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Forum: GC1

Issue: The issue of overpopulation increasing international migration

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Position: President Chair

Introduction

The question at hand to solve is the issue of overpopulation increasing international migration. Even though international migration is not particularly a bad thing the reasons why people choose to emigrate can be damaging. There are several reasons people immigrate to other countries, which are called the pull factors and push factors. The pull factors are the reasons why people choose to migrate they want to migrate, and push factors are why people choose to leave their own country. One of the push factor is the overpopulation people have in their home countries. Overpopulation is when a country isn't able to provide for the basic needs of its people such as shelters and nutritious food. Countries that have huge rates population density are more likely to be overpopulated. Overpopulation can be really detrimental and it causes a decrease in living standards; low income and insufficiency in the service sector. Therefore, it is both harmful for the citizens of a country and its government. Overpopulation in a country is a big sign of underdevelopment. When countries are developing they undergo four stages of demographic transition and when they complete the four stages the rate of population growth significantly decreases and it can also decrease the rates of population density. So, in its core the situation at hand has been created by the underdevelopment of countries. Also when people migrate, and oftentimes cause brain drain, and possibly open up the gap between the developed nations and developing nations even more instead of bringing the nations together.

A note from the chair; it would be really appreciated if you were to have the full command of the terminology for this topic, and not confuse the words for each other. Especially, please do not use refugee instead of migrant, they are not interchangeable.

Definition of Key Terms

Overpopulation: According to The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), overpopulation is the exceeding of certain threshold limits of population density when environmental resources fail to meet the requirements of individual organisms regarding shelter, nutrition, and so forth. Overpopulation gives rise to high rates of mortality and morbidity. (<https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=1978>)

Self-sufficient Country: A self sufficient country is able to produce goods and services its citizens with their natural resources, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy. Self-sufficient countries are less affected by the damages of overpopulation

Population Density: OECD defines it as the number of population per unit of total land area of a country. When a country's population density increase, the country becomes more prone to overpopulation.

Migrant: The United Nations (UN) Convention of the Rights of Migrants defines the term as any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born, and has acquired some significant social ties to this country. However other definitions also include people



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who change places in their own countries.
(<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/migrant/>)

Refugee: Refugee is someone who had been forced to leave their country, it could be because of a war, natural disaster, a dictator and such.

Brain Drain: Brain drain is when well educated people emigrate from their countries to work in other countries, more so the economically developed ones.

Remittances: They are funds that an emigrated person earns at the country where they migrated and sends back to their families that are living in the country they left in order to support them.

- The difference between migrate and immigrate is that migrating is moving places and immigrating is to go somewhere to live permanently. Also emigrating is to leave the country to go to another one to live.

Background Information

In this topic it is really important to understand why people migrate. The reasons why people decide to immigrate are categorized in two groups; “push” and “pull” factors. Push factors describe why people want to leave their countries’ while the pull factors describe why and how they choose where to move.

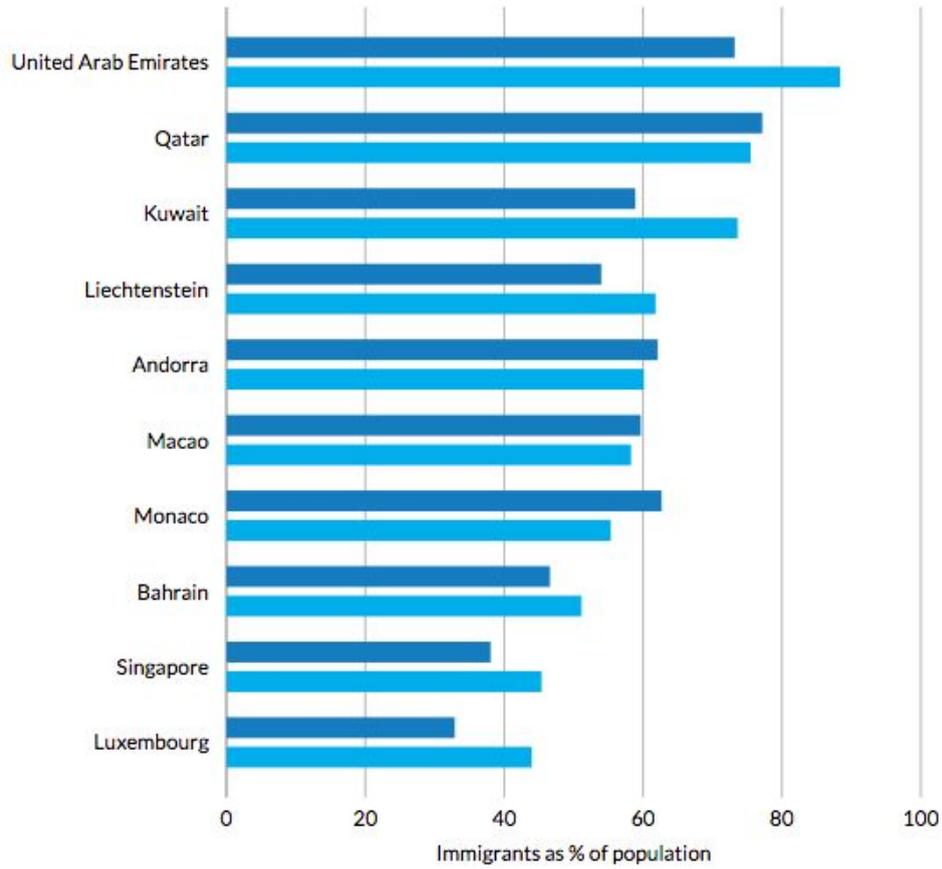
Some of the basic pull factors are: the need of labor of developed and industrialized countries caused by the shortage of labor and skills gap (caused by the fallen birth rate); easiness and cheapness of international transport and communication; countries having stable democracies, freedom of religion and protected human rights; better quality jobs where people can improve their skills. Some of the push factors are: lack of career advancements; mistreatment of human rights; high poverty and unemployment rates which causes low income; overall bad living standards.

Especially in last decade number of people who migrate has risen rapidly, it is estimated that there are 244 million international migrants in the world. While Western, especially European countries, countries have more debates on international migration, Middle Eastern countries have higher percentages of immigrants in their population. Also the United States has the biggest number of immigrants. Nearly 19 percent of the whole world’s immigrants, around 46 million reside in the United States alone. South and East Asian countries as well as African countries have the lowest number of immigrants and China, Vietnam and Cuba being in the bottom of the list.



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Countries with the highest percentage of immigrants:



2015

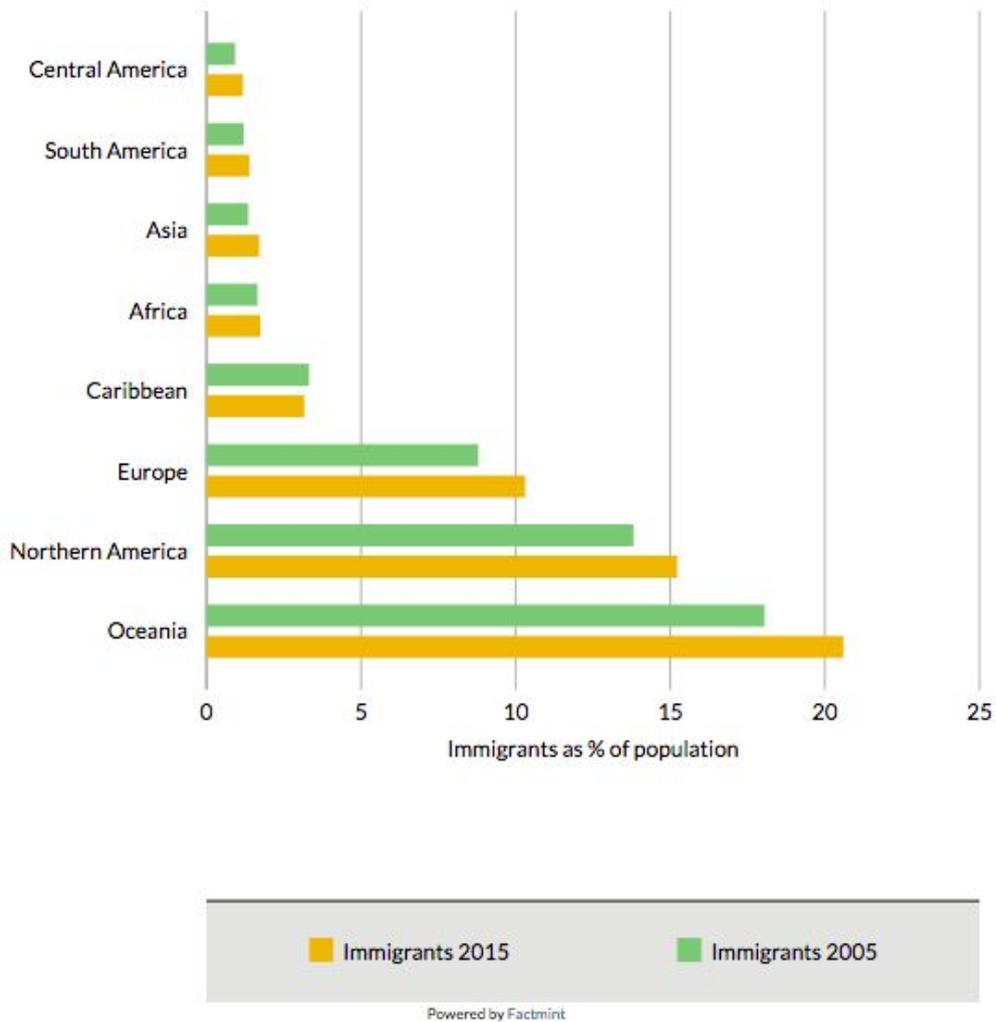
2005

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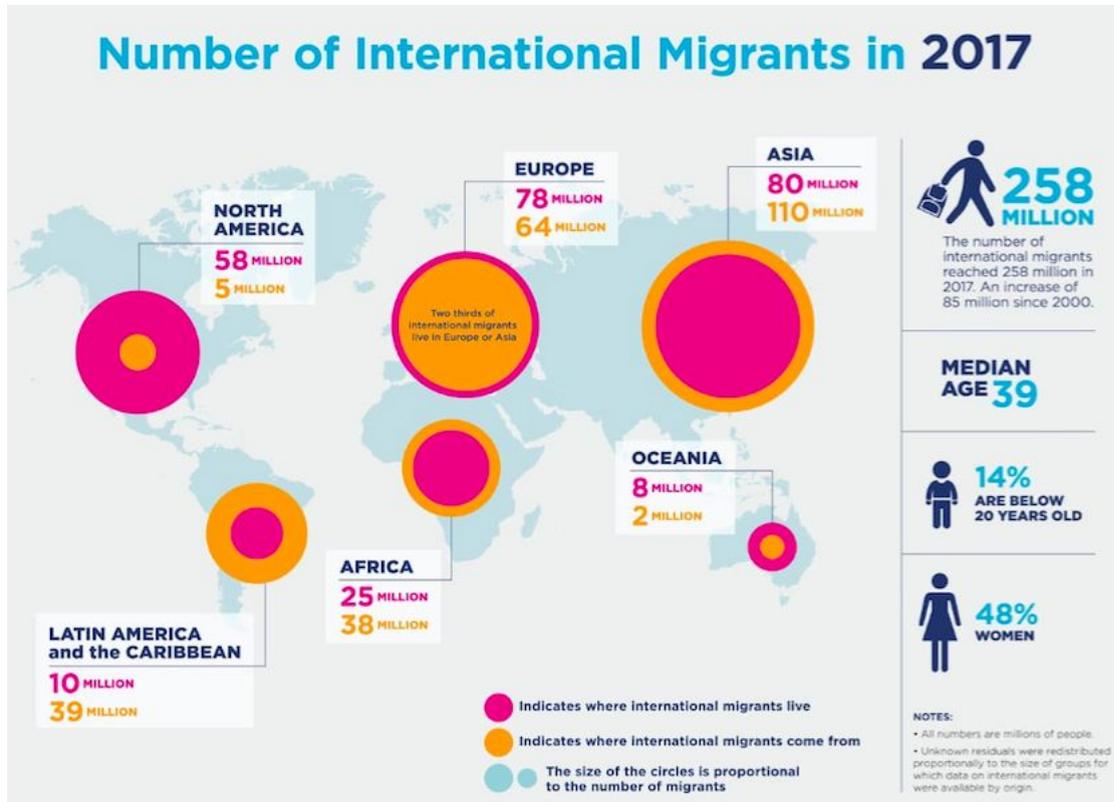
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Immigration percentage of regions:





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International migration has its benefits and drawbacks for both the sending country and the receiving country. For the sending country one of the economical benefits is remittance, according to World Bank out of \$ 529 billion, \$ 401 billion remittance money is going into developing countries. However the negative impacts of international migration on developing nations aren't negligible, a lot of developing countries are facing brain drain. International Organization for Migration (IOM) states that there are more scientists and engineers of African descent that are working in the United States than in all Africa. In Zambia number of practicing doctors has dropped from 1600 to 400 in just a few years. IOM also states Africa has lost \$ 9 billion in human capital and growth potential since 1997 due to brain drain. Benefits of international migration to the receiving countries is basically gaining cheap and eager labor works. Especially in the US and Canada most immigrants take low income jobs in agriculture and service sectors. As a negative for immigration, it is claimed that immigrants who come to USA as an example live in poverty lack health insurance and access to welfare system even if they live in the US for 20 years.

Most of the push factors of international migration is rooted from overpopulation. Overpopulation causes lack of career advancements, high poverty and unemployment rates that causes low income, and overall bad living standards and conditions. In order to attack overpopulation, the thing that we need to know is that what causes overpopulation. There is one big issue that results in high population growth and that is the lack of education of a country's people and therefore the country not being developed.

Countries go over 4 stages of demographic transition in their development process. The first stage is when people have really bad living conditions; they have poor diet, poor sanitation and a lack of



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access to medication. In this stage people have more children, have higher birth rates, because most of their children don't survive to adulthood, meaning that death rates are also high. In this stage population growth is not seen. In the second stage, also known as explosive growth, living standards and health care raise, more people gain access to medications and better food and hygiene, therefore death rates drop, but the birth rates are high which causes a huge population growth. Then comes the third stage, also known as the slow down, this stage is when the birth rates drop, people have less children. In this stage death and birth rates balance each other. Finally in the fourth stage population growth comes to an end. With industrial revolution Europe started going through these stages and it took 108 years for them to complete it. As more and more countries develop they go through these stages but because they are not starting from scratch they are going through it a lot faster, for example it took Malaysia and South Africa 34 years, Bangladesh 20 years and Iran 10 years. However there is a reason why we still see population growth the children that were born in the second stage are having their own children, fewer from their parents. Today a family has a 2.5 children at average where in 40 years ago it was 5 children. Also there were certain instances when population and population growth dipped, such as World War I and II, and after these events population growth rose and people had more children.

There were also times when international migration rates rose drastically. First one being the Age of Discovery and the colonial era, when Europeans discovered the American continent, a lot of Europeans fled to America for economical advantages and religious freedom. The second big wave happened after the World Wars, especially after the second one, a lot of people migrated to Europe from neighboring regions because of the lack of workforce.



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22 of the most populated countries

# ▲	Country (or dependency) ↕	Population (2019)	Yearly Change	Net Change	Density (P/Km ²)	Land Area (Km ²)	Migrants (net)	Fert. Rate	Med. Age	Urban Pop %	World Share
1	China	1,420,062,022	0.35 %	5,016,094	151	9,388,211	-324,919	1.6	39	60 %	18.41 %
2	India	1,368,737,513	1.08 %	14,685,659	460	2,973,190	-490,000	2.3	28	34 %	17.74 %
3	U.S.	329,093,110	0.71 %	2,326,362	36	9,147,420	900,000	1.9	38	84 %	4.27 %
4	Indonesia	269,536,482	1.03 %	2,741,502	149	1,811,570	-165,000	2.3	29	56 %	3.49 %
5	Brazil	212,392,717	0.72 %	1,524,763	25	8,358,140	6,000	1.7	33	86 %	2.75 %
6	Pakistan	204,596,442	1.88 %	3,782,624	265	770,880	-214,356	3.4	23	40 %	2.65 %
7	Nigeria	200,962,417	2.60 %	5,087,180	221	910,770	-60,000	5.4	18	52 %	2.60 %
8	Bangladesh	168,065,920	1.02 %	1,697,771	1,291	130,170	-470,000	2.1	27	37 %	2.18 %
9	Russia	143,895,551	-0.05 %	-69,158	9	16,376,870	160,000	1.8	40	73 %	1.87 %
10	Mexico	132,328,035	1.20 %	1,568,961	68	1,943,950	-60,000	2.1	29	79 %	1.72 %
11	Japan	126,854,745	-0.26 %	-330,587	348	364,555	50,000	1.5	48	94 %	1.64 %
12	Ethiopia	110,135,635	2.42 %	2,600,753	110	1,000,000	-12,000	4.0	20	21 %	1.43 %
13	Philippines	108,106,310	1.50 %	1,594,236	363	298,170	-130,000	2.9	25	44 %	1.40 %
14	Egypt	101,168,745	1.80 %	1,793,004	102	995,450	-55,000	3.2	25	39 %	1.31 %
15	Viet Nam	97,429,061	0.97 %	937,915	314	310,070	-40,000	1.9	33	36 %	1.26 %
16	DR Congo	86,727,573	3.24 %	2,722,584	38	2,267,050	23,861	6.0	17	41 %	1.12 %
17	Turkey	82,961,805	1.28 %	1,044,934	108	769,630	305,000	2.0	32	72 %	1.08 %
18	Iran	82,820,766	0.99 %	809,031	51	1,628,550	-55,000	1.6	32	76 %	1.07 %
19	Germany	82,438,639	0.18 %	145,182	237	348,560	370,000	1.5	47	76 %	1.07 %
20	Thailand	69,306,160	0.18 %	122,987	136	510,890	19,444	1.5	40	54 %	0.90 %
21	U.K.	66,959,016	0.58 %	385,512	277	241,930	180,000	1.9	41	81 %	0.87 %
22	France	65,480,710	0.38 %	247,439	120	547,557	80,000	2.0	42	81 %	0.85 %

Timeline of Major Events

(Date)	(Description)
Colonial Era (16 th and 17 th Centuries)	A big international migration wave, A lot of Europeans fled to America
Industrial Revolution (1760-1840)	A rose of population especially in Europe (2 nd stage of Europe's demographic transition)
World War I (1914 -1918)	A big lost in world population. 16 million people died because of the war and Spanish flu epidemic, which war had helped spread, killed 20 to 50 million people
World War II (1939-1945)	Around 45-60 million people died. Aftermath of the war a lot of people migrated to Europe because of the loss in workforce. A lot of these migrants came from Turkey, India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco.



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19-30 August 1974	The World Population Conference was held in Romania, with 136 member states. A draft for the World Population Plan of Action was made.
5-13 September 1994	The International Conference on Population and Development was held in Egypt, with 179 member states and 7 observers. In the conference Programme of Action was adopted.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

International Organization for Migration (IOM): Every year IOM publishes a World Migration Report

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

You can find all of the previous reports published by the Secretary General and UN resolutions [here](#) and [here](#)

Possible Solutions

While writing clauses it will be very beneficial for you to focus on and attack what causes the problem. In this case you should focus on how to eradicate overpopulation, especially in less developed countries. One way to attack overpopulation can be helping developing nations, supplying them with food, sanitary products, medicines, if they need, while also helping them with education, like building new educational centers, universities and such. Also raising awareness on healthy birth control practices are important. One other important thing is educating women and creating job opportunities for them, when a woman is educated and in a steady income job she has less children. Another thing to focus on is how to speed up the development process of the countries.

Useful Links For Further Research

- <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20160311-how-many-people-can-our-planet-really-support>
- <https://www.iom.int/wmr/world-migration-report-2018>
- <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-country/>
- <https://populationmatters.org/news>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsBT5EOt348&feature=youtu.be>
- <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/conference/index.shtml>
- <http://consensusforaction.stanford.edu/blog/population-growth-is-drivin.html>

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15. “What Is a Self-Sufficient Economy? - Definition | Meaning | Example.” *My Accounting Course*, www.myaccountingcourse.com/accounting-dictionary/self-sufficient-economy .
16. “Why Do People Migrate?” *EMBRACE*, www.embraceni.org/migration/why-do-people-migrate/ .
17. “World Migration Report.” *International Organization for Migration*, 30 Nov. 2017, www.iom.int/wmr/chapter-1 .