

# Long Distance Migration – The Americas

Source: “Global Migration, 1846-1940,” Adam McKeown

“The transatlantic migrations to the Americas are the best known of these migrations. Over 65 percent of these migrants went to the United States, with the bulk of the remainder divided between Canada, Argentina (which had the largest proportion of foreign-born residents), Brazil, and, to a lesser extent, Cuba. Over half of the emigration\* before the 1870s was from the British Isles, with much of the remainder from northwestern Europe. As migration increased along with new transportation technologies in the 1880s, regions of intensive emigration spread south and east as far as Portugal, Russia, and Syria. Up to 2.5 million migrants from South and East Asia also traveled to the Americas, mostