



## The Problem of Migration and Approaches to Its Study

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### **Abstract**

This article analyzes the problem of migration, which has been of concern to the world community in recent years, its causes and different approaches to the development, socio-political life, ethnic composition, and culture of the world, and their role in solving the problem. The article highlights the obstacles to addressing the growing migration problem and offers suggestions on how to address them. In addition, the specificity of the approaches to migration, the similarities, and differences in the research conducted by scientists are covered in detail. The complexities of the migration process, the diversity of factors that lead to migration, and other important issues are also described. It is well known that the problem of migration is global in nature and many people are leaving their homes and families in search of a better life and income. However, in addition to the obvious economic benefits, migration also has other serious consequences. Serious problems that are likely to occur through this article have also been predicted, all proven by facts. In turn, the relevance of the approaches put forward in the article is also interpreted in terms of the functions they have been assigned based on the current state of the migration process.

**Keywords:** *Migration; Migrant; Refugee; Asylum; The Region; Smuggling; Border; Demography; IOM*

### **Introduction**

Every year, millions of people across state borders to find a new place to live or work, study or do various internships, rest or medical treatment, and avoid political, national, or environmental disasters. These and other types of population movement are integrated into the concept of migration. Migration is an intensive spatial mass movement of people across state borders. Migration is causing major changes in the placement of people both within the country and among them, as well as in some large regions.

Migration is one of the most pressing issues of concern to the world community in recent years. Accordingly, it is becoming a vital necessity to analyze it scientifically and to draw conclusions from the commonalities in the approaches put forward by the representatives of various fields in this regard. The term migration is derived from the Latin word “migratio”, which means “migration”. Population migration refers to the movement of people from one region (state) to another, often in large groups and over large distances.

Rather, we need to see migration as a process which is an integral part of broader transformation processes embodied in the term “development”, but also has its internal, self-sustaining and self-undermining dynamics, and impacts on such transformation processes in its own right. This contextuality has important theoretical implications. Because migration is not an exogenous variable, but an integral part of wider social and development processes, the development impacts of migration are also fundamentally heterogeneous [1]. Most domestic and foreign researchers point out that migration processes have been the subject of research in many disciplines, but no single approach has been developed in their study.

Migration as a complex phenomenon of social and political life requires the constant attention of both the state and professionals. The attention of experts is very important for the competent state authorities to develop competent recommendations on the regulation of migration flows and the adaptation of migrants to the new conditions for them. Migration varies because of the factors, scale, and nature that cause it. There are many proposed typologies and classifications of migration in the modern scientific literature, and the analysis of the phenomenon of migration as a subject of interdisciplinary research is more important from the point of view of different scientific approaches. After all, the process of migration is inextricably linked with the ethnic, economic, geographical, demographic, political moments of state life and its historical development. Consequently, migration is a very broad concept, the object of study of a number of disciplines - economics, geography, history, sociology, political science, etc., which has a clear interdisciplinary character.

### ***Classification of Approaches to Migration***

In his works, the Russian scholar O.D.Vorobyov addressed the issue of population migration, in which the population crossed the borders of internal and external administrative-territorial units and changed their place of permanent residence; or any territorial migration for the purpose of education and employment, regardless of the influence of leading and attracting factors, as population migration [2]. The theoretical foundations for the study of population migration were developed in the eighteenth century, when mercantilists, perhaps the first among economists, drew attention to the need to attract foreigners, who saw population growth as a source of state power. It was seen as part of the growth and, accordingly, as a means of contributing to the increase in the wealth of the country as a whole.

M.V. Lomonosov identified two pairs of demographic processes that directly contradicted the development of the population, not only among Russian but also among Western scholars: birth-immigration and death-emigration, thus, according to V.A. Ionsev, the demographic transition laid the foundation for the concept of the future. Persons who have moved out of the territory of the state are emigrants, and persons who have moved to this state are immigrants. Scientists have different definitions of the concept of migration. In particular, the English scientist E.G.Ravenstein (1885) conducted a number of theoretical studies devoted to the study of the problem of migration, and a number of positive results were obtained in this regard. The scientist studied migration processes in the United Kingdom and North America, on the basis of which eleven migration laws were formed. E.G.Ravenstein described the concept of migration in a very simple way, which means “permanent or temporary change of a person’s place of residence”. It should be noted that most theories in the field of migration are based on these laws.  
*The main ones are:*

1. Most migrations take place over short distances;
2. The larger the regional center, the more attractive its impact;
3. Each migration stream has its own countercurrent;
4. The growth of large cities is mainly due to population migration, in which case the situation is not considered natural growth;
5. The scale of migration will increase with the development of industry and trade, especially transport;
6. The economic causes of migration are crucial.

