

*Hydraulic* *Bayle* *May* *Agencies*

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Still another salient aspect of globalization is the movement of refugees and immigrants, whether the massive flight of refugees in the face of violence or natural disaster.

### The global movement of persons

One of the characteristics of globalization is the movement of persons across porous national borders. Since 2000 international migration has increased by 41 percent, including 20 million refugees, totalling 244 million including almost 50 million children. In 2016, Two-thirds

*migration*

...went to Europe although ... largest single destination ... by Germany and Poland. The largest ... diaspora communities ... Mexican (12 million), ... and Chinese (10 million). ... numbers of students study abroad ... primary view, an important ... education.

### Refugees

In 1950, the UN established the Office of High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), responsible for implementing the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (codified in 2001). Since its establishment, UNHCR has aided over 50 million refugees by providing humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, and medical aid, and the agency was awarded Nobel Peace prizes in 1954 and 1981. Despite its proposed 2017 budget of \$6.4 billion,<sup>102</sup> its resources are stretched to cope with refugee populations around the world.

By the 1951 convention, countries are obliged to give asylum to refugees. Defined as those who are outside the country of their nationality and are unable or unwilling to return home "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion."<sup>103</sup> According to the principle of ~~non-refoulement~~, a country cannot expel or forcibly return a legitimate refugee. When the convention was enacted, it applied mainly to World War Two refugees and those escaping communism. In recent years, however, the refugee issue has encompassed millions of people fleeing from violence in their homelands. Additional legal instruments dealing with refugees and migrants include the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,

Especially Women and Children, and the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, refugees are becoming victims of "asylum fatigue," being denied their rights by countries that confuse them with illegal economic immigrants.<sup>95</sup>

Between 1984 and 2004, the number of refugees almost doubled, peaking in 1994 after the Rwanda genocide. The number displaced by violence in the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa rose dramatically after 2011 to 65 million in 2016, most of whom (41 million) were **internally displaced persons (IDPs)** remaining in their own countries.<sup>96</sup> As of 2015, UNHCR was responsible for almost 55 million "persons of concern," including refugees, IDPs, asylum seekers, and stateless persons.<sup>97</sup> IDPs pose a growing problem, with 6.6 million in Syria, 6 million in Colombia and 3.3 million in Iraq alone, and additional millions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Somalia.<sup>98</sup>

The number of refugees globally reached 21.3 million in 2015, including 5.2 million Palestinians registered by the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Today, the major sources of refugees other than Palestinians is Syria (4.9 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million), and Somalia (1.1 million).<sup>99</sup> Most refugees flee to neighboring countries. As a result, Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran, Ethiopia, and Jordan are the foremost host countries for refugees.<sup>100</sup>

Massive refugee flows place economic, social, and political strains on host countries, some of which, like Pakistan, Lebanon, and Kenya, already suffer from state weakness and conflicts of their own. And, many refugees remain in exile for years. America's State Department estimates that some 10.3 million refugees, in 30 host countries, are in protracted refugee situations in which "25,000 or more refugees originating from the same country have sought asylum from another country (or countries) for at least five consecutive years."<sup>101</sup> The most controversial protracted refu-

gee issue involves the Palestinians not included in the UNHCR data who live in camps in the Middle East and are sustained by UNRWA. Such protracted situations occur in the poorest, most unstable regions of the world, and refugees there are often forgotten or ignored.<sup>102</sup>

At first, UNHCR tried to settle refugees in new countries but, in recent years, as the burden has grown, countries have become less willing to accept refugees on a permanent basis, and in some countries there has been a backlash against them. The sagas of Vietnamese boat people victimized by pirates and then refused entry into other Asian countries are well known. Having lost special refugee status in 1994, many of the hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees who fled their country after 1975 languished in crowded Asian detention camps. Because of demands from host countries, the UN High Commission agreed to repatriate these refugees to Vietnam, forcibly if necessary, and close the camps.

Turmoil and violence in the Middle East and Central Asia brought a flood of more than a million migrants and refugees into Europe in 2015, mainly from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. This created serious strains in the EU owing to the resistance of countries like Hungary and Poland to EU-imposed national quotas for accepting refugees, the rise of anti-refugee sentiment and political parties in Europe, and the pressures on "front line" states like Greece and Italy that are initial points of entry.<sup>103</sup> Many refugees seek to move northward to richer EU member states such as Germany, Sweden, and Denmark, creating political fissures in these countries, and triggering an EU agreement with Turkey to reduce the numbers of refugees seeking to reach Greece.

