

An Introduction to Human Geography  
The Cultural Landscape, 8e  
James M. Rubenstein

## *Chapter 3*

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# Migration

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modified DKroegel

# Diffusion

- The process by which characteristics spreads across space from one place to another over time
  - Types of diffusion
    - Relocation diffusion
      - The spread of an idea through physical movement of people from one place to another
      - migration
    - Expansion diffusion
      - Hierarchal diffusion
      - Contagious diffusion
      - Stimulus diffusion

# Mobility – *Make yourself mobile!*

- Migration – permanent move

- Immigration (In)
- Emigration (Out/Exit)

A migrant (or what deBlij calls a mobal) is both an immigrant and an emigrant at the same time.

- Circulation
  - routine, cyclical, repetitive movement
- Seasonal mobility
  - Migratory (like birds)



# E.G. Ravenstein

- Reasons for migrating
  - Most people migrate for economic reasons
  - Less frequently cultural and environmental factors
- Distance of migration
  - Most migrants relocate a short distance within the same country
  - Long-distance migrants to other countries head for major centers of economic activity
- Characteristics of migrants
  - Most long-distance migrants are male (1990s US-55% female)
  - Most long-distance migrants are adult *individuals* rather than couples with children

# Why People Migrate

- Reasons for migrating
  - *Push and pull factors*
    - Economic – MOST COMMON
      - PUSH: financial instability, unemployment
      - PULL: financial stability; jobs
    - Cultural– Tradition, modernity, language, politics, religion, ethnicity
      - PUSH: slavery (forced), political instability (refugees), war
      - PULL: freedom, political asylum
    - Environmental – personal preferences
      - PUSH: TOO-cold, high, wet and/or dry lands; hazardous pollution
      - PULL: beaches, warm/moderate climate, scenic



# Refugees: Sources and destinations

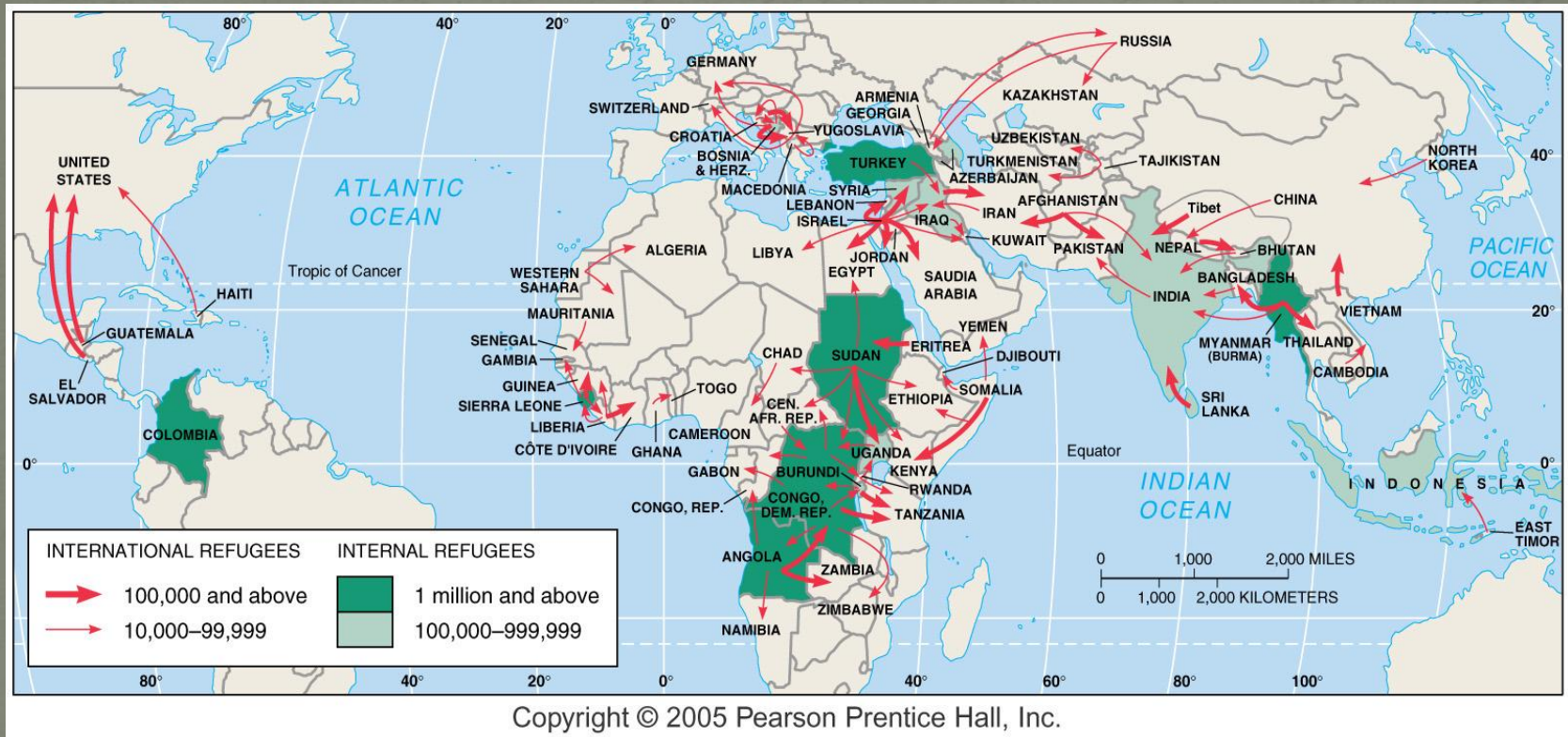


Fig. 3-1: Major source and destination areas of both international and internal refugees.

# Why People Migrate

## – *Intervening obstacles*

Economic, environmental or cultural feature that hinders migration

Examples?