As Zolberg, a well-known international migration researcher points out, some scholars still hold Ravenstein's erroneous position that international migration develops under the same laws as domestic migration [3].

The concept of migration has been defined differently by scientists and experts. In particular, the analysis conducted by V.A.Ibrokhimov revealed that the number of definitions of migration in local publications was 36 [4]. By analyzing local and foreign literature, V.A.Ionsev was able to create a holistic classification of the directions of theoretical interpretation of population migration. According to him, 17 different approaches to the study of the problem of migration have been identified, which have been able to combine 45 types of scientific directions, theories, and concepts. Of these theories, 5 are economic, 5 are sociological, 4 are pure migration, 3 are demographic, 2 are historical, typological, political, and 1 is of nine different approaches [5].

According to I.L. Rybakowski, there are four main approaches: firstly, by migration is understood all types of population movements that have social significance; secondly, the spatial movement of the population, regardless of its nature and goals; thirdly, spatial movements occurring between settlements, which lead to a permanent or temporary change of place of residence, as well as regular movement between places of residence and places of work or study; and, finally, fourthly, the spatial movement of the population is attributed to migration, which, ultimately, leads to its territorial redistribution [6].

Unlike other representatives of the social sciences and humanities, historians focus primarily on space and time in their study of the problem. According to Diner, historians who study the problem of migration prefer to act independently of theory and away from testing hypotheses, but the questions posed by them are in many respects consistent with questions from other social sciences [7]. All of them seek to study the factors that lead to population migration and their consequences. More specifically, who is involved in the migration process, when does this move occur, what are the factors that lead to the migration process, why do some people not leave their homes, how do migrants move and how do they adapt? questions such as.

Anthropologists focus on ethnographic research. They perform intercultural comparative analysis with a clear approach to theory. As a result, they form laws of a universal nature. As a result of ethnographic research, it is possible to gain a deeper understanding of the living conditions of mankind. Through ethnographic research, scholars try to study the inner experiences of an individual as an immigrant, the content of social and cultural changes that occur as a result of the transition from one environment to another. As a result of these efforts, Brettell argues that anthropologists have become increasingly interested in studying the effects of emigration and immigration on social relations between men and women, relatives, and members of the same culture [8]. Anthropological research has shown that one of the consequences of migration is changes in the social, cultural, and gender status of migrants.

As foreign scholars point out, the sociological study of migration is narrow and often duplicates other disciplines. Because in the study of migration processes, sociologists start not from their general research paradigm, but from different scattered methodological approaches, as well as from theories and different perspectives.

According to Heisler, sociologists are interested in the following questions: “What causes migration?”, “What are the factors that ensure the stability of migration in space and time?”. Sociologists and anthropologists rely on a holistic theoretical basis. Both rely on the classical sources of social theory (Marx, Durkheim, and Weber) and focus on the study of social relations that form the basis of migration processes. They usually study the societies that receive immigrants, and anthropologists study both the societies that observe and receive them. The differences between these two disciplines are due to the history of their formation as a science. After all, sociology has always been concerned with the study of Western societies, while anthropology has focused on the study of “other” societies.

While anthropology has begun to deal with migration and immigration issues with some “delay”, sociologists have long been interested in the issue. In general, the questions raised in sociology are inextricably linked to the results of migration processes. According to sociological theories, there are a number of consequences of migration processes, which are inextricably linked to factors such as social capital, the labor market, and the spectrum of institutional structures. While anthropologists focus on cultural symbols and symbolic representations of ethnic identity, sociologists study the institutional reflection of ethnic differences. As can be seen, both disciplines focus on ethnic diversity. In general, there is an ideological exchange between these disciplines: sociologists are actively engaged in the research of anthropologists, and vice versa. The interdependence of the two disciplines is that they study social relations on the basis of the immigration environment and view social networks as a driving force in migration processes.

The primary issue for demographers is related to the nature of demographic variability, which is based on births, deaths, and migration. On the basis of a generalized database, demographers record the nature, models, and directions of migration flows, as well as the characteristics of migrants (age, gender, type of occupation, education, etc.). Reflecting on the current situation, Keely sees it as a formal demographic approach to migration [9]. Demographers rely on the theories of various social sciences in their assessment of the social, economic, and political forces that create and shape migration flows. The peculiarity of the demographic approach to the study of migration is that it is studied in terms of reproduction and maintenance of human populations, their number, age-sex structure. The processes taking place in this area are closely linked with the demographic security of the country.

One well-known researcher, V.I. Staroverov, first highlights the “redistribution” function of migration, as a result of which the redistribution of labor in geographical space. V.I. Staroverov goes on to emphasize the “viable” function of migration, according to which the movement of the population is accompanied by a change in the natural environment in relation to human interests. The “demographic” function, on the other hand, leads to development and changes in the condition of the population. The researcher also identifies a number of ethnographic, urbanization, socio-hygienic, and other functions of population migration. Based on such a broad interdependence of functions, population migration is considered, according to Staroverov, on the one hand, as a means of social development, and on the other hand as a driving force of social development or as one of the driving forces of interaction [10].

Migration views the economic approach as one of the important regulators of the able-bodied population that promotes healthy competition in the labor market. Most types of migration are related to economic necessity and to some extent are also related to the labor market. One of the most important works in this direction is Jacob Mincer’s article entitled “Family and Migration Decision-Making”. A distinctive feature of this article is that previous economic research in the field of population migration has not differentiated between an individual’s decision to migrate and the same decision at the family level. The author examines how the following factors influence a migration decision:

- a) marital status;
- b) employment of the wife;
- c) total family income.

Mincer comes to the following conclusions. Families are less mobile than people who do not carry the family burden. The explanation for this fact is that the profitability of family migration grows more slowly than the costs associated with family growth. However, the impact of children on migration decisions can be doubled. On the one hand, they can be an obstacle, but on the other hand, on the contrary, they can be encouraging, for example, the child needs to find a suitable school [11].

The famous French economist and demographer G.F. Tapinos [12] examines the logic of decision-making on external migration and considers the following variable:

- the total amount of income of potential migrants,
- the total amount of consumption costs of a potential migrant (food, housing, clothing and long-term products, health and entertainment services, children's education),
- savings, prices level and, finally, potential income-generating immigration in the country.

G.F. Tapinos believes that the excess of economic income over the "non-economic costs" of relocation is a necessary and sufficient condition for a positive decision. According to the latter, he understood the psychological loss of a migrant when he lost or obstructed his natural cultural and linguistic environment, connections with his family, and others. This price level depends primarily on the level of cultural differences between the countries of origin and destination. In the case of temporary migration, the amount and impact of the funds accumulated in the country received by the migrant come first.

Of particular importance is the historical and biological approach developed mainly by the Russian scientist L.N.Gumilyov. The basic concept in L.N.Gumilyov's approach is passion. Passion is an activity that manifests itself in a person's pursuit of a goal as a characteristic of behavior, which is often imaginary. The passionate trait is the genetic trait that is inherited, according to L.N.Gumilyov's hypothesis, the basis of the phenomenon of passion as a specific feature of the human constitution. Passionaries (carriers of this sign) are particularly distinguished by active migration movements, whose share in the ethnic group largely determines the migration movement of the entire ethnic group. In Russia, for example, the second half of the sixteenth century was a period of the high passionate energy of the Great Russians, the result of which was an unprecedented expansion to the east.

Predictive models are also created by economists. In this case, Chiswick's article is just as relevant. "Who will immigrate?" It is possible to search for the answer using the model created for the question. Chiswick's main focus is on the issue of immigration screening, which has caused widespread debate among economists.

At the heart of these debates are the following: "Under what circumstances are relatively eligible migrants selected (based on their success in human capital and labor markets)? Chiswick developed models consisting of positive and negative selections that occur under different conditions. In this case, the theory of "requirements" has a slight advantage over the theory of results, which serve to form the basis of research on migration conducted by economists.

Over the past decades, several migration researchers have bemoaned the absence of a comprehensive migration theory, and there have been numerous calls or attempts to develop just such a general migration theory (Lee 1966; Massey et al 1998; Zelinsky 1971). Among the main reasons explaining why it is so difficult to generalize about the causes and consequences of migration are the diversity and complexity of the phenomenon as well as the difficulty of separating migration from other socio-economic and political processes. Moreover, it is often difficult to combine macro- and micro-level theories of migration. This has led scholars to conclude that there will probably never be a general theory on migration (Salt 1987; Van Amersfoort 1998) [13].

It is argued that one of the main assumptions is that people should act rationally and serve to increase the benefits that come from them. Massey and his supporters describe this model as a microeconomic model of individual choice [14]. The views of most economists are considered to be disproportionate to those of anthropologists and historians. Indeed, they acknowledge that economic factors cannot be relied upon by limiting social and cultural factors in predicting population movements in advance and making appropriate predictions. In addition, anthropologists and historians do not take the issue of positive and negative factors and outcomes lightly. However, policy makers often turn to economists (and economist demographers) for evaluation criteria related to setting tax payments, attracting human capital, and identifying the benefits of immigration. Naturally, this approach serves to shape the theoretical debates between economists (Borjas, Huber, Rothman, and Espenshade) [15]. Chiswick's early work focused on the level and pace of economic adaptation of immigrants [16]. It was found that although the initial salary of immigrants is 17% lower than that of the local population, after about 10-15 years, immigrants in the United States will start earning higher than average wages. Other scholars, especially George Boryas, have rejected Chiswick's conclusions. Chiswick, in turn, denied the views of Boryas and other scholars.