National policies toward refugees are often dictated more by political than humanitarian motives. Thus, during the Cold War America readily accepted Jewish refugees from the USSR, as well as Eastern Europeans, Cubans, and others fleeing communism. America also accepted 207,000 Vietnamese refugees in 1980. By contrast, between 2012 and 2016 the US accepted a mere

500 Syrian refugees in contrast to Germany, which accepted 428,500 Syrians.<sup>104</sup> Fears of terrorism in particular fuel resistance in America and Europe as politicians like America's Donald Trump, Hungary's Viktor Orban, and France's Marine Le Pen stoke anti-Muslim sentiments.

UNHCR now encourages the voluntary return of refugees to their home countries and provides them with the basic requirements to restart their lives. In assisting refugees UNHCR draws assistance from other international agencies such as the World Food Program, the UN Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the UN Development Program, and the UN Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as NGOs like the International Committee of the Red Cross.

### *Undocumented aliens*

Illegal immigrants are different from refugees. Countries are not legally obligated to accept migrants who leave poor countries as "economic refugees." Those who migrate often take poorly paid jobs and remit part of their earnings to relatives back home, \$581.6 billion in 2015 of which \$431.6 billion went to LDCs.<sup>105</sup> Countries heavily dependent on remittances in 2015 include Tajikistan (27 percent of GDP), Tonga (27 percent), and Liberia (24 percent). Migrants in the US sent \$54 billion home, while those in Saudi Arabia sent \$37 billion.<sup>106</sup> In 2015, Mexican migrants in the US remitted \$24.8 billion back home, exceeding what Mexico earned from oil exports.<sup>107</sup> Host states benefit from the influx of low-wage labor and the taxes they pay. Mexican workers, for example, earn about one-tenth of what Americans earn in similar jobs. In this respect, both the countries that send migrants and receive them can benefit.

America is a nation of immigrants, and successive immigrant waves have enriched US culture. As of 2014, 42.4 million immigrants lived in America. In that year some 1.3 million who

entered that year. India was the leading country of origin for new immigrants (147,500), followed by China (131,800), and Mexico (130,000).<sup>108</sup> America's Immigration and Naturalization Act limits the number of permanent legal immigrants to 675,000, most of whom are relatives of US citizens.<sup>109</sup> US businesses use the H-1B visa program to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations. It is capped at 65,000 in 2017,<sup>110</sup> which is below the demand of US corporations for skilled workers. Canada, by contrast, has developed systematic immigration criteria to recruit skilled workers based on a points system that is weighted if an applicant has a job offer. Among those Canada seeks are biologists, architects, physicians, electricians, plumbers, dentists, nurses, and pharmacists.<sup>111</sup> Overall, Canada admits many more legal immigrants in proportion to its population than does the US.

Some US observers are uneasy about the high level of Hispanic immigration. They are concerned about the pressures that immigrants place on local services like schools and welfare, ignoring the taxes that immigrants pay. Labor unions fear that illegal immigrants will work for low wages and compete with US workers for jobs though immigrants frequently take jobs that other Americans avoid and their relatively low wages limit inflation.

There are roughly 11.3 million undocumented immigrants (that is, lacking visas) in America. The number peaked in 2007, went down during the Great Recession, and has remained stable since. Roughly half were Mexicans, most of whom settled in six states – California, Texas, Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Illinois. Most undocumented immigrants leave their homes in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Globally, most economic immigrants move from poor to wealthy countries, often paying exorbitant sums to human smugglers and risking their lives in crossing deserts from Mexico into the US or drowning in their effort to reach Europe from North Africa. Growing numbers of undocumented aliens has produced networks



Map 14.2 Distribution of Undocumented Aliens in America, 2012

of criminals who help smuggle migrants into developed countries. Smuggling migrants to Europe has become a racket worth between \$5 billion and \$6 billion a year.<sup>112</sup> And, in one week alone in May 2016, 880 migrants drowned in the Mediterranean trying to reach Europe.<sup>113</sup>

Views of immigration must take account of demographic and economic trends. Although attention has been paid to the threats that population growth poses in some LDCs, in recent decades observers have thought seriously about the *absence* of population growth in rich countries and the growing burden posed by aging populations. The growing number of elderly relative to younger people means that fewer people are available to pay the taxes needed to provide social security and medical services for larger populations of senior citizens. The dearth of young people also threatens future labor shortages, especially in poorly paid jobs.

