

Geography of Migration

By David Lanegran Ph.D.
Macalester College

Introduction

- Geography of Migration focuses on
 - The decision to migrate
 - Origin and destination regions
 - Paths of movement
 - Movement of people at several scales
- This lecture will provide an overview to patterns of international migration and movement within the United States.

Outline

- Patterns of movement
- Types of migration
- Models of migration
- International migrations
 - Movement of pre-modern people
 - Migrations between 1500 and 1920
 - Contemporary migrations
- Migrations to the United States and Minnesota

Patterns of Movement

- Cyclical

- Short term movement such as commuter movement in a city
- No intention to leave home base
- May involve stays of more than one work day
- Most of these movements in the past have not covered long distances, this has now changed
- Involves the greatest number of people and has created demands for infrastructure and special equipment

Patterns of Movement

- Periodic

- This involves workers who establish temporary living quarters in their place of work but do not give up their home base details
- Can be one time move or seasonal movement such as agricultural workers or pastoral nomads
- Tourism falls into this category of movement
- Some college students fall into this category

Patterns of Movement

- Migration

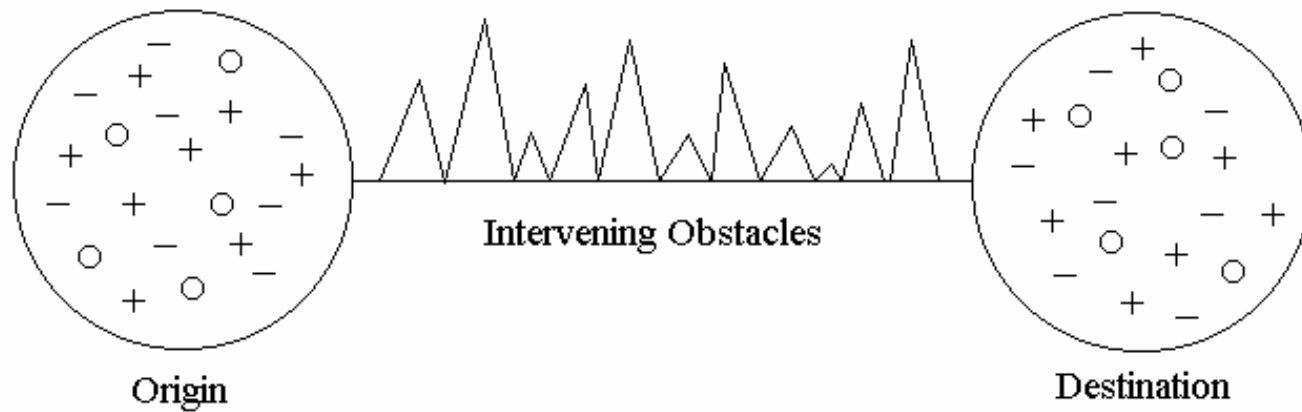
- Movement of people from one place to another for the purpose of permanent settlement
 - Many who make what they think will be a periodic move stay permanently, especially men and women who marry in their work locale

Two Types of Migration

- Voluntary
 - People move to better opportunities NOT to empty areas
- Forced
 - Cultural – war, crop failures
 - Environmental

Why Do People Move?

- Propensity of move – people constantly evaluating their location options
- Role of information field
- Push and pull factors
- Intervening barriers



Factors at origin and destination

+ attracting

o neutral

- repulsing

E.M. Ravenstein's "Laws of Migration" (1885 & 1889)

- The great body of migrants move a short distance
- Migrants going long distances go to large cities
- Migration occurs in stages (when one group leaves another takes their previous home)
- Each main current of migration sets up a compensating counter current

Ravenstein's Cont.

- Rural population more likely to move
- Females dominate short-journey migration
- Increases in technology produce an increase in migration
- Economic motives dominate migration

Characteristics of Migrants

- Migration is selective (migrants not a random sample of population at the origin).

