

After School Review: Migrations in World History

Causes of Migration in History

- these are usually referred to as push and pull factors
 - will break them down by theme
 - also keep in mind that migration may be internal or international
 - rural to urban
 - region to region
 - country to country
- 1. Economic
 - people leave to search for better economic conditions or employment
 - urbanization attracts people in some cases
- 2. Demographic Issues
 - migration to escape overpopulation and its impacts
 - a good example of this is migration to suburbs
- 3. Environmental Issues
 - migration to escape poor climate conditions such as drought or weather issues
 - migration to escape natural disasters
- 4. Political Issues
 - escape wars, invasions, military takeover, etc.
 - commonly referred to as refugees
 - escape persecution on ethnic, political, religious, or other grounds
 - diasporas
 - escape persecution for crimes committed
 - punishment for crimes committed
 - Australia served as a penal colony for Britain
 - forced migration due to enslavement or human trafficking
- 5. Social and Cultural Issues
 - to spread religion
 - reunite with family, friends, or others who have migrated
 - to spread ideologies around such as Marxism or democracy
 - to find personal freedom or to live a certain lifestyle or hold certain beliefs
 - Pilgrims on the Mayflower for example

Impacts of Migrations

1. On immigrants
 - issues of identity emerge (where do my loyalties lie?)
 - issues of adaptation and assimilation (traditions tested)
 - differing cultural values between generations
2. On Host Country
 - economic impacts
 - immigrants are taking our jobs, driving down wages and are a burden
 - xenophobia
3. Effects on Home Country
 - money sent back home by workers
 - loss of revenue
 - families are left behind and traditional societies and structures threatened
 - population decrease and issues
4. Multi-National Issues
 - “open border” policies in the European Union
 - immigration policies that restrict the number of immigrants allowed in each ear
 - security issues
 - this has been especially important after 9/11

Examples of Migrations by Periodization

Post-Classical Period (600-1450)

1. Islam
 - heavily spread during the post-classical period
 - religion started in 632 CE under Muhammad
 - soon spread across the Middle East, into North Africa, into Spain, and into Asia
 - spread via trade and invasion mostly
 - had large impacts
 - creation of the Delhi Sultanate in India
 - became a majority religion in many locations
 - began to control trade in various areas
 - allowed for the diffusion of various ideas and technology as it spread
 - papermaking
 - new crops
 - ideas in math and science
 - dominated Indian Ocean trade system with the Dhow
 - began to control the Trans-Saharan trade
 - began to practice slavery in Africa
 - blending of cultures occurred
 - development of currency in some regions

- preserved culture and knowledge of various cultures, which was a big factor for the Renaissance in Europe

2. Viking Migrations (800s-1100 CE)

- Vikings began to emerge in the Scandinavia area in 800 CE
- began to raid and take over various areas during this time
 - due to their knowledge of ocean currents and the design of the longship
- impact
 - raided various locations
 - made voyages across the Atlantic
 - helped build trade in Europe
 - probably founded Kievan Rus

3. Mongols

- Mongols emerged in the 1100s around Central Asia
 - nomadic pastoralists
- heavily built up by Genghis Khan
- Mongols began to conquer various regions and incorporate them into their empire
- made four khanates
 - Khanate of the Great Khan in China
 - Khanate of the Golden Horde
 - Chagadai Khanate
 - Ilkhanate
- had large impacts
 - impacted the culture of each region they came in contact with
 - especially true in China
 - established their own traditions and ideas on the region
 - had large destructive impacts on populations and the environment in many locations
 - killed off people
 - did heavy damage to agricultural goods and products
 - turned farmland into pasture land
 - did establish the Pax Mongolica, which improved trade and made it faster
 - allowed for religious exchange to occur
 - technology exchange began to occur
 - did allow for the spread of the Black Death
 - assimilated in with Persian culture in the Middle East
 - established a tribute system in Russia

4. Polynesian Migrations

- another wave of migrations started around 500 CE and lasted until around 1000 CE
- used voyaging canoes to reach most of the Pacific Islands by 1000 CE
- mixed with other cultures to create hybrid cultures across the entire region
- biggest impact was environmental
 - radically altered ecosystems they came into contact with
 - introduced new animals and crops
 - pigs devastated crop species in areas they migrated to
 - best example was Hawaii
 - hunted many species to extinction

- heavy deforestation occurred in many regions
- began to have heavy population growth, which strained resources
- biggest example of this was on Easter Island
 - deforestation destroyed soil fertility and food sources dried up
 - some speculate rats as you read earlier in the year

Early Modern Period (1450-1750)

1. European Colonization

- major European countries began to go overseas and establish colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Americas
 - Portugal, Spain, England, France, and the Dutch Republic
 - as they established colonies, Europeans went with them
 - this was especially true for settler colonies like South Africa
 - some went for adventure, others to escape religious persecution, others were forced to through indentured servitude
- had a huge impact
 - spread disease across the Americas
 - 90% of Native Americans died off in the Great Dying from smallpox
 - introduced new animals
 - began to conquer native people
 - introduced Christianity into regions and tried to convert people
 - syncretic religions formed, such as cults of saints in Latin America
 - began to heavily control trade across multiple regions
 - began to establish their own governments and institutions in these regions
 - created a global trade network across the world
 - led to the creation of new elites, such as creoles in Latin America
 - individuals back in the Americas profited from this as well

2. Slave Trade

- this should be obvious
- lasted from c. 1500-1807
- forced migration of Africans to various locations in the Americas
- led to huge impacts
 - syncretism in the Caribbean (voodoo religion)
 - mixture of culture beliefs in general happened in various areas
 - brought food types, such as rice with them
 - changed the racial make up of areas such as Brazil
 - led to discrimination and racial issues for centuries to come in various regions of the world
 - plantation systems used to fund world economy and expansion
 - this of course disrupted life back in Africa as well with European slave trade actions

Modern Era (1750-1900 CE)

1. Slave trade continued until the early 1800s

2. Indentured Servants

- this began to replace the slave trade after it was abolished
- became a source of cheap labor after the slave trade
- brought in to various locations in the Americas, Africa, and Asia
- also impacted people from India
 - Indians that owed debts were often transported to various colonies of European powers to work on sugar plantations
 - this happened until 1920

3. European Migrations

- Europeans expanded on colonial migration with imperialism in the late 1800s
- Europeans began to settle in imperial colonies
 - areas such as Algeria for the French or South Africa for the British
 - began to control these areas, especially the administrations
 - would lead to a variety of issues both during and after imperial control
- urbanization
 - Europeans also began to move into cities in the 1800s
 - this was due to the attraction of new industrial jobs as well as overpopulation in some areas
 - population increase occurred due to new food sources from the Americas
 - led to the creation of the urban poor in many areas
 - led to slums and relatively crowded city conditions
 - this eventually led to public health reform and policies to assist the poor
 - big changes here occurred
- European migrated in mass numbers to America in the 1800s
 - especially true after the Hungry Forties
 - Irish
 - Eastern Europeans
 - this led to attempts to restrict immigration in the United States with various immigration acts
 - also had the formation of ethnic enclaves like Little Italy

-4. Forced Migrations

- slavery still continued internally in many areas
 - Americas
 - Africa
- convict labor
 - British used Australia as a penal colony for a good period of time
 - also had forced internal migration to labor camps in some regions, especially in the 20th century
- Native American groups
 - forced to leave homeland in the United States and head west to reservations
 - Trail of Tears in 1832
 - forced removal of Cherokee people from the Southeast of the United States

-5. Temporary and seasonal migrants

- individuals that migrated to a certain area for seasonal work and then returned back home
- example of this would be some of the diamond and gold mines established in Africa

- people forced to migrate to the mine area and live in shanty towns for certain parts of the year
- this led to a whole range of issues
 - family disruption back in the original area the people were from
 - poverty and other issues in shanty towns
 - racial segregation and issues in multiple regions

-6. Other voluntary migrations

- Chinese laborers migrated to the west coast of the United States throughout the middle and later 1800s
 - many began to work on railroads or other industries
 - many moved into California
 - this led to a negative reaction, as the U.S. passed immigration laws prohibiting Chinese immigration
 - basically legal discrimination
- U.S. had internal migration throughout the 1800s as many moved westward
- due to population pressure and economic attractions like the gold rush in the 1940s

Contemporary (20th century)

-for this periodization, I am going to take a more big picture approach

1. Voluntary Migrations

- people have continued throughout the 20th century to migrate to areas like America
 - attracted by economic pursuits and the hope of a better life in some cases
 - have current day migrations into the U.S. from Latin American countries
- individuals have migrated from former colonies back to the mother country after decolonization
 - hundreds of thousands from Algeria back to France
 - 1. 4 million people from India to Britain
- Islamic individuals have migrated into the area of Europe toward the end of the 20th century
 - this has been facilitated by open borders by some EU countries
- have had a lot of seasonal migration throughout the 20th century as well to go to areas to farm and return profits back to the home country
- had scientists migrate to the United States during and following WWII
 - this could be argued to be partially forced due to the events of the war
 - led to an increase in the amount of scientists in the U.S. and attempts by Europe to catch up
 - called the Brain Drain

2. Forced Migrations

- have had dictatorships at various points force people into labor camps
 - gulags in the Soviet Union
 - re-education centers in Communist China and Cambodia
 - concentration camps with the Nazis
- have had displacement of people due to decolonization issues
 - Israel and Palestine
 - India and Pakistan
- global conflict has led to refugees from various wars
 - have had refugees from genocides such as the Holocaust, Cambodia, and Rwanda
 - have spilled over into other countries in the case of Rwanda

- ethnic violence and wars have led to the displacement of people into new locations
 - WW2, Vietnam, and other war torn areas have experienced displaced persons being forced to move to new locations
 - Darfur is another example of displaced people from conflict

- Cold War caused some forced migration
 - people that felt economically disadvantaged and oppressed tried to escape from East Germany into West Berlin throughout the Cold War
 - after the collapse of the Berlin Wall and of communism, many people resettled to new areas

-Impacts

- perhaps the biggest impact has been the concerns over illegal immigration for many countries
 - biggest examples are the United States and EU
 - both countries have had the same concerns with this
 - security issues
 - job concerns
 - tradition concerns
 - both have had regularization programs or amnesty programs to grant citizenship to those that have come into the country
 - EU has especially had concerns as it is possible to freely go from country to country in the Eurozone

- have had xenophobia and ultra nationalist groups
 - many have expressed fears or concerns t immigration
 - again, this has mainly been the United States and EU
 - groups claim that immigrants dilute the country's traditions
 - have had anti-immigration groups form or influences in political parties
 - Europe has experienced a lot of anti-Muslim protests and actions
 - stems from concerns about Muslims overtaking Christianity as predominant religion
 - were riots from Muslim groups in Paris in 2005 over these views
 - have had discrimination and other actions taken against immigrant groups

- final example of an impact are refugee camps that have been established in areas experiencing ethnic violence and conflict
 - have really seen this in Africa due to civil wars and other issues in the region such as Darfur