WHAT IS MIGRATION?

ANTH 308: Migration & Human Adaptation

What is Migration?

• Movement/change of residence.
• Can be internal or international.
• UN considers international migrants to be those who stay outside their usual country of residence for at least a year.

Net migration rates for 2008: positive (blue), negative (orange), stable (green), and no data (gray).
This map shows proportion of world’s international emigrants coming from each territory.

The territory size shows the number of international immigrants that live there.
Migration

- Number of migrants doubled between 1945-2005.
- In 2005, 191 million people were living outside country of their birth.
- If they all lived in same place, these international migrants would form 5th most populous country in world.

Who is a migrant?

- There is no one, single accepted definition.
- 2 key issues are usually identified:
  1. Degree of permanence.
     - Length of time person has spent or will spend in new locale.
  2. Dimension of space.
     - The distance a person travels

The Great Migration was the movement of 6 million African Americans out of the rural Southern United States to the urban Northeast, Midwest, and West that lasted up until the 1960s. Some historians differentiate between the first Great Migration (1910–1930), numbering about 1.6 million migrants who left mostly rural areas to migrate to northern industrial cities, and after a lull during the Great Depression, a Second Great Migration (1940 to 1970), in which 5 million or more people moved from the South, including many to California and other western cities.
Types of migration

- Growing recognition that migration is not always permanent.
- Has led to development of concepts such as:
  - seasonal migration
  - circular migration
  - return migration.
- Helps in recognition that migration is often a process rather than a single event.
- Despite assumptions, not all migrants are poor
  - some are middle class, highly educated professionals.

Forced migration

- Usually considered separately from other types of movement.
- **Refugees**
  - people who have been forced to leave their homeland because of fear of persecution.
  - seek asylum in another country.
- **Economic refugees**
  - respond to economic crises by moving, e.g. natural disasters such as drought.
Forced migration

- Not all who move in these situations cross international boundaries
- Those who move internally become “internally displaced persons” or displacees.
- An especially common pattern is development-induced displacement
  - Numerous studies of consequences.
  - Colson & Scudder’s study of Gwembe Tonga.

Kariba Dam

- Began in 1955 in what was then Northern Rhodesia, what is now Zambia.
- Idea was to generate hydroelectricity that would fuel development.
- Project involved massive relocation of human & animal populations.
  - The Tonga, the Kariba Dam, and the Angry God
  - The Captive River

Nyami Nyami: Zambezi River God/Snake spirit, is one of the most important gods of Tonga people. Nyami Nyami is believed to protect the Tonga people and give them sustenance in difficult times.