CHAPTER 3: MIGRATION

Key Issue Four: Why do people migrate within a country?
Migration Between Regions of a Country

- Two main types of internal migration are interregional and intraregional.

- The main type of interregional migration is between rural and urban areas.

- The main type of intraregional migration is from older cities to suburbs.
Migration Between Regions Within the United States

- In the U.S., interregional migration was more prevalent in the past, when most people were farmers.
- Lack of farm land pushed many people to the frontier, where land was abundant.
  - The most famous example of large-scale internal migration is the opening of the American West.
- Today, most people move to new regions for better jobs, although still many move for noneconomic reasons.
Changing Center of Population

- The U.S. Census Bureau computes the country’s population center at the time of each census.
- The population center is the average location of everyone in the country, the “center of population gravity.”
- The changing location of the population center graphically demonstrates the march of the American people across the North American continent over the past 200 years.
When the first U.S. census was taken, in 1790, the population center was located in the Chesapeake Bay, east of Baltimore, Maryland.

By 1830, the center of population moved west of Moorefield, West Virginia.

Transportation improvements helped to open the interior in the early 1800’s, especially the building of canals. (Erie Canal in 1825)

After 1830, the U.S. population center moved west more rapidly, to just west of Cincinnati, Ohio in 1880.
Echo Canyon was one of many obstacles to 19th century wagon trains heading West.
Changing Center of Population

- For much of the 19th century, the continuous westward advance of settlement stopped at the 98th meridian (the Great Plains).
- Early 19th century Americans preferred to start farms in forested areas that received 100 cm (40 in) or more precipitation annually.
- Without the technology to overcome this dry climate, lack of trees, and tough grassland sod, early explorers declared the region unfit for farming.
- Ironically, with today’s agricultural practices, this region is one of the world’s richest farming areas.
Settlement of the Great Plains

- After 1880, moving westward more slowly.
  - People began to fill in the area between in 98th meridian and California that earlier generations had bypassed.
- 1840’s – railroads began to change that dynamic.
- Between 1950 and 1980, the population center moved west faster.
- For the first time in U.S. history, the population center in 1980 jumped west of the Mississippi River.
- By 2000 the Center migrated into south-central Missouri’s Phelps County.
The center of U.S. population has consistently moved westward, with the migration of people to the west. It has also begun to move southward with migration to the southern sunbelt.

http://www.census.gov
Recent Growth of the South

Sunbelt v. Rustbelt

- 5 million/year during the 1980-90s: moving to the South. Why?
- Created interregional antagonism. (south stealing northern jobs)
  - In reality, most jobs in the South came from new companies
- Interregional migration over time:
  - Past African Americans move north to work in factories
  - Now trending the other way.
- 2000’s there has been a slowdown in migration from North to South.
Interregional Migration in the U.S.

Average annual migrations between regions in the U.S. in 1995 and in 2003

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Where are people moving from and to in 1995? Create a list.
Where are people moving from and to in 2003? Create a list.
What is the difference? Why?
What are the trends in other countries?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Where to, from</th>
<th>Why</th>
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<tbody>
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Migration in Europe
Brasilia, Brazil

Brasilia was created as Brazil’s new capital in 1960 and since then has attracted thousands of migrants in search of jobs.
Migration Within One Region

- More people move within the same region = intraregional migration.
- Since 1800: rural to urban areas
- Less than 5% of the world’s population lived in urban areas in 1800, compared to nearly half today.
Migration from Rural to Urban Areas

- World is moving from rural to urban areas:
  - 1800 < 5% urban
  - Today 50% urban

- Today, $\frac{3}{4}$ of U.S. population in urban areas
- 20 million people/year move to cities worldwide
- As a result, squatter settlements/shanty towns are on the rise (Brazil’s favelas)
- Why?
Migration from Urban to Suburban Areas

- In MDCs, most intraregional migration = from central cities out to suburbs
- 2x as many Americans migrate from central cities to suburb each year than from suburbs to central cities.
- Not pulled by economic reasons, but why?

Average annual migration among urban, suburban, and rural areas in the U.S. during the 1990s. The largest flow was from central cities to suburbs.
Migration from Metropolitan to Nonmetropolitan Areas

- Recent trend in MDC’s called counter-urbanization
- Move from cities to small towns and rural communities.

- Why? Lifestyle reasons
  - Not farmers; they commute or telecommute to work.
- In US can be seen in the N.E., South, Mid-west and West.

- Many migrants are retired people.
- In U.S., now a balance in the same # of people moving out as in.
The End.

Up next: Folk and Popular Culture