CHAPTER 3: MIGRATION

Key Issue Three: Why do migrants face obstacles?
Immigration Policies of Host Countries

- Immigration policies of host countries — two ways: quota system or guest workers
  - U.S. quota laws: unrestricted immigration to the U.S.
    - Quota: maximum limits on the number of people who could migrate to the United States from each country during a 1-year period
      - The Quota Act (1921)
      - The National Origins Act (1924)
U.S. Quota Laws

- U.S. quota laws:
  - 1921 Quota Act—Favored Europe
  - 1965 Immigration Act—hemispheric quotas
  - 1978 Global quotas--620,000/year, no more than 7% from one country.

- Applications exceed admissions
  - Preferences

On the go
The number of European emigrants rose from 300,000 a year in 1846 to over a million a year by the end of the century, before plummeting with the U.S. imposition of quotas.

(five-year average: thousands)

U.S. Quota Laws

- Applications exceed admissions
  - Preferences
    - Reunify families: spouses or unmarried children, siblings
      - Average wait for a spouse = approx. 5 years
    - Visas for skilled workers
  - Exceptions
    - Refugees
    - Spouses, children, and parents of U.S. citizens
Brain Drain

- Most U.S. immigrants are young, well-educated people looking to better use their abilities.
  - Scientists, researchers, doctors, and other professionals

- Criticism
  - Other countries claim that by giving preference to skilled workers, the U.S. contributes to a “brain drain.”
    - **Brain drain**: a large-scale emigration by talented people

What message is this Filipino author trying to convey?
Temporary Migration for Work

- People unable to migrate permanently to a new country for employment opportunities may be allowed to migrate temporarily.
  - Traditionally guest workers in Europe and time-contract workers in Asia.

Turkish guest workers in Germany to aid with the struggling German work force.
Temporary Migration for Work

- **Guest workers**: citizens of poor countries who obtain jobs in Western Europe and the Middle East.
  - In Europe, they are protected by minimum-wage laws, labor union contracts, and other support programs.
  - They take low-status and low-skilled jobs that locals won’t accept.
  - Even though low pay, they earn more money than working at home.
Temporary Migration for Work

- Benefits for the migrants’ home countries:
  - Tend to send a majority of their money back home Reduce unemployment problem
  - Foreign currency stimulates the local economy

Turkish guest workers operate many restaurants in Germany that specialize in Middle Eastern food.
**Time Contract Workers**

- **Time contract workers**: workers who leave home country to work for a company. (plantations, mines, building R.R)
- Historically, after work is done, they settle there.
- Indians to Burma, Malaysia, Guyana Africa, Trinidad.
- Japanese to Hawaii, Brazil, Peru
- Chinese to many places in Asia and North America

*Fig. 3-10: Various ethnic Chinese peoples have distinct patterns of migration to other Asian countries.*

*Emigration from China*
Distinguishing Between Economic Migrants and Refugees

- Are people from Cuba, Haiti, or Vietnam migrants or refugees?
  - Difficult to tell but important because the U.S., Canada, and Western Europe treat the two groups differently.
  - Economic migrants only admitted if they possess special skills or have a close relative already there.
  - Refugees, however, receive special priority in admission/asylum to other countries.
Emigrants from Cuba

- Since communism in 1959, the U.S. has regarded emigrants from Cuba as political refugees.
  - Immediately following revolution, 600,000 refugees admitted to the U.S.
  - 1980, “Mariel boatlift” = a migration stream named for the port from which the Cubans were allowed to embark
    - Castro permitted political prisoners, criminals, and mental patients to leave
    - Many Cubans living in Florida brought back their Cuban relatives
  - 1987, the U.S. permitted 20,000 Cubans per year to migrate to the U.S.
    - Cuba also agreed to the return of the 2,500 criminals or mental patients who had come in the 1980 Mariel boatlift.
- Cubans no longer seen as refugees
Emigrants from Haiti

- Shortly after 1980 Mariel boatlift from Cuba, similar situation with Haitians.
- Many were persecuted for their political beliefs; however, Haiti was not an ally with a communist country like Cuba.
- The U.S. State Department decided that most left Haiti for economic rather than political reasons.
Emigrants from Vietnam

- With the war’s end in 1975 and the fall of Saigon, many left because of their pro-U.S. connections.
- If lucky enough, the U.S. took the refugees by evacuation helicopters; otherwise, these people became known as “boat people” who tried to get picked up by the U.S. Navy.
- At this time, the Vietnamese people were refugees...
- Since that time, they are considered “immigrants” because the pull of economic opportunity in the U.S. is a greater incentive than the push of political persecution.
Many Vietnamese fled by sea as refugees after the war with the U.S. ended in 1975. Later boat people were often considered economic migrants.

In all, 800,000 Vietnamese people have reached the U.S. since the end of the Vietnam War, and another 1 million in other countries.
Cultural Problems Faced While Living in Other Countries

- For many immigrants, admission to another country does not end their problems.
- Citizens of the host country may dislike the newcomers’ cultural differences.
- More significantly, politicians exploit immigrants as scapegoats for local economic problems.
Historically, opposition to immigration heightened when Northern and Western European immigration dwindled.

Racism, prejudice, fear of unknown groups, suspicion of unknown cultures, economic fears, and anti-immigration sentiment – not much has changed over time.

Today, the same feelings still hold true and are intensified over the undocumented immigration debate.
Anti-Immigration Protest in Spain

- El Ejido, Spain: Spanish youths attacked Moroccan immigrants and burned their homes and cars after three Moroccan immigrants allegedly killed three Spaniards.
Attitudes Toward Guest Workers

- In Europe, many guest workers suffer from poor social conditions.
  - Guest workers are there to send money back home
  - Due to a lack of knowledge about their "new" country, there is a big cultural divide
- Many Europeans dislike the guest workers, oppose government programs to improve their living conditions, and attacks by local citizens have increased.
Attitudes Toward Guest Workers

- As a result of lower economic growth rates, Middle Eastern and Western European nations have reduced the number of guest workers in recent years.
- Some “home” countries, however, have their own unemployment problems and sometimes refuse to take back their own nationals.
- What is the solution to improving attitudes on immigrants??