



Migration Of Millions: Depth of Misery to Lands Imitating Heaven

Sarah Qureshi

This research document aims to scrutinize mass migration and derive information from the term's history and analyze the impact it has on the modern world. In addition, this paper also intends to investigate the reasons why it still is a massive obstacle for the international affairs committee to resolve.

Keywords: Mass migration, Westernization, Sectarian Violence, Racial discrimination, Third-World countries, Brain Drain, Diaspora.

Definitions

The term 'migration' is defined as the process of moving to a new country or region with the intention of staying and living there (National Geographic Society 2015). However, another identification refers to migration as a natural phenomenon, specifically an essential human characteristic since the beginning of time ("Mass Migrations Across the world-Systems History,"2017). This characteristic adaptability is inevitably susceptible to escalation given unbearable circumstances.

'Global Capitalism' is often seen in terms of market forces and free trade. It is a term coined to define the globalization of the capitalist ideology being practiced first in Great Britain at the end of the 18th century. It involves the establishment of global networks of people with similar identities and interests outside the control of international, state, and local authorities. (L. Sklair, Capitalism: Global, 2001).

The phrase "Depths of Misery" mentioned earlier refers to the insufferable living conditions faced by especially those who are indigenous to third-world countries, states of Africa, Asia, and Latin America currently developing to come at par with today's industrialized giants (klaus kastle - nationsonline.org, n.d.). These miserable conditions include a lack of political rights and civil liberties, clean water, sufficient food as well as human development and the rights of expression through means of mass media.

The "Lands imitating Heaven" describes the infallible image of the developed nations created through an immeasurable utilization of propaganda and the power these states possess via the rigid reign of raw materials originating from developing countries. These nations manipulate states still developing, and modify their raw materials, processing them into functional advantages in return for so-called 'protection'. An obvious example would be as early as 1943, Franklin D. Roosevelt declares Saudi oil vital to U.S. security and provided financial

support (Sergei, 2017). In reality, the U.S. benefits from Saudi's oil becoming the largest oil exporter and manages to take control of Iran's oil industry within the next few years.

Relationship

Migration is a globally renowned guarantee of survival. The four factors referred to in the text are mentioned because they all contribute to increasing migration levels. Social scientists have long noted that international migration is characterized by strong internal momentum, for example, the civil war in Sudan. (Massey & Zenteno, 1999). Apart from the internal and external conflict, political instability serves as a major reason for public riots and protests (Pakistan), civil war casualties (Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan), cease in imports due to a rise in inflation (Iran), shortage of food (Ethiopia), and several other consequences leading to a decrease in the standard of living eventually propelling migration. Global Capitalism requires huge numbers of labor to work under private businesses to accumulate millions of capital, again contributing as a major factor for mass migration. Ignorance of crime is another reason why citizen safety is compromised. These factors combined play a significant role in increasing migration levels globally in turn affecting the existing diaspora and the globalization of language and culture simultaneously.

Inefficient Government

The crippling government of Pakistan is a perfect example of how political instability gives birth to radicalism. The ongoing inflation is just another minor obstacle in front of the 72.978 trillion rupees debt that is owed both to domestic creditors and Public Sector Enterprises. (Wikipedia contributors, 2023). Westernization further propels the idea of migration. In 2021, about 225,000 Pakistan left the country in search of a luxurious life abroad and the statistics almost tripled to 765,000 last year. The 2022 numbers include 92,000 highly educated professionals such as doctors, engineers, information technology experts, and accountants (Nazir and Janjevik, 2023). Apart from this state's brain drain situation which shows no signs of deteriorating, a recent incident showcasing 300 Pakistanis who drowned off the coast of Greece in a Mediterranean migrant boat disaster is to be highlighted. The boat also contained several refugees including 750 men, women, and children originating from Syria, Egypt (both facing similar situations), and Pakistan. Unfortunately, only more than a mere 100 survived the tragedy ("Hundreds of Pakistanis Dead in Mediterranean Migrant Boat Disaster, Official Says", n.d.).

