+71
1994 Population		1,209	919	125	118	195	5,630	
Emigrants (millions)		-835	-255	-108	-81	-74		2,037

emigrants from each nation are assumed to move into each deficit nation in proportion to that nation's deficit. For example, China could supply 835 million or 41% of the total of the 2 billion emigrants and the United States could accept 470 million or 23% of the 2 billion immigrants. If migration were legal, the number of Chinese people entering the United States could easily be 192 million, calculated as 41% times 23% times 2 billion migrants.

Actual numbers of immigrants could be much larger if populations of medium density also use their right to migrate. For example, some people from France might move to Canada and then sell or rent their old homes in France to immigrants from India, who might sell or rent their old homes in India to immigrants from Bangladesh. Many people

from Indonesia may wish to make new homes in nearby Australia instead of going to places all over the world (as assumed in Table 2). Neighboring nations might become good friends instead of enemies as their people mix and their cultures blend.

PROPERTY

The wind, the rain, the cold, and hunger can find people no matter where they live. To protect themselves, people seek shelter, keep food, clothes, and supplies nearby, and rent or own property. If a thief takes your things or breaks into your house, you should call the police and they should arrest the thief. Private property must be protected. The things that you buy, or inherit, or receive as gifts should be yours until you sell, or discard, or give

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them away. In nearly all nations, that is the law.

An immigrant and a citizen both have a right to buy things (such as airplane tickets) but have no right to steal things. If an immigrant or a citizen moves to your city, rents an apartment near you, walks down your street, and breathes the air in front of your house, nothing of yours has been stolen. But if your city or your nation builds a wall to keep him out, then your government has kept him away from all of the air, all of the streets, all of the apartments, and all of the jobs in your city or nation. You have stolen all of those things from him.

TERRITORY

The earth's seas are still described as international waters, but earth's land has been divided among many separate nations. The national government that controls each land area decides who may live there, who may visit, and who must stay out. Some governments also limit the exit of people from the nation. The usual reasons for rejecting immigrants from some other nation are that the other nation's people are poorer or have a different language or values. Some governments limit immigration simply to prevent crowding, and some limit emigration simply to prevent good taxpayers from leaving.

Humans are not the only animals to create and defend artificial borders and territories. Many predators try to keep all other predators off the land they have marked as their own. If predators can agree upon borders, they can spend more time catching prey and less time fighting against others of their own species. But to maintain such borders, predators must often threaten to use force and sometimes actually hurt or even kill each other. Fortunately, most other species are much less

violent. They spend more time finding local food sources and less time threatening their neighbors. Human governments might agree to keep their national territories but to stop chasing their neighbors away.

Large territories may be best because they give the people (or animals) within them more room and more opportunity. Unfortunately, when a small population holds onto a large territory, those outside the territory are left with less room and less opportunity. Jobs, products, inventions, and ideas available in one place will remain unknown in other places if borders are closed. People in small nations will have fewer new things to buy and a smaller market for their own products, inventions, and labor. If borders are opened, citizens will have more jobs and more time to defend liberty instead of territory.

As people migrate and cultures become mixed, genes will, too. People can marry others of their own race, but won't have to. More choices and more genetic variation result when mixed populations gradually replace separated populations. Territorial animals often find mates from outside their own families or territories to avoid inbreeding and to give the next generation a broader, healthier sample of genes. Without migration and within a small, separated territory, genetic diseases can increase in frequency. Fortunately, harmful mutations are masked when populations are mixed.

National governments often claim a sovereign right to defend borders and territory. The immigrants they turn away do not threaten to move the borders or take away territory. The immigrants wish only to find a place to live, to work, and to be treated as citizens. They are peaceful. The governments who stop them are warlike, fighting to control their turfs and to enforce national

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segregation. Someday, the people will realize their sovereign right to control governments and to cross borders.

CLOTHES

Today, people are still stopped at national borders, but their clothes and other personal belongings can migrate freely. My clothes were made in 25 different nations and sent across national borders to me. In each of these nations, one or more workers worked part-time for me, sewing the clothes that are now here in my closet in the U.S. The work was mostly of good quality, so I was happy to pay for it. The workers can work for me where they are but they can't move around. The laws that keep them in their place seem a little like slavery. Pick some cotton for me, sew a shirt for me, and stay in your place.

The clothes that I wear were purchased at shopping malls near Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC. My wife chose most of them. She buys clothes that look nice and have medium price, without regard to who made them or where. Table 3 shows where the workers live and what they made for me. Workers may be content to sit still, but apparently clothes have a need to migrate.

Table 3 shows that many people from around the world already have worked hard to please me. I haven't met them or talked to them, but I know that some of them would be willing to walk a mile in my shoes. Already they gave me the shirt on my back.