### *Immigration and demography*

Although the proportion of the elderly relative to the rest of the population is increasing globally, these trends are sharpest in economically advanced regions. In Europe, the percentage of those over 60 years of age is expected to rise from 20 percent in 2000 to 37 percent in 2050. In Austria, the Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Japan, Slovenia, and Spain, the percentage of those over 60 is expected to exceed 40 percent by 2050. The median age of Ugandans is 15 while that of Italians and Japanese is 44.8 and 46.5 respectively.<sup>114</sup> Between 2000 and 2050, the ratio of people over 65 to those of working age is likely to jump from 22 per hundred to 51 per hundred in Europe and 19 to 35 in North America.<sup>115</sup> These data translate into larger numbers of dependents and a growing financial burden on a progressively smaller proportion of working adults.

Other than higher birth rates and employing larger numbers of women and the elderly, immigration is the only solution to easing the negative consequences of aging populations. High rates of immigration – legal and illegal – mean that the United States is better prepared to deal with the social and economic burdens of aging populations than Japan or Europe where resistance to absorbing culturally different immigrants remains intense. The alternative is exporting more jobs overseas and/or greater automation at home. The other side of the coin is that immigration from poor to wealthy regions is a safety valve for poor countries that affords opportunities for young people who would at best earn less and at worst be unemployed if they stayed at home where they would contribute to political unrest.

### *Human trafficking*

“‘Trafficking in persons,’ ‘human trafficking,’ and ‘modern slavery’ have been used as umbrella terms for the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.”<sup>116</sup> Among the 23 “Tier 3” countries cited as doing the least to combat human trafficking in 2015 were Algeria, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Russia, Kuwait, Laos, and Thailand.<sup>117</sup> Women and even children brought to such countries are frequently victims of kidnapping and are employed as child soldiers or prostitutes. Although the United States ranks high in terms of efforts to reduce human trafficking, it was cited for the first time in the 2010 State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, which found that in America men, women, and children were subject to trafficking for “forced labor, debt bondage, and forced prostitution.”<sup>118</sup>

Demographic factors have produced a demand for low-wage workers in low-status jobs that can be filled only by undocumented migrants, especially women who are frequently hidden in an “informal” underground economy. That

labor market is unregulated and affords little legal protection for those involved in it. It has thus fostered human trafficking in which illegal migrants are transported, sometimes by force, from LDCs to developed countries. Many work as gardeners, maids, or caregivers in the homes of wealthy professional couples, sometimes finding themselves as virtual slaves, viewed as commodities to be bought at the lowest cost possible. Undocumented female migrants who work as domestic servants are poorly paid, and their children back home are deprived of their parents. Other trends include sex tourism and the import of brides, especially from Asia to the West.

We now turn to the issue of disease, often associated with the increasing mobility of populations. Health and disease are linked to poverty. Poverty produces weakened populations, refugee flows, famine, and disease, and illness contributes to poverty.

### *Globalized diseases*

Globalized diseases are not new. Bubonic and pneumonic plague, carried by fleas that live on rodents, especially rats that hitched rides aboard ships, repeatedly ravaged Europe. Plague epidemics, probably originating in China and Mongolia, followed the trade routes westward and reached Europe in the fourteenth century. By 1345 plague reached the lower Volga River and from there continued to the Caucasus, the Crimea, and Constantinople. In 1347, Genoese merchants carried the disease to Sicily from the Black Sea port of Kaffa. Within two months, half of Messina’s population was dead. The “Black Death” spread through Italy reaching France the following year, and then Germany and England. In less than three years, Europe’s population declined by one-third, and about 25 million people perished. Western Europe’s population did not again reach its pre-1348 level until the sixteenth century. Whole areas were depopulated and abandoned, and agriculture declined.<sup>119</sup>

## Epidemics and pandemics

More recently, large-scale movement of people have produced conditions for similar epidemics and pandemics (an epidemic that affects people in many countries). Such conditions during and after World War One when millions of soldiers were moving across the globe produced the 1918–19 Spanish influenza pandemic that infected a fifth of the world's population and killed between 20 and 40 million worldwide. The influenza may have first appeared at Camp Funston (now Fort Riley) in Kansas in March 1918, and it was carried by American troops going to fight in Europe. Thereafter, it spread to China and Japan and then to Africa and South America. In September 1918, the pandemic reappeared in America, via war shipments to Boston, where it took a deadly toll. Some 200,000 Americans died of influenza in October alone, and military conscription was suspended. By the time the influenza had run its course, some 650,000 Americans had died as well as 450,000 Russians, 375,000 Italians, 228,000 Britons, 500,000 Mexicans, and millions of Asians.<sup>120</sup> Americans' lifespan dropped by ten years, and children skipped rope to the rhyme:

I had a little bird.  
Its name was Enza.  
I opened the window,  
And in-flu-enza.<sup>121</sup>

In December 2015, The World Health Organization (WHO) identified a list of several potential epidemics requiring additional research that included Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever, Ebola virus disease and Marburg hemorrhagic fever, Lassa fever, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and SARS coronavirus viruses, Nipah virus, and Rift Valley fever.<sup>122</sup> Despite progress in fighting malaria, according to WHO there were 215 million malaria cases in 2015, most of which were in Africa.<sup>123</sup> Malaria alone is estimated to cost Africa over \$12 billion annually.<sup>124</sup> In addition, 1.5 million died from tuberculosis in 2013, and it was

a leading killer among populations weakened by HIV/AIDS.<sup>125</sup>

Yellow fever, which can be prevented if the vaccine is available, erupted in Angola in 2015 and for the first time spread to Asia. Once it takes root in a tropical country it is virtually impossible to eliminate.<sup>126</sup> The same mosquito that transmits yellow fever also spreads the Zika virus, causing microcephaly in infants. These babies often have smaller brains that might not have developed properly. The virus was first discovered in Uganda, but in August 2015 in the maternity wards of Recife, Brazil, "Doctors, paediatricians, neurologists, they started finding this thing we never had seen," noted a medical researcher. "Children with normal faces up to the eyebrows, and then you have no foreheads and very strange heads."<sup>127</sup> In 2015–16 Zika infected about 1.5 million people in Brazil from where it spread northward. Widespread panic ensued, especially among pregnant women or those planning to get pregnant, and many non-Brazilians who had planned to attend the 2016 summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, including many athletes, decided not to do so. America's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an alert: "Brazil, along with many destinations in the Americas, is experiencing an outbreak of Zika virus. Because Zika virus infection in pregnant women can cause serious birth defects, CDC has special recommendations for pregnant women traveling to Brazil."<sup>128</sup>

High birth rates in poor countries among people living in crowded conditions with inadequate sanitary and medical facilities provide fertile soil for spreading diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Zika, malaria, and cholera, a disease arising from contaminated food and water. African sleeping sickness, river blindness, and the parasitic disease schistosomiasis also afflict many people in tropical regions, and polio has reappeared in Nigeria.

HIV/AIDS Although heart disease and stroke are the chief causes of death worldwide, HIV/AIDS remains a major global killer. By destroying lymphocytes necessary for the immune system to

function, HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) causes AIDS which leaves a variety of deadly infections. It is spread through exposure to blood, sexual relations, sharing needles, and breast-feeding infants.

HIV/AIDS infected about 30 million people between 1980 and 1994. In 2009, 33.3 million people were living with HIV/AIDS, in sub-Saharan Africa, and from the disease, including in some regions, the death toll has risen. In some regions, the death toll has seen a decline in life expectancy. In some regions, the death toll has seen a decline in life expectancy. Nevertheless, in 2014, 1.1 million people died of AIDS, three-quarters of whom were in sub-Saharan Africa.

HIV/AIDS remains a major global killer. In high-income countries, deaths are rapidly declining owing to the availability of antiretroviral drugs (see Figure 14.4).

### Number of people living with HIV/AIDS

Eastern and Southern Africa	Western and Central Africa
19 million	6.5 million

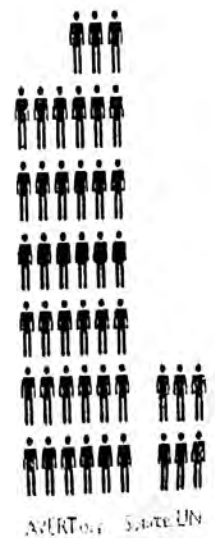


Figure 14.4 Regional distribution of people living with HIV/AIDS