The attention of economists and demographers is also focused on the restrictions of immigrants on education, social security, and social insurance. Chiswick supports immigration legislation policies and their screening process. The state, which focuses on the qualifications of the immigrant as the main criterion in obtaining a visa, follows a special development model, which means that it no longer pursues an immigration policy related to family reunification and refugee status determination. Naturally, immigrants in countries with different immigration policies also differ from each other. Political scientists and lawyers, who began to pay more attention to the issue later than other disciplines, decided to look for answers to these questions.

According to Hollifield, the attention of political scientists is focused on exactly these three issues. First, the role of the state in managing migration flows and controlling state borders. Second, the impact of migration on state sovereignty and the institution of citizenship, and the interrelationship of migration with foreign policy and national security policy. The third is the problem of incorporation. Political scientists seek to get acquainted with the research work of sociologists and economists on social and economic incorporation, to enrich them with knowledge about political incorporation, that is, to study the issues of citizenship and other rights.

This issue is also in the spotlight of lawyers. In particular, Salyer's *Law Harsh as Tigers* explores this issue in the case of the Chinese who immigrated to the United States in the late 19th century [17].

Salyer argues that these "temporary migrants" have established their rights based on the fight against discriminatory laws. Like sociologists, political scientists also focus primarily on the study of the host society. However, although less so than immigration policy (rules governing entry), it is possible to identify scholars involved in emigration policy (rules governing exit). The attention of these scholars is focused on the causes of the problem and the issues of development [18].

Regardless of the study of observer or host societies by political scientists, the theoretical debates between them continue. While some political scientists rely on the microeconomic approach to the study of migration, i.e. the theory of rational choice, another group of scholars studies the conditions of development of immigration to industrial democracy, their institutional and cultural aspects [19].

The main factors leading to immigration are:

- existence of a stable economic and social situation;
- benefits for low-income groups;
- opportunity to work calmly and get a decent salary;

- there is no threat to life and health;
- laws of tolerance;
- prices for food, clothing, housing, and communal services allow living decently.

According to the International Organization for Migration, the number of international migrants in 2010 was 214 million, or 3.1% of the world's population [20]. As a result of the situation in the Middle East, it can be observed that this figure has increased several times since 2014. If the current figure continues to grow in this way, it could reach 505 million by 2050.

According to reports by the International Organization for Migration, in the past period of 2016, more than 100,000 refugees entered the territory of Greece and Italy. In a short time, 97,000 refugees moved to Greece and 7,500 to Italy. More than 410,000 migrants and refugees died during this period. The migration route from Turkey to Greece via the Mediterranean is still dangerous.

It should be noted that the data on migration does not accurately reflect the current situation. After all, students and tourists who visit another country for the purpose of education and training are not officially registered as immigrants. However, some of them enter the territory of the state with the help of tourist visas and engage in illegal labor activities there. In addition, unregistered migrants are not accounted for [21].

## ***Conclusions***

In conclusion, it is no secret that the migration problem, which is currently worrying the world, is having tragic consequences. As noted above, migration is a process that is uniquely complex and full of contradictions. This event, along with a number of positive aspects for both the observer and host countries, poses a number of challenges. The extent to which the population of the country is involved in migration processes is reflected in the deepening of its consequences. For example, migration improves the financial situation of a particular family, but without the involvement of one or both parents, the ability to maintain the family and fully organize the upbringing of children is reduced.

In addition, the migration process can serve as a vehicle to increase the impact of many external risks. That is, in the process of migration there is an artificial growth of the population, which increases the demand for food, material supplies. Humanity, of course, does not always choose a good path to meet its needs. It can also lead to ethnic and diverse conflicts within the inner layer. The scale of migration is constantly growing, which attracts the population of almost all countries of the world to the migration process. However, population migration is highly controversial. On the one hand, its positive aspects such as attracting highly educated immigrants to the country have been noted, which increases the country's productivity and competitiveness. On the other hand, there is a fear that migrants are the most attractive job, or that they will contribute to the state's spending on social benefits. Government officials fear that immigrants are carriers of a different cultural environment and will cause social discord in society. Therefore, nation-states should have a certain policy towards immigrants. The uniqueness of the migration problem is that it covers different areas of public life and exerts its broad impact. Accordingly, none of the approaches to the origin of the existing problem and its solution can be considered universal. The optimal approach in this regard requires a comprehensive use of existing approaches.

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