

Issue description

Committee: Special Conference on global balance

Issue of: The Issue of Domestic Migration

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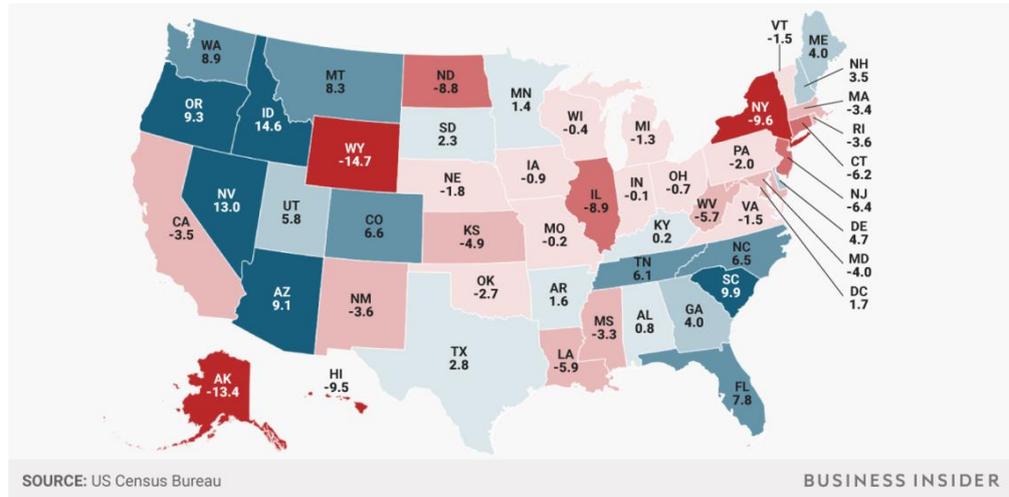
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Introduction:

Internal migration refers to human migration within one geopolitical entity, usually a nation-state. Reasons for internal migration tend to be different from those for cross-border migration, whereas the latter often occurs primarily for political or economic reasons. Reasons for internal migration prominently include travel for education and for economic, but not for political reasons. A general trend of movement from rural to urban areas has also produced as a form of internal migration leading to rapid urbanization in several countries. The history of many

countries have seen massive internal migration.

The United States of America saw a massive internal migration from the



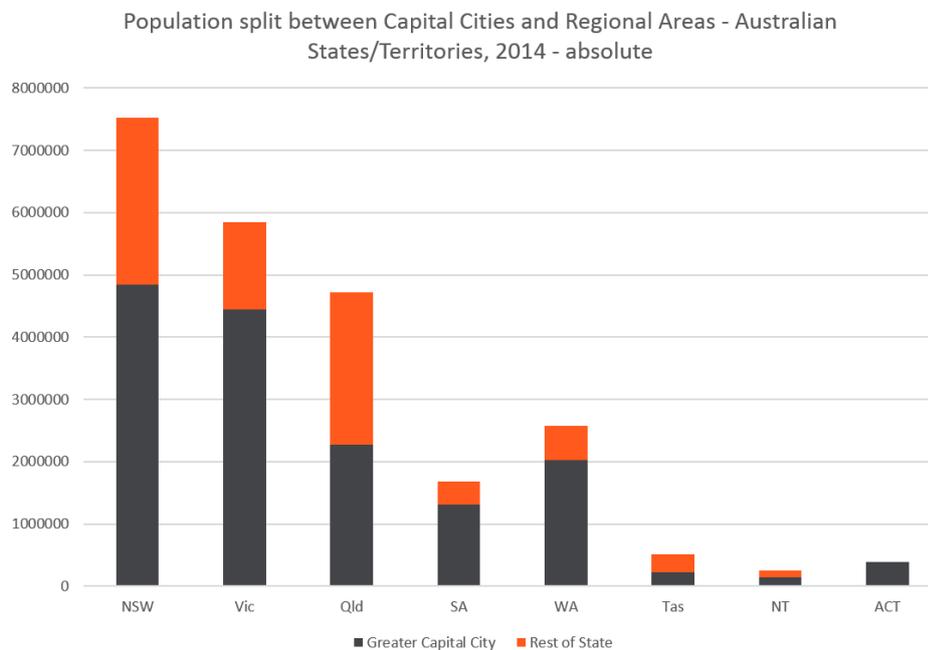
eastern states toward the west coast during the mid-19th century. A similar large-scale migration of african-americans from the agricultural south to the industrialized northeast in the early to mid-20th century, and a large-scale reverse migration of African Americans from other parts of the country to the urban South beginning in the late 20th century and continuing to the present. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has historically seen several migrations from the north of England to the south and also from Scotland to Ireland. More recently, from Northern Ireland and Wales, to England. This was most prevalent during the Industrial Revolution and also in the aftermath of the Irish potato famine. In New Zealand the



drift to the north has seen the South Island gradually lose population to the main urban area Auckland in the country's far North.

