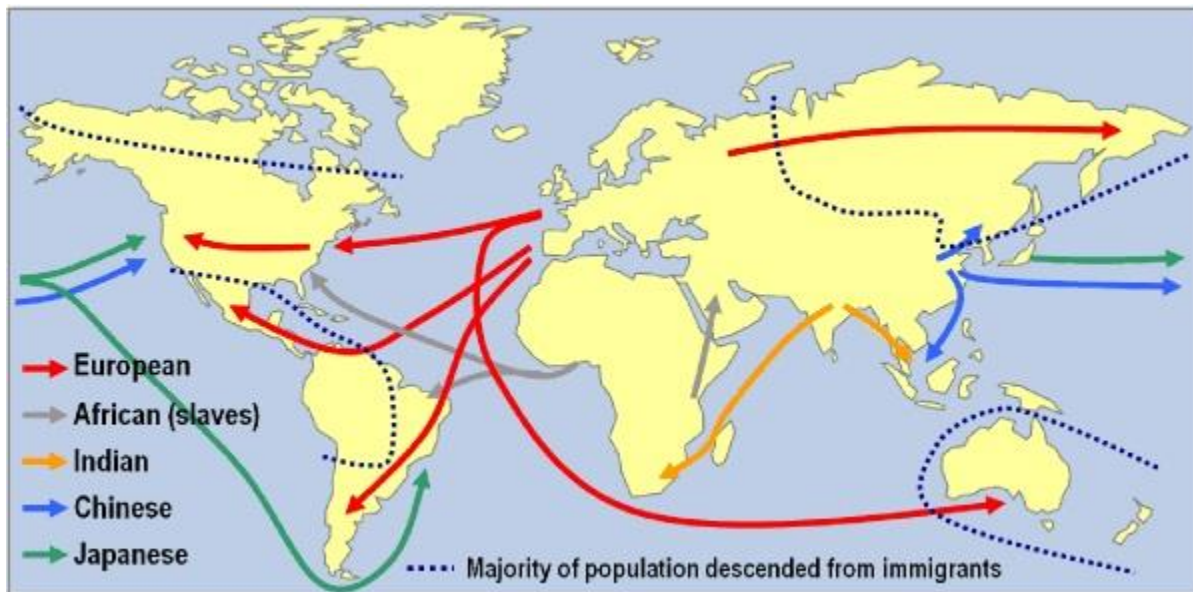


Global Migrations



A consequence of the rise of capitalist economies of the 19th century and improved transportation systems, human migration rapidly increased during this period. These new mass movements of people took place in both industrialized and non-industrialized regions.

Other major causes of the migrations can be linked to the increased agricultural outputs due to improved technology that resulted in a drastic rise in populations. Urban centers became overcrowded so many people chose to relocate. Some people were physically forced to relocate, namely under slavery but many willingly emigrated in search of a better life. Political unrest in several European nations led to millions of people seeking refuge, both politically and culturally.

A key term to remember for this era is **“Push and Pull.”**

People were **“pushed”** out of their origin nations due to political unrest or war.

People were **“pulled”** to new regions in search of a better life.

Many new migrants settled in areas where others from their region had settled earlier. **Ethnic enclaves** developed that maintained much of the mother country cultures and lifestyles. Specific regions grew in urban centers, such as Little Italy, Chinatown, and Germantown. In some cases, “urban jungles” and slums developed due to overcrowding and rapid growth not supported by adequate housing and facilities. Such stories are recorded by Jacob Riis in his book *How the Other Half Lives* and Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle*.

Despite better transportation systems such as steamboats, many died in transit. **Steerage** travel was a challenge to survival and **shipwrecks** were abundant. Many ship owners and captains saw these immigrants as a way to make huge profits in a short amount of time, showing little or no regard for their safety or well-being. In addition, once these people arrived in their new countries they were often greeted by hostility by those already living in the region. **Nativism** movements grew in opposition to these new immigrants.

Examples of Migrant Ethnic Enclaves

- Chinese in Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, South America and North America
- Indians to East and Southern Africa, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia
- Irish, Italians and Eastern European Jews to North America

Many people chose freely to relocate with the main motive being in search of work. They were a mix of both manual laborers and specialized professionals. Most of these people were male. This resulted in major changes in the home societies as women were now forced to take on new roles that were predominantly performed by males.

It is also to be noted that many men who went overseas for work did return home either periodically or permanently. Three examples of these groups were:

- Japanese agricultural workers within the Pacific regions
- Lebanese merchants in the Americas
- Italian industrial workers in Argentina

The global capitalist economy still relied on forced labor systems. **Coerced labor** still existed as the slave trade continued until the late 1800's. The Industrial Revolution and the demand for cotton in the Western European and North American factories created a greater demand for African labor.

Semi-coerced labor, namely indentured servitude, now comprised of different ethnic groups, namely Chinese and Indian workers. The California Gold Rush of 1849 and the Trans-Continental railways across North America caused a dramatic increase in Chinese laborers.

In many countries, these new immigrants were seen as second-class or lower-class citizens. Many were persecuted and shunned by the native societies. There were several instances where countries regulated the flow of certain people due to their race or culture. Two excellent examples of this were

- The **Chinese Exclusion Act** of 1882 in North America
- The **White Australia Policy**