Table 3. Migration of Clothes into Paul's Closet as of February 4, 1996

<u>Origin</u>	<u>Immigrant Item</u>
Bahrain	long-sleeve shirt
Bangladesh	pants, shorts(2) long-sleeve shirt
Brazil	shoes
Chile	sweat pants, sweat shirt
China	shoes, vest, shorts, pajamas (2) flannel shirt, short-sleeve shirts (2)
Costa Rica	underwear (3)
Dominican Republic	underwear (3) pants (2), flannel shirt long-sleeve shirt short-sleeve shirt
Guatemala	T-shirt
Honduras	long-sleeve shirt
Hong Kong	blue jeans
India	flannel shirt short-sleeve shirts (2)
Jamaica	flannel shirt
Jordan	long-sleeve shirt
Macau	pants
Mauritius	shorts
Mexico	shorts
Mongolia	pants
Netherlands	T-shirt
Pakistan	short-sleeve shirt
Philippines	short-sleeve shirt
South Korea	suit, short-sleeve shirt long-sleeve shirts (4)
Sri Lanka	pants, long-sleeve shirt
Taiwan	sweat shirt, flannel shirt long-sleeve shirt
Turkey	long-sleeve shirt
United States	suit, pants (2), sweat pants sweat shirt, flannel shirt, T-shirts (3) shorts (3), blue jeans, underwear (9) long-sleeve shirts (5), short-sleeve shirts (2)

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Table 4. Migrant Jobs and Migrant Workers.

<u>Migrant Job</u>	<u>Migrant Worker</u>
Actor	Arnold Schwarzenegger
Airplane pilot	Charles Lindbergh
Artist	John James Audubon
Astronaut	Neil Armstrong
Author	George Orwell
Ballet dancer	Mikhail Baryshnikov
Baseball player	Jose Canseco
Buddhist monk	Dalai Lama XIV
Businessman	Andrew Carnegie
Church leader	Pope John Paul II
Composer	Sergey Rachmaninoff
Diplomat	Benjamin Franklin
Doctor	Albert Schweitzer
Explorer	Jacques Cousteau
Football (soccer)	Pele
Journalist	Peter Jennings
Hockey player	Wayne Gretzky
Magician	Harry Houdini
Model	Naomi Campbell
Missionary	Mother Theresa
Military	Douglas MacArthur
Musician	John Lennon
Preacher	Billy Graham
Publisher	Rupert Murdoch
Sailor	Ferdinand Magellan
Scientist	Mary Leakey
Tennis player	Martina Navratilova
<u>Writer</u>	<u>Ernest Hemingway</u>

MIGRANTS

Most nations accept tourists but reject workers. A few rich and talented people can cross borders almost whenever they want, but average people must live and work where they were born. A few skilled workers may be allowed to immigrate. For people without much money, tourism is difficult because earning money while outside of their country

is illegal. Why should laws encourage the spending of tourism but discourage earning?

Famous people migrate because good jobs are waiting for them everywhere. Poor people may need to migrate because the jobs they have now are going nowhere. Rich people can afford to migrate to nice homes in nice nations. Common people such as me should have a right to migrate, too. Table 4 lists jobs that might require you to work in foreign lands and gives examples of the people who have worked in these migrant jobs.

Most of the people that I listed moved once to find work and then kept moving as the job required. For some, such as Rachmaninoff, Baryshnikov, Navratilova, and Canseco, their biggest move was out of a Communist nation and into a democracy. Others, such as Magellan, Cousteau, and Armstrong, worked in places that no nation claims, exploring the width and depth of the sea or taking a giant leap for mankind to the moon. Pilots and diplomats also earn their livings by moving between nations.

At least three of these migrant workers earned the Nobel Prize for Peace (Dalai Lama, Albert Schweitzer, and Mother Teresa). Modern religious leaders tour the world so that they can teach the people in person. Some authors, writers, and journalists have the reverse job, going to see what's happening in the world and reporting news or sending stories back to us. Publishers of these stories may also need to relocate to new homes closer to their global businesses. Do people with talent travel, or does travel lead to talent? Orwell and Hemingway each lived in six or more nations for years at a time. They really migrated.

Musicians, magicians, models, and actors also migrate so that they can appear in front of more fans and fancy scenery. Many jobs in the military, in science, or in business also

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require travel, but often to places that the migrant doesn't choose or wouldn't choose. Migration is not always direct, as the artist Audubon found when moving from Haiti east to France and then west to the United States. A shorter route must exist.

Professional athletes migrate so much that no one notices. Tennis players, skiers, golfers, race car drivers, or track and field athletes simply fly to the next big event and try to win the top prize paid in whatever money that nation uses. Whole teams travel across borders together in soccer, football, basketball, hockey, and baseball. The players must work in more than one country because the leagues are international.

To conclude, if you don't like your job or if you're very good at your job, you should think about moving. Fame and fortune and migration go hand in hand.

COMPETITION

Athletes from ancient Greece were invited to compete in Olympic sporting events every 4 years to exhibit their skills and to determine who was best. In the 20th century, athletes from all over the whole world come together for the Olympics. When the games begin, the host nation may be disappointed if athletes from all nations can't be there. In such sporting events, we hope that every human has at least a chance to compete. When we compete, the rules say that each of us should be judged only on performance and not on place of birth. The idea that all people can participate as equals is very popular. Ratings are high.

When the Olympics are over, each person must return to their own nation. Athletes may compete for gold medals in the host nation but not for jobs. The host nation makes its own rules about jobs and usually says that its own job seekers must finish first. People from

other nations must jump over more hurdles and often are not allowed even to cross the starting line.

Of course, businesses may be disappointed if job seekers from some nations could not attend or could not stay. They may believe that politicians and political differences should not stand in the way of friendly competition among all.

Olympic competition for gold medals is fun to watch but involves only a few thousand people. Free and fair competition for jobs is a participation sport that could be held all over the world all the time, not just in one city once every 4 years. Let the job Olympics begin. The winners will be rewarded, and the losers will not be deported.