(*distance-decay* – the farther away a place is located, the less likely that people will migrate to it)



# Why People Migrate

- Distance of migration
  - *Internal migration – permanent movement within the same country*
    - *Interregional*
    - *Intraregional*

*Region – any area larger than a point and smaller than the entire planet.*

- *International migration – permanent movement from one country to another*
  - *Voluntary*
  - *Forced*



STAGE	DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION	EPIDEMIOLOGY TRANSITION Abdel Omran (1971) Stages 1-3 S. Jay Olshansky & Brian Ault Stage 4	MIGRATION TRANSITION Wilbur Zelinsky
1	CBR: very high, varied $\geq 35$ per1000 CDR: very high, varied $\geq 35$ per1000 NIR: low long term increase <b>Life style:</b> hunting & gathering and early farming practices (First Agricultural Revolution)	<b>Pestilence and famine</b> •infectious and parasitic diseases or principal causes of human death, along with accidents and attacks by animals and other humans •“natural checks” Malthus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlikely to migrate permanently;</li> <li>Mobility characterized by circulation including high daily or seasonal mobility in search of food</li> </ul>
2	CBR: very high, $\geq 35$ per1000 CDR: rapidly decline, $\geq 35$ down to $\approx 15$ per1000 NIR: very high, sharp increase at start then slows <b>Life style:</b> Agrarian (farmers); ability to cultivate <i>reliable</i> food source. Modern transition to stage 2 via medical revolution	<b>Receding pandemics</b> •improve sanitation, nutrition, and medicine during the Industrial Revolution reduce the spread of infectious diseases •poor people crowded into rapidly growing industrial cities still have especially high death rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International migration prominent; destination centers of economic opportunities in MDCs (Stage 3/4)</li> <li>Interregional migration - rural to urban</li> <li>Migration in response to reduced need for agricultural workers and increased factory jobs near cities</li> </ul>
3	CBR: rapidly decline, $\geq 35$ down to 15 per1000 CDR: slow decline, $\approx 15$ down to $< 10$ per1000 NIR: steady decline toward ZPG <b>Life style:</b> Extensive urbanization, secondary and tertiary sector jobs prevalent. <i>NEED</i> for large family declines with change in economic structure and medical advances reducing IMR	<b>Degenerative and human created diseases</b> •still decrease in deaths from infectious diseases •increase in chronic disorders associated with aging such as cardiovascular diseases (i.e. heart attacks), and various forms of cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal migration - cities to suburbs</li> </ul>
4	CBR: very low, $\approx 10$ per1000 CDR: very low, $\approx 10$ per1000 NIR: ZPG; TFR of 2.1 <b>Life style:</b> Urbanized – changing family structure, changing role of women, birth control, etc.	<b>Delayed degenerative disease</b> •cardiovascular diseases and cancers still exist, but the life expectancy of people is extended through medical advances and improved lifestyles and diets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal migration - cities to suburbs</li> <li>international guest worker migration</li> </ul>
5	Future... unconfirmed CBR: lower than CDR CDR: very low, $\approx 10$ per1000 NIR: population decline; TFR $< 2.1$ <b>Life style:</b> Urbanized – aging of population, established small family structure, women empowered, possible culture decline/extinction	Future... unconfirmed <b>Reemergence of infectious and parasitic diseases</b> •infectious diseases thought eradicated or controlled returned and new ones have emerged •potentially higher crude death rates <b>Reasons</b> •evolution of microbes •poverty •mobility/travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>international guest worker immigration</li> </ul>

# Why People Migrate

- Characteristics of migrants
  - *Gender*
    - *In Ravenstein's time, largely young unmarried males*
    - *More recently, half or more are female*
      - *Changes in gender role and social status of woman*
  - *Family status, 2008 United States*
    - *40% - ages 25 to 39*
    - *5% - over 65*
    - *16% - under 15*
- \* *Some of those adults are bringing their children with them*

# Migration Patterns

- US immigrant stats, 2008:
  - +70,000,000 immigrant since 1820
  - 12% of US population are immigrants ( $\approx 36,960,000$ )
  - Largest concentration by number in the world but not the largest % of population
    - Australia 25%
    - Middle East 50%
    - United Arab Emirates 74%
    - Kuwait 68%

