Placing migration in history: geographies of Irish population movements


Abstract

About 70,000 immigrants entered the Republic of Ireland in the twelve months before this conference at the end of 2005, and the Central Statistics Office estimates that there will be a need for approximately 30,000 per annum for the next ten years. Apart from the quite sudden social consequences of a multi-cultural society in-the-making in Ireland, one of the most noteworthy aspects of this immigration, in a broader historical context, is that it is the first significant in-migration to Ireland for three or four centuries. The last comparatively large-scale migration occurred in the seventeenth century, during the last half of which up to 100,000 Scots came into Ireland.

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Migration in an Earlier Era of Globalization. The most recent era of mass voluntary migration was between 1850 and 1914, when one million people a year were drawn to the new world by the turn of the 20th century. The effects of the first era of migration can be seen in the population compositions of many countries in the Western Hemisphere. In the latter part of the 19th century, for example, nearly 15 percent of the U.S. population was foreign born, with the overwhelming majority of these immigrants arriving from Europe. In places where this “transnational religion” is promoted through financial institutions, sister congregations, community organizations, telecommunications infrastructure, and governmental tolerance, migration by religiously devout persons has followed. Historical migration of human populations began with the movement of Homo erectus out of Africa across Eurasia about a million years ago. Homo sapiens appears to have colonized all of Africa about 150 millennia ago, moved out of Africa some 80 millennia ago, and spread across Eurasia and to Australia before 40 millennia ago. Migration to the Americas took place about 20 to 15 millennia ago, and by two millennia ago, most of the Pacific Islands were colonized. Changes in population distribution: Human migration has had a significant effect on world geography, contributing to the development of separate cultures, the diffusion of cultures, and the complex mix of cultures and multi-cultural populations found in many parts of the world. Revisiting “Population Movement: Emigration, Return Migration and Internal Migration”, 31 Years Later. Chapter (PDF Available) - March 2015 with 133 Reads. In book: A 70TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL KING, Editors: Michael Collyer, Jade Cemre Erciyes, Julie Vullnetari and Jenny Money, pp.82-84. Russell King: The Great Unwritten Chapter in the History of Migration Studies. Michael Collyer and Julie Vullnetari. CHARACTER APPRECIATION. Mobile People Looking for a Place to Stop: Geography and Migration Studies. Stephen Castles. Tribute to Russell King on The Atlas of Human Migration.