Conflict

Conflict is another factor that compels people to migrate. The conflict, whether political, economic, social, cultural, or demographic becomes an annoyance with war being the climax of a political tragedy. The recent displacement of 7.8 million Ukrainians to flee elsewhere on the continent, mostly to the European Union, and 2.9 million heading to Russia has broken world records for mass migration levels (Romanello et al., 2022). The sole purpose of the movement was the safety of the Ukrainians due to their protracted conflict with Russia, destabilizing international relations as some signify the event as the revival of the cold war. The ideological battle continues as U.S. President Joe Biden declares in his public speech ‘We will save democracy.’ (Coyle, 2022).

Global Capitalism

In capitalist production, there is an unending demand for raw materials, fossil fuels, land, and limitless labor. This creates structural migration as millions of people migrate to fulfill these requirements. Concerted labor policies such as, historically, the slave trade and now many guestworker programs and selective immigration regimes are a constant feature of capitalist development in wealthy economies regardless of illegality. These racialized groups of people are selected by companies to make up for their labor shortages and in a world where 88% of the people are penurious, many don't have a choice but to be a part of 'surplus labor'. While approximately 70% of migration is a result of persecution or war, this capitalist ideology, although beneficial to the private business owner, requires an immense amount of undying and efficient labor causing many to leave their homes in pursuit of earning. (“Beyond 2015: Is Another Development Possible?,” 2014).

Criminal Ignorance

Mexico having a corrupt criminal justice system widely practices torture and military abuse. The desperate resort to violence, with the homicide rate being 28 homicides per 100,000 in just 2021. 90% of the crimes are never reported, with 1/3rd of them never being investigated, meaning authorities resolved only 1% of crimes that took place in that year. In addition, 105,000 people have been recorded as 'missing' according to official reports (*Mexico*, 2023). In such a crime-ridden country, migration is surely inevitable. Another example is Caracas, one of the most perilous cities due to the high crime rate that forced 6 million Venezuelans to migrate to neighboring countries in Latin America (Lombardi, 2023). The number of authorized migrants from Mexico (107,200 received a green card in FY 2021) surpassed that of China (49,800) and India (93,500) along with the number of those who entered the U.S. illegally making up 48% of the total 11 million population of Mexico (“Mexican Immigrants In the United States”, 2022).



Discussion

As the author, my opinion impartially follows the factual side of this controversial topic. Migration as stated before is purely a human characteristic. Whether migration was driven by the unignorable curiosity to explore, adapt, or escape dire circumstances, it is a process defining human nature. Without movement, the concept of globalization would cease to exist. The significance of the diaspora lies in the concept of cultural transmission from which humans can share or relate to each other's experiences. Language, culture, and tradition, if not spread, will remain forever unchanging making it impossible for it to adapt along with the technological advances. Apart from this, knowledge will be limited only to one's own race, culture, tradition, ethnicity, and even language. However, since technology has allowed data and knowledge to migrate without having the need for a human to do so, migration has also narrowed itself down to a negative annotation. Today, migration is only a necessary escape route for those suffering terrible conditions in their homeland state. As for the lands imitating heaven, their image is purely a facade. American democracy is just a label depicting freedom of speech and expression with only two parties promising the implementation of 'freedom' and acceptance in their state rich with diversity in race, religion, culture, and ethnic background. Whereas the city of London was recorded as the fourth most expensive city in the world according to recent data (*London Retains Positions as the Fourth Most Expensive City in the World*, n.d.). These statistics further prove the point being made.

Conclusion

To conclude, migration isn't something to be obliterated but it is a process to be supported and accepted where necessary. The governors of each state should prioritize citizen lives above everything else, as democracy is an idea coined by the people and for the people. Previously, migration was a process driven by the mere curiosity to explore or escape climate change. Nowadays, people perceive migration as the last hope left for them to be able to live comfortable lives. It is an act of desperation that must be welcomed by those privileged enough to enjoy the comfort of their homes.



References

1. Beyond 2015: Is Another Development Possible? (2014, September 28). *The Bullet*.
<https://socialistproject.ca/2014/09/b1040/>
2. Coyle, J. (2022, March 16). In Russian invasion of Ukraine, Cold War echoes reverberate. *AP NEWS*.
<https://apnews.com/article/cold-war-echoes-russia-us-ukraine-0050dd806e5f8748bf59b5e84d15b959>
3. Hundreds of Pakistanis dead in mediterranean migrant boat disaster, Official says. (n.d.). *CNN*. Retrieved June 19, 2023, from
<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/06/18/asia/pakistan-deaths-migrant-boat-disaster-greece-intl-hnk/index.html>
4. klaus kastle - nationsonline.org. (n.d.). *Countries of the Third World - Nations Online Project*. https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/third_world.htm
5. L. Sklair, Capitalism: Global, Editor(s): Neil J. Smelser, Paul B. Baltes, International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, Pergamon, 2001, Pages 1459-1463, ISBN 9780080430768, <https://doi.org/10.1016/B0-08-043076-7/01831-3>.
(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B0080430767018313>)
6. Lombardi, C. (2023, January 27). *THE SOCIAL FRACTURE OF VENEZUELAN MIGRATION IS GENERATING NEW HUMAN AND SOCIAL DAMAGES THAT ARE NOT BEING ADDRESSED* - Caritas. Caritas.
<https://www.caritas.org/2023/01/the-social-fracture-of-venezuelan-migration-is-generating-new-human-and-social-damages-that-are-not-being-addressed>
7. *London retains position as the fourth most expensive city in the world*. (n.d.).
<https://www.eca-international.com/news/june-2023/london-4th-most-expensive-location-in-the-world#:~:text=London%20retains%20position%20as%20the%20fourth%20most%20expensive%20>
0

8. Mass Migrations across the world-Systems history. (2017, August 1). *E-international Relations*. (<https://www.e-ir.info/2017/08/01/mass-migrations-across-the-world-systems-history/>)
9. Massey, D. S., & Zenteno, R. (1999). The dynamics of mass migration. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 96(9), 5328–5335. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.96.9.5328>
10. Mexican Immigrants in the United States. (2022). *Migration Policy Institute*. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/mexican-immigrants-united-state>
11. Mexico. (2023). *Human Rights Watch*. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/mexico>
12. National Geographic Society. (2015, August 7). *Introduction to Human Migration*. (<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/introduction-human-migration/#:~:text=immigration-,Noun,country%20or%20nation%20to%20another.>)
13. Nazir, Z., & Janjevic, D. (2023, May 25). Pakistan’s brain drain crisis escalates as thousands leave. *dw.com*. <https://www.dw.com/en/pakistans-brain-drain-crisis-escalates-as-thousands-leave/a-65733569#:~:text=In%202021%2C%20about%2025%2C000%20Pakistanis,information%20technology%20experts%20and%20accountants.>
14. Romanello, M., Di Napoli, C., Drummond, P., Green, C., Kennard, H., Lampard, P., Scamman, D., Arnell, N., Ayeb-Karlsson, S., Ford, L. B., Belesova, K., Bowen, K., Cai, W., Callaghan, M., Campbell-Lendrum, D., Chambers, J., Van Daalen, K. R., Dalin, C., Dasandi, N., . . . Costello, A. J. (2022). The 2022 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: health at the mercy of fossil fuels. *The Lancet*, 400(10363), 1619–1654. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(22\)01540-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(22)01540-9)
15. Sergie, M. A. (2017, April 27). Oil Dependence and U.S. Foreign Policy. *Council on Foreign Relations*. <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/oil-dependence-and-us-foreign-policy#:~:text=In%201943%2C%20with%20concerns%20growing,security%20and%20provides%20financial%20support>
16. Wikipedia contributors. (2023). National debt of Pakistan. *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_debt_of_Pakistan#:~:text=Current%20debt,About%20Rs.