Jobs in the oil industry  
attract immigrants



# Global Migration Patterns

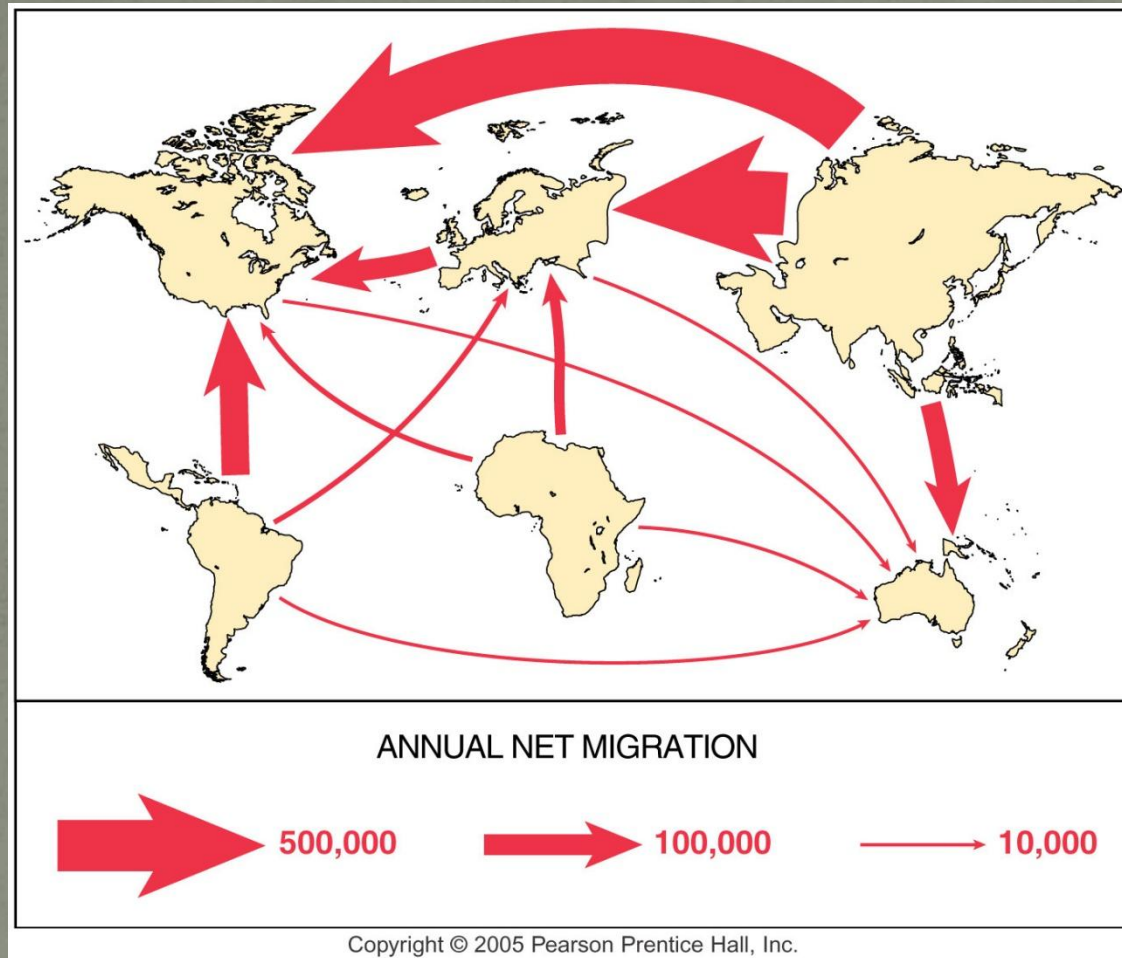
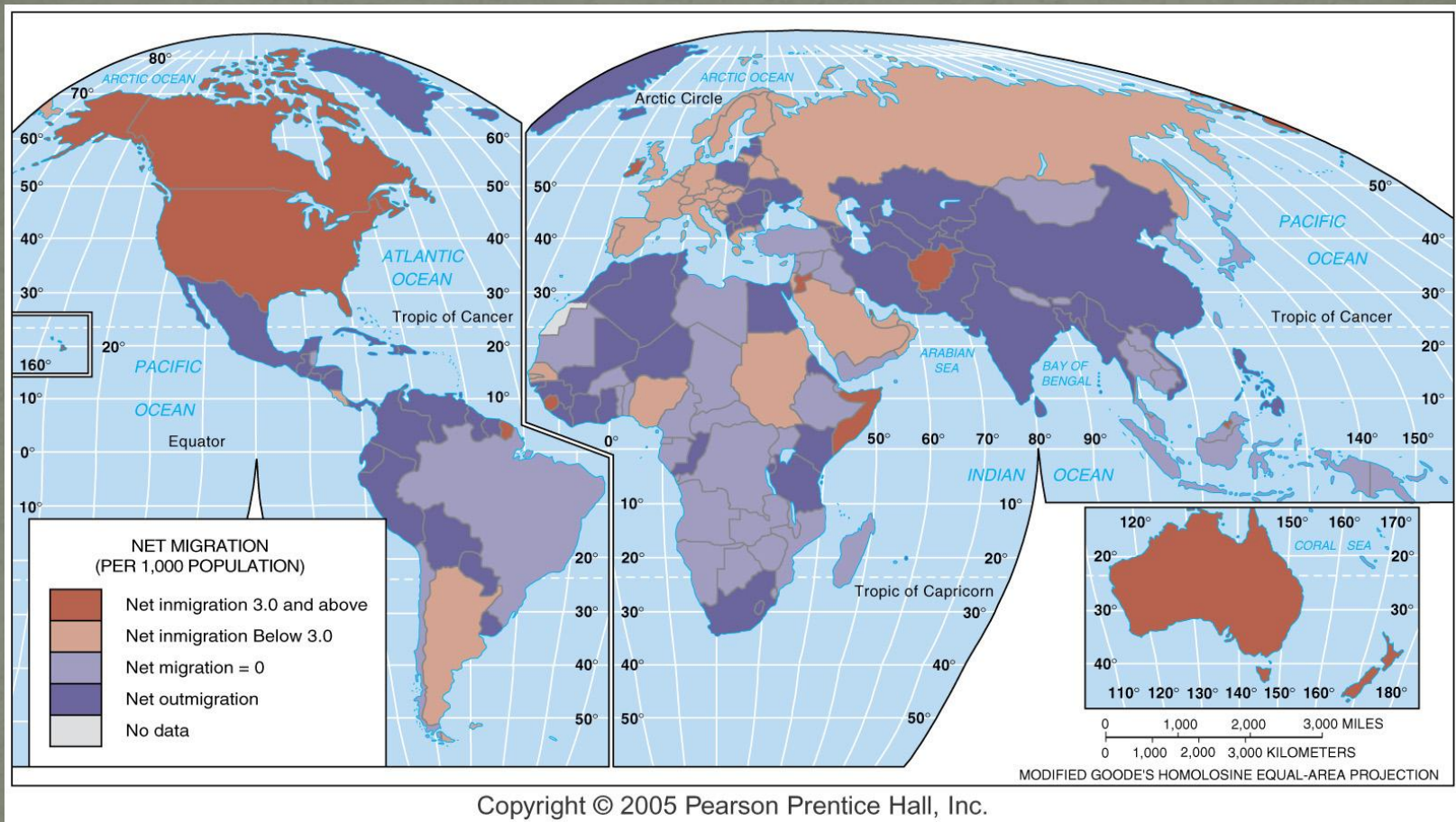


Fig. 3-2: The major flows of migration are from less developed to more developed countries.

# Net Migration (per population)



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Fig. 3-3: Net migration per 1,000 population. The U.S. has the largest number of immigrants, but other developed countries also have relatively large numbers.



# Migration Patterns

- U.S. migration patterns
  - *Colonial immigration*
    - *Europe –voluntary*
      - *Nearly all from Great Britain*
    - *Africa – forced, about 650,000*
  - *19th century immigration*
    - *Nearly ALL European*
  - *Recent immigration*
    - *Latin America*
    - *China*



# Migration to U.S., by region of origin

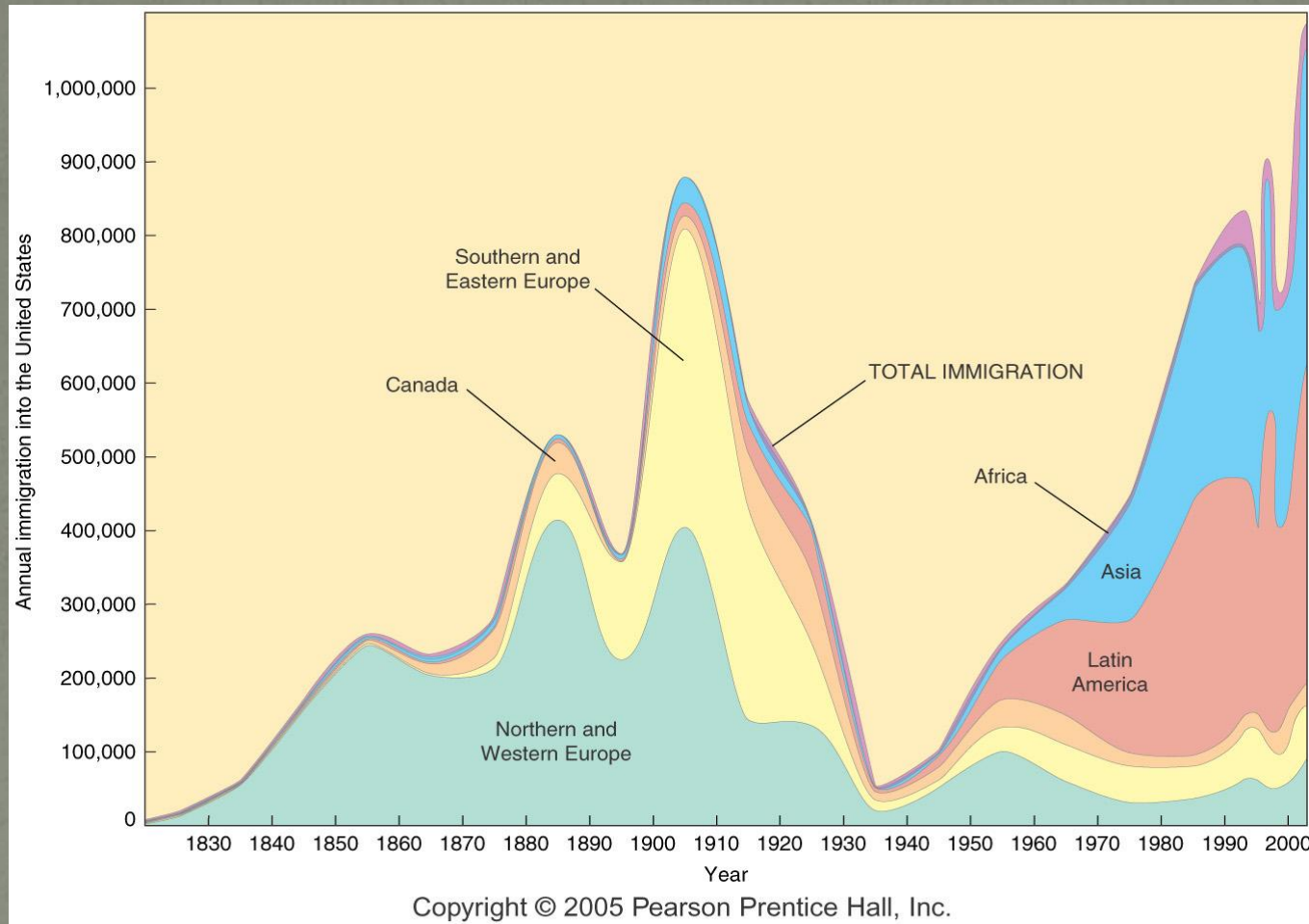


Fig. 3-4: Most migrants to the U.S. were from Europe until the 1960s. Since then, Latin America and Asia have become the main sources of immigrants.

# Migration Patterns

- Impact of immigration on the U.S.
  - *Legacy of European migration*
    - *Emigration fueled by Europe Stage 2 population growth post-Industrial Revolution*
    - *European culture – language, religion, politics diffusion*
  - *Undocumented immigration*
    - *Estimate at 7 – 20 million*
    - *Majority from Mexico*
  - *Destination of immigrants within the U.S.*
    - *Half – California, New York, Florida and Texas*
      - *Chain migration a factor in these concentrations*