Characteristics of Migrants

- Migrants responding primarily to the positive factors at the destination tend to be positively selected. No need to migrate, but are pulled by better opportunities.

Characteristics of Migrants

- Migrants responding primarily to negative factors at origin are selected negatively.
- When negative factors are overwhelming the entire population moves.

Characteristics of Migrants

- Taking all migrants together the selection tends to be bimodal. For any given origin points some people are pulled while others are pushed.
- The degree of positive selection increases with difficulty of the trip.

Characteristics of Migrants

- The heightened propensity to migrate at certain states of the life cycle is important in the selection of migrants
 - Rite of passage
 - Marital status
 - Size of family

Characteristics of Migrants

- The characteristics of migrants tend to be intermediate between the population of origin and the population destination.

Ravenstein's Transformed to Potential Model

- Potential for interaction between two places is the result of the product of their masses divided by their distance

$$I_{ij} = a \cdot \frac{m_i m_j}{d_{ij}}$$

The potential for people in Alabama to move to one of 23 selected cities is equal to the sum of the attraction the potentials of each of the 23 cities.

$$\sum_{j=1}^{23} \frac{P_j}{d_{aj}}$$

Each of the 23 cities will exert a pull on the Alabama migrants proportional to its mass and inversely proportional to its distance.

N.B.

- We can vary the measure of distance to be time or cost and we can give an exponent to show its significance. The larger the exponent, the more significant the friction of distance (intervening barriers).

The Potential of Alabamans to Move

$$V_{\text{Alabama}} = \sum_{j=1}^{23} \frac{P_j}{d_{aj}}$$

If the total potential for Alabama equals V , the fraction of that total accounted for by city j equals the total potential contributed by city j

The total potential focused on Alabama by 23 places

OR

$$\frac{P_j / d_{aj}}{V_{Alabama}}$$

We Can Vary the Spatial Scale (P) to Any Unit We Wish to Study

- Countries
- Regions
- States
- Counties
- Neighborhoods

Implications

- If the attractiveness of a place increases, the potential for migration to it increases
- If the friction of distance decreases between two places the potential for population movement increases
 - e.g. A bridge over the St Croix river will increase potential interaction between Minnesota and Wisconsin.

And

- We can use measures other than population size to describe the attractiveness of the cities
 - Number of jobs
 - Number of certain types of jobs

Likewise

- If we increase the friction of distance we will reduce the number of migrants
 - e.g. Build a wall

However

- The greater the pull, the greater the barrier must be to reduce the pull on migrants