General overview:

The world's population is increasing. Urban cities are home to 54 percent of the world's population. By 2050 that figure will rise to 70 percent with 5.2 billion urban residents. Urban growth in population occurs as a result of the natural increase between birth and deaths and migration to towns and cities. Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. There are two types of migration; international and internal. International migration is when people move from one country to another for example from the UK to Spain. Internal migration is the movement of people within the same region or country for example from rural to urban



areas. These moves whether international or internal can be long or short-term. There are many reasons for migration; economic, social, political or environmental. Some people have no choice, they have to move. This is

called forced migration. It can occur as a result of conflict, development, changing policies and natural disasters. In the next 30 years more than 1.5 billion people, more than 50 million a year are projected to move into cities in Africa and Asia. Mega cities with a population of more than 10 million such as Delhi, Beijing and São Paulo have been the most visible face of urbanization, but medium and small cities that are not capital cities and have a population from 1 to 5 million contain 59% of the world's urban population and are the fastest growing. This urban growth has two important trends. Firstly, internal migration is occurring in small and medium cities, in low-income developing countries, secondly, if the migration is taking place between such countries is known as South-South migration. It is estimated that there are approximately 740 million internal migrants worldwide, though actual numbers are likely to be much higher as it is often difficult to capture data on these movements. Economically less developed countries and

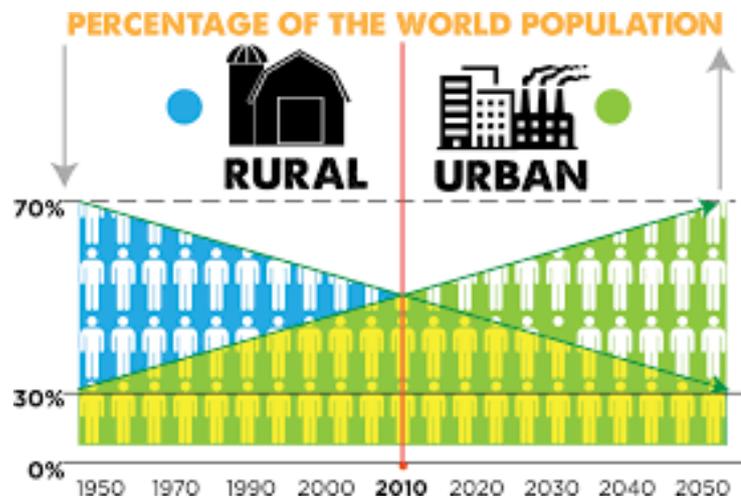


regional migration may enhance people's lives through access to jobs, education and health services creating the diverse societies and labor needed for the economic growth. However migration may also put social, economic and environmental pressure on already stressed cities; for example socially it may generate inequality, exclusion and deprivation as a result of poor quality housing in tensions between new and existing residents. Economically, employment may be informal and precarious which creates an equal access to services such as health care and education in communities particularly for young people. Environmentally, water and energy security may not be reliable or be easy to access or be affordable. For poorer communities not only does migration impact cities but the experience of migration impacts people themselves. For many, seeking new prospects or refuge may enhance their lives, however, be for others, migration may lead to them becoming trapped, unable to fully integrate into new communities through increasing insecurity, unable to return to their previous lives. So how can cities adapt to new urban challenges of internal migration? This is being addressed by a Sustainable Development Goal, number 11, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable for all by 2030.

Major Parties Involved:

Since 1978, the People's Republic of China has experienced the largest internal migration in human history. Nearly a 160 million people, that is almost 12% of today's population, have left rural areas to seek work in the cities. The motivation to move was obvious; in 1978 everyone was poor and rural incomes were less than 40 per cent of urban ones. Suddenly, the Communist China threw open its doors and factories appeared in coastal towns, where farmers could make more money in a month than in a year growing rice. Migrants moved from the poorest inland provinces, such as Gray Jo, Sichuan. In 1980, farmers here lived on less than \$2 a day according to Kam Wing Chan. According to the University of Washington, more than 10 million workers migrated out of their home province between 1990 and 1995, another 32 million migrated from 1995 to 2000, and yet another 38 million over the next five years by 2011. Nearly a hundred and sixty million rural Chinese were working far from home, between 2001 and 2010, migration contributed nearly 20 per cent of China's economic growth but it has all come at a personal cost. Many migrants spend years away from their family. Industrialization has also caused a terrible pollution problem but many felt a huge personal and national economic impact has made it

worthwhile in the 1990s. The wealth gap between the rural and urban China opened wide though the gap has closed a little, this is still a huge social issue, with tens of thousands of cases of rural unrest. The city of Shenzhen, just over the border from Hong Kong, is a classic example of the speed at which Chinese cities have grown. Shenzhen has sprawled from a town of a few thousand in 1978 to a city of 12 million people in 2010, and it is set to keep on growing. The EIU forecasts that the population will hit 15 million by 2020, in just over 30 years. The GDP of coastal provinces, such as Guangdong, where Shenzhen is located, has shot up to other coastal provinces. Jiujiang and Jiangsu, in 2010 had the same GDP as Austria and Switzerland. Respectively now though as the cost of labor and land near the coast has risen, manufacturing is moving inland and fewer migrants are travelling to the coastal cities as more jobs are created in inland cities and provinces. More wealth is trickling down to rural areas too.



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