# Migration from Asia to the U.S.

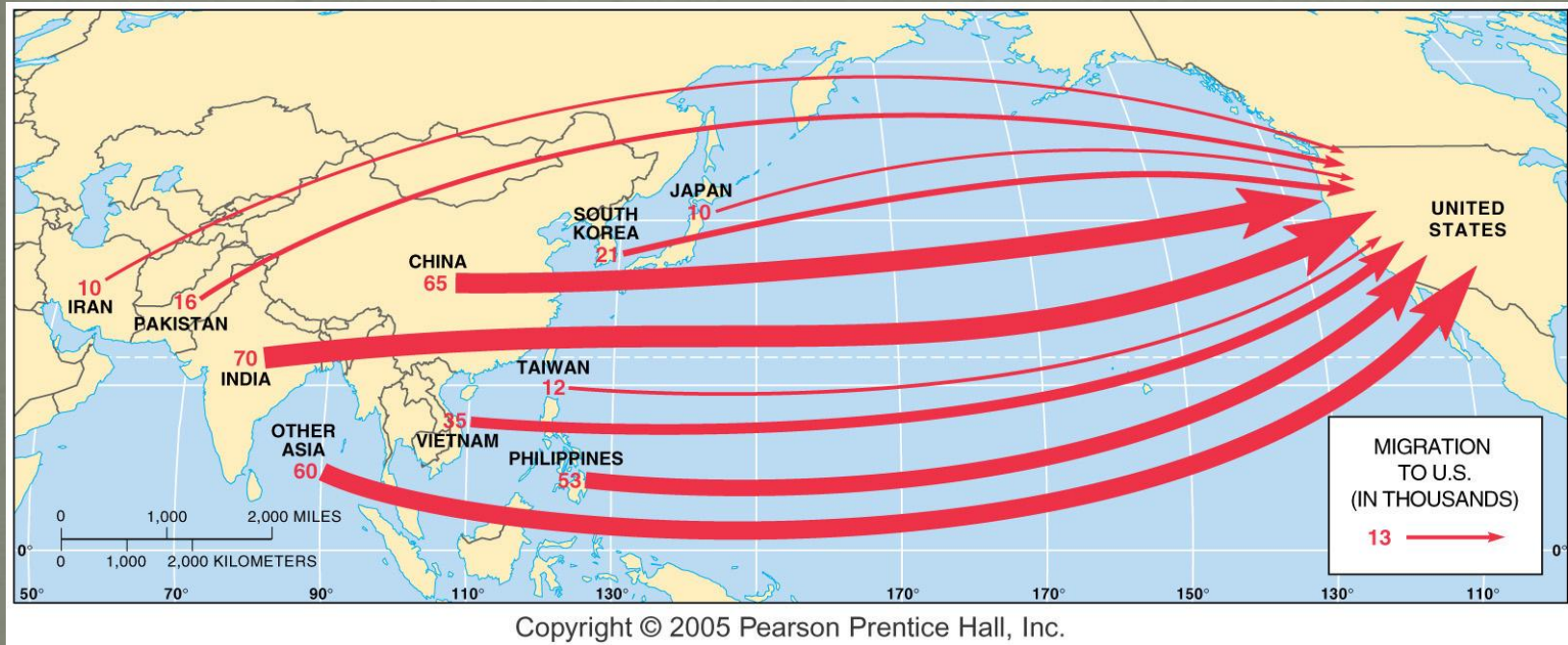


Fig. 3-5: Migration in 2001. The largest numbers of migrants from Asia come from India, China, the Philippines, and Vietnam.



# Migration from Latin America to the U.S.



Fig. 3-6: Mexico has been the largest source of migrants to the U.S., but migrants have also come from numerous other Latin American nations.

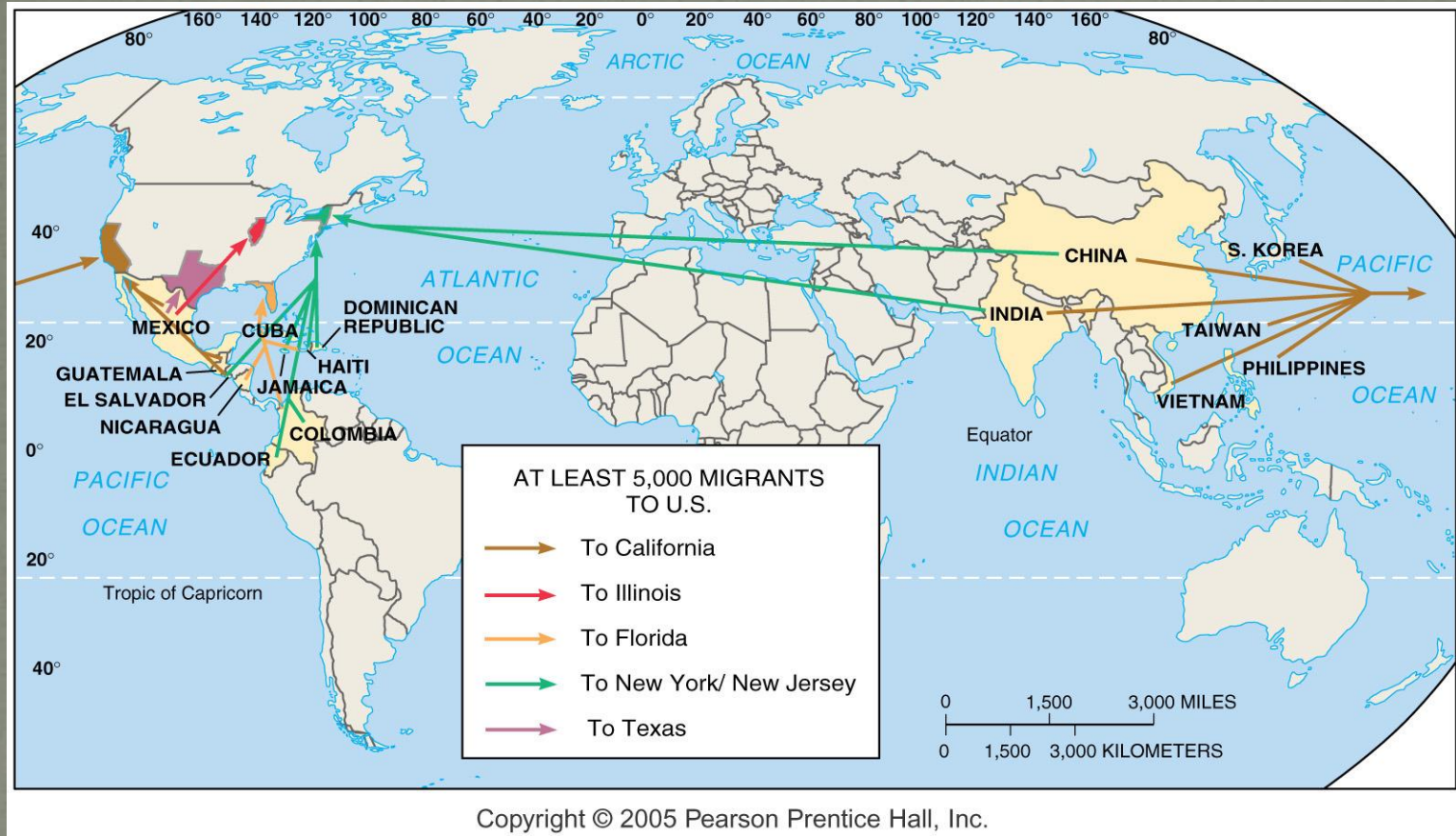
# Undocumented Immigration: *Mexico to Arizona*



Fig. 3-7: The complex route of one group of undocumented migrants from a small village north of Mexico City to Phoenix, Arizona.



# U.S. States as Immigrant Destinations



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Fig. 3-8: California is the destination of about 25% of all U.S. immigrants; another 25% go to New York and New Jersey. Other important destinations include Florida, Texas, and Illinois.



# Obstacles to Migration

- Immigration policies of host countries
  - *U.S. quota laws*
    - Quota Act, 1921 & National Origins Act, 1924
      - Quotas based on country of origin
      - 2% of origin country US pop. per year
    - Immigration Act of 1965 (post-civil rights)
      - Country quotas became hemisphere quotas
      - 1978 - global quota 290,000; max. 20,000 per country
      - Current: 620,000; max. 7% per country
        - Types: reunify families, skilled workers/professionals, lottery
        - Exceptions: refugees
  - *Brain Drain – migration of the talented & educated*
    - Country of immigration benefits
    - Country of emigration suffers

# Obstacles to Migration

- *Temporary migration for work*
  - *Guest workers – temporary workers from other countries*
    - *Europe*
      - *Shortage of workers*
      - *North Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Asia*
      - *Benefits and protections under the law for guest worker*
      - *Lower paid than European workers*
    - *Middle East*
- *Time-contract workers*
  - *Laborers hired for a specific period of time*
  - *Many remain in the contract country after contract time has expired*
    - *Chinese laborers who helped build the railroads in the western US in 19<sup>th</sup> century*



# Guest Workers in Europe

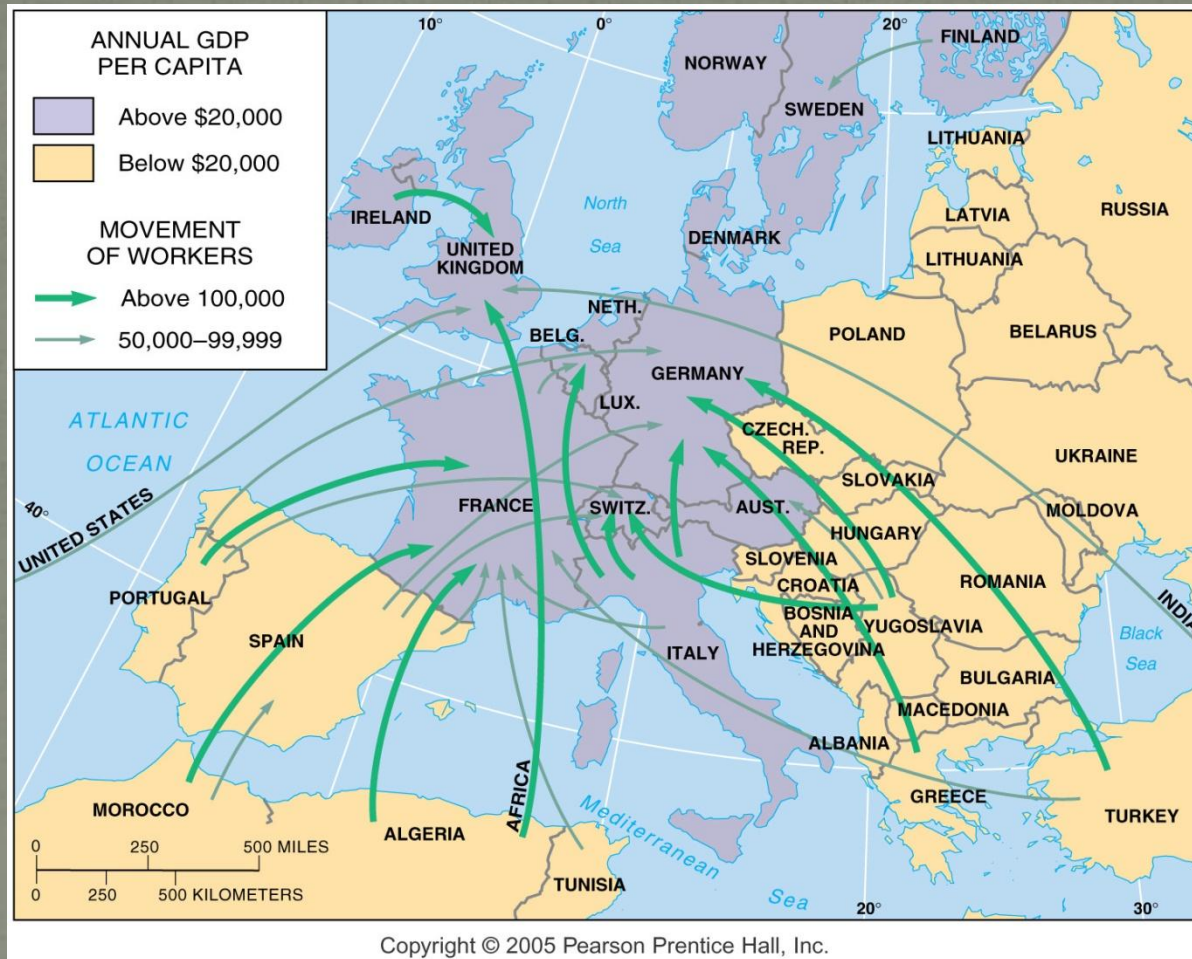


Fig. 3-9: Guest workers emigrate mainly from Eastern Europe and North Africa to work in the wealthier countries of Western Europe.