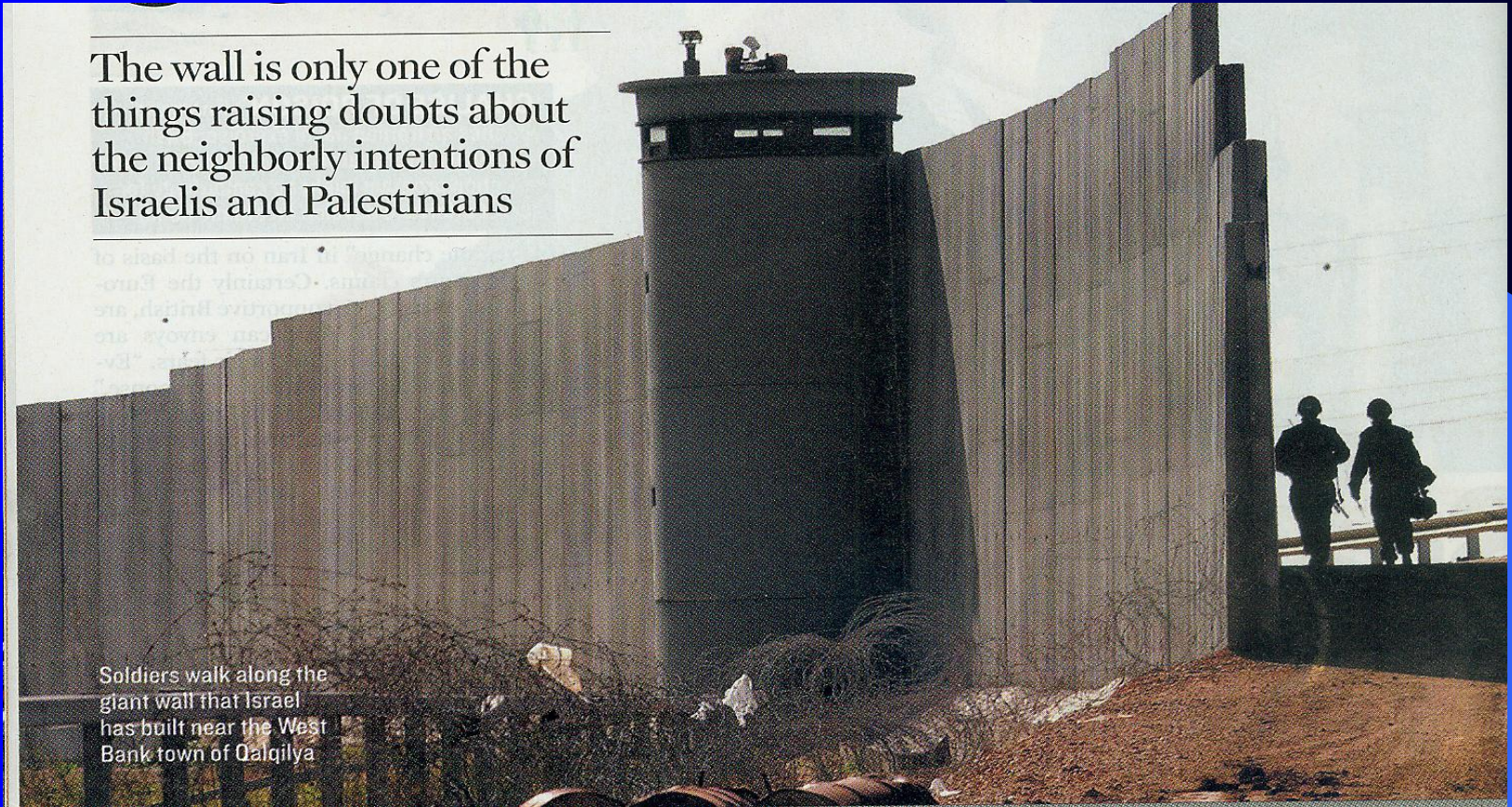
When the Pull Is Great the Wall Must Be As Well



The Wall Around Palestine

The wall is only one of the things raising doubts about the neighborly intentions of Israelis and Palestinians

Soldiers walk along the giant wall that Israel has built near the West Bank town of Qalqilya





SOURCES: YEDOT AHROHOT NEWSPAPER; PEACE NOW; EARTHVIEWER.COM. RESEARCH BY KAREN YOURISH. GRAPHIC BY KARL GUIDE—NEWSWEEK

Picture of Wall on US Mexican Border

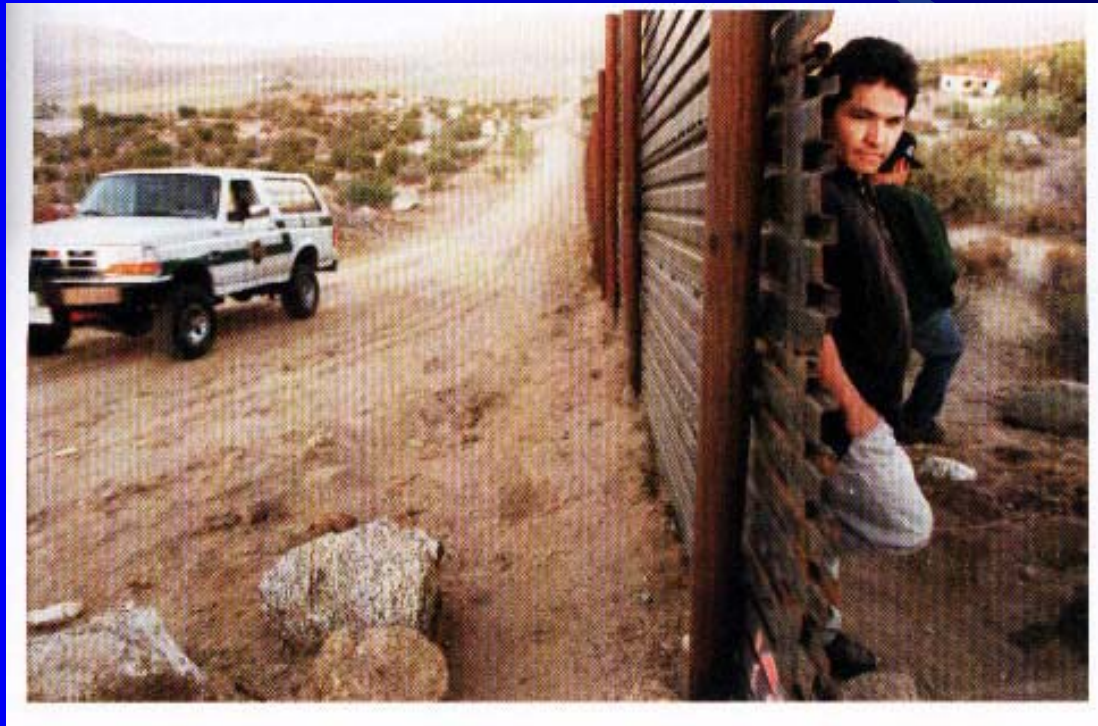


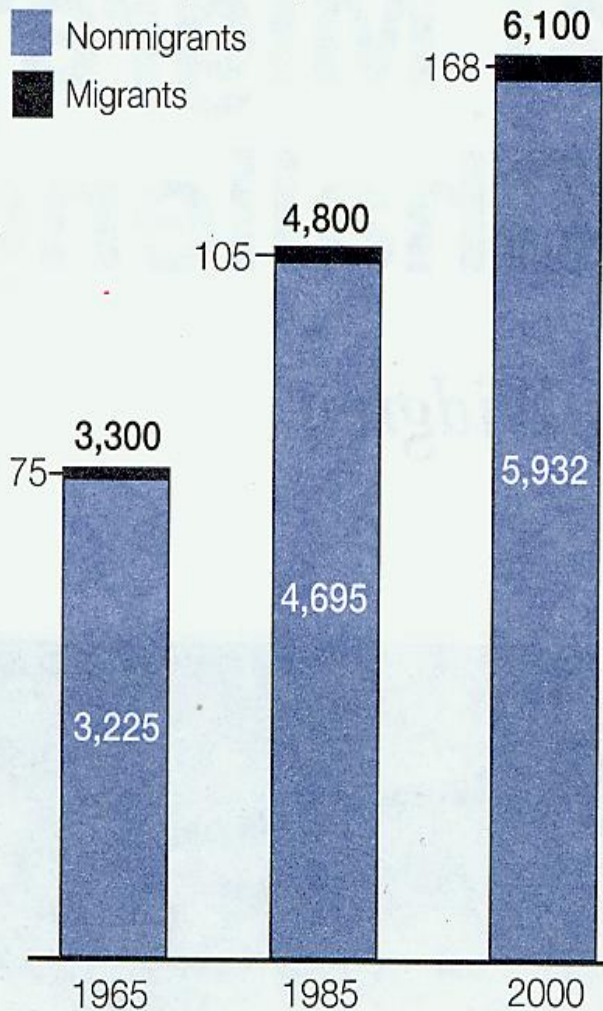
Figure 1

World Population: Migrants and Nonmigrants, 1965, 1985, 2000

Population (millions)

■ Nonmigrants

■ Migrants



Immigrants Do Not Comprise a Large Fraction of the Total Population