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Chapter 3 Lecture

The Cultural Landscape
Eleventh Edition

Chapter 3 Key Issue #3
Why do People Migrate?

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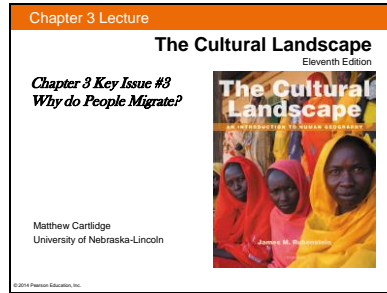
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Key Issues

Chapter 3 Key Issues:

• Where are migrants distributed?
• Where do people migrate within a country?
• Why do people migrate?
• Why do migrants face obstacles?

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Learning Outcomes

• Provide examples of political, environmental, and economic push and pull factors.
• Summarize the flows of migrant workers in Europe and Asia.
• Identify the types of immigrants who are given preference to enter the United States.
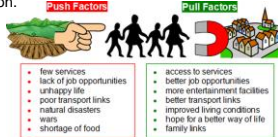
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Why Do People Migrate?

• People decide to migrate because of a combination of two factors.
 – *Push* factors induce people to move out of their present location.
 – *Pull* factors induce people to move into a new location.

Push Factors	Pull Factors
few services	access to services
lack of job opportunities	better job opportunities
unhappy life	more entertainment facilities
poor transport links	better transport links
natural disasters	improved living conditions
wars	hope for a better way of life
shortage of food	family links

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• Ravenstein's laws help geographers make generalizations about where and how far people move.
 • Most people migrate for economic reasons.
 • Political and environmental also induce migration but less often.

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Why Do People Migrate?

Three major types of push and pull factors
 1. Political
 2. Environmental
 3. Economic

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• Ravenstein's laws help geographers make generalizations about where and how far people move.
 • Most people migrate for economic reasons.
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Reasons for Migrating

• *Political* factors can be especially compelling push factors, forcing people to migrate from a country.

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United Nations High Commissions for Refugees recognizes three groups of forced political migrants.
 • A *refugee* has been forced to migrate to avoid a potential threat to his or her life, and he or she cannot return for fear of persecution.

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Reasons for Migrating

2. An *internally displaced person (IDP)* is similar to a refugee, but he or she has not migrated across an international border.
3. An *asylum seeker* is someone who has migrated to another country in hope of being recognized as a refugee.

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- Largest number of refugees in 2010 was forced to migrate from Afghanistan and Iraq because of war.
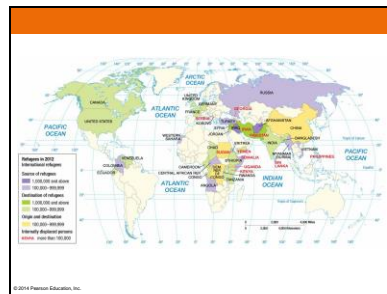
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FIGURE 3-25 POLITICAL FACTORS: REFUGEES AND IDPS The largest numbers of refugees originated in Southwest Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

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Reasons for Migrating

- *Environmental* factors can prompt migration from hazardous environments or pull migrants to attractive regions.
  - Environmental Pull Factors
    - Mountains
    - Seasides
    - Warm Climates

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- Hundreds of thousands have been forced to move from the Sahel region of northern Africa because of drought conditions.

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Reasons for Migrating

- *Environmental* factors can prompt migration from hazardous environments or pull migrants to attractive regions.
  - Environmental Push Factors
    - Water: most common environmental threat
      - Flood
      - Drought

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- Hundreds of thousands have been forced to move from the Sahel region of northern Africa because of drought conditions.

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Reasons for Migrating

- Most people migrate for *economic* reasons.
  - Push factor: migrate away from places with few jobs
  - Pull factor: migrate to places where jobs seem to be available

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Relative attractiveness of a region can shift with economic change. Migration rates have decreased since the onset of the 2008 recession in the U.S. U.S. and Canada have been prominent destinations for economic migrants. Historically individuals migrated from Europe.
More recently Latin America and Asia are primary senders.

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Attitudes toward Immigrants

- Characteristics of Migrants
  - More males migrated to the U.S. during the nineteenth century and most of the twentieth century.
  - About 40 percent of immigrants in U.S. are young adults between the ages of 25 and 39.
  - Recent immigrants to the U.S. tend to be less educated than U.S. citizens.

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- Mexican women often married at a young age and remained in the village to raise children. More recently, researchers are seeing that many of them are crossing into the U.S. to be reunited with husbands or brother, but also a growing number are seeking jobs.

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Summary

- On a global scale, the largest flows of migrants are from Asia to Europe and from Latin America to the U.S.
  – Third-world to first-world
- The decision to migrate is a conclusion influenced by a mixture of *push* and *pull* factors.
- Migrants face obstacles in migrating not as much by environmental factors anymore but by political or cultural factors.

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Summary

- Worldwide, the most prominent type of intraregional migration is from rural areas to urban areas. In the U.S., it is from cities to suburbs.
- Americans and Europeans share mixed views about immigration. They recognize their importance to the local economy, but key features of immigration trouble them.

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Learning Outcomes

Review your notes and write out your answers to the following prompts:

- Provide examples of political, environmental, and economic push and pull factors.
- Summarize the flows of migrant workers in Europe and Asia.
- Identify the types of immigrants who are given preference to enter the United States.

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