# Distinguishing Between Economic Migrants and Refugees

- *Economic migrants*
  - *Seeking economic opportunities*
- *or refugees?*
  - Fleeing from the persecution of an undemocratic government
- The distinction is extremely important in US immigration law as refugees (& family of US citizens) do NOT count within the immigration quota each year. Refugee status gives greater opportunity to enter the US.
  - Cubans = refugees (Castro & the Soviet Union)
  - Haitians = economic migrants
  - South Vietnamese = refugees (communist persecution)

# Obstacles to Migration

- Cultural problems living in other countries
  - *U.S. attitudes to immigrants*
    - *Economic*
    - *Suspicion*
    - *Intensified when migrants from other than Europe*
      - *Racist?*
  - *Attitudes to guest workers (Europe)*
    - *Guest workers often young, male and single*
    - *Very much the same as US*

# Emigration from China



Fig. 3-10: Various ethnic Chinese peoples have distinct patterns of migration to other Asian countries.



# Migration of Vietnamese Boat People



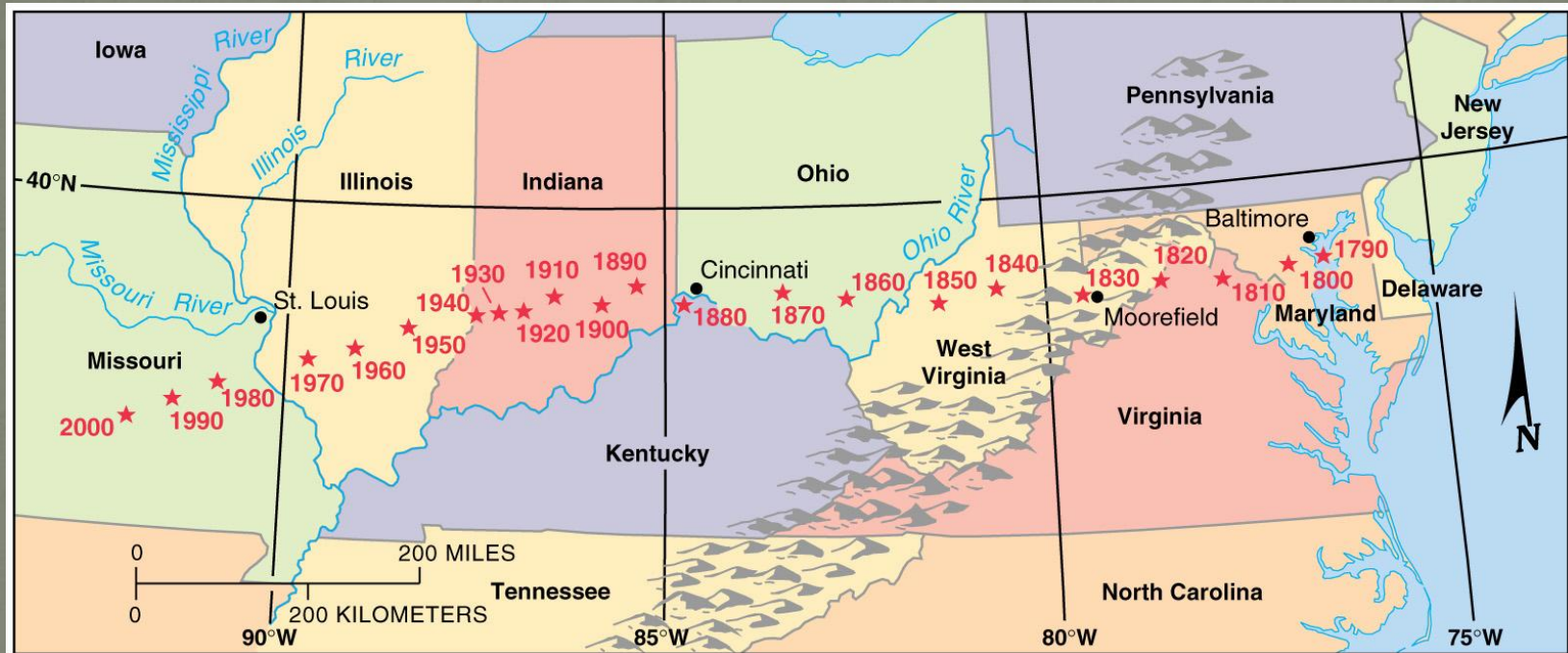
Fig. 3-11: Many Vietnamese fled by sea as refugees after the war with the U.S. ended in 1975. Later boat people were often considered economic migrants.

# Migration within a Country

- Migration between regions of a country
  - *Migration between regions within the U.S.*
  - *Migration between regions in other countries*
- Migration within one region
  - *Rural-urban migration*
  - *Urban-suburban migration*
  - *Migration from metropolitan to nonmetropolitan regions*



# Center of Population in the U.S.



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Fig. 3-12: The center of U.S. population has consistently moved westward, with the population migration west. It has also begun to move southward with migration to the southern sunbelt.



# Interregional Migration in the U.S.

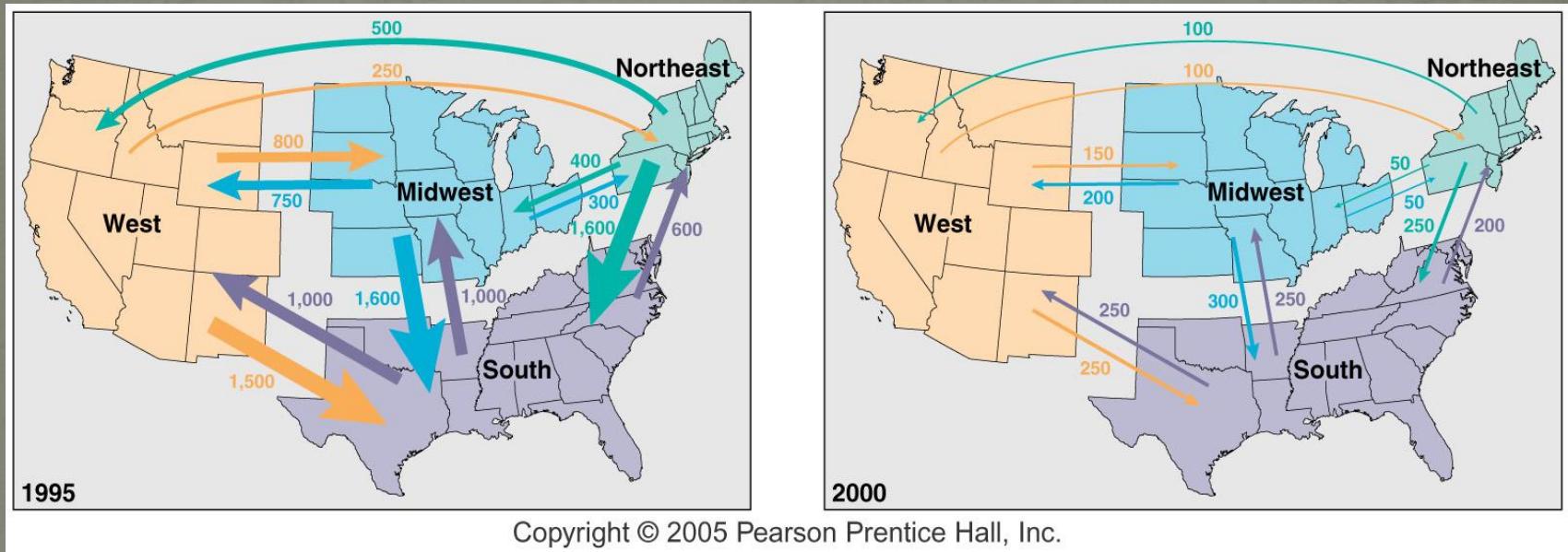


Fig. 3-13: Average annual migrations between regions in the U.S. in 1995 and in 2000.

# Intraregional Migration in the U.S.

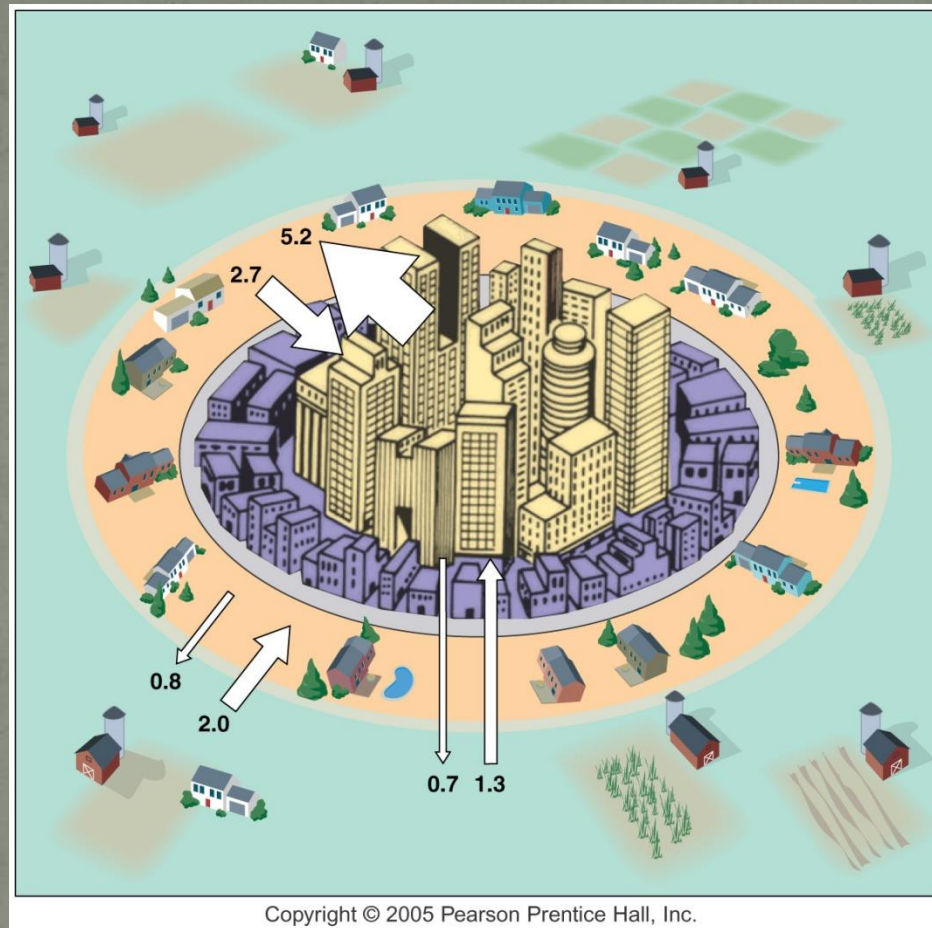


Fig. 3-14: Average annual migration among urban, suburban, and rural areas in the U.S. during the 1990s. The largest flow was from central cities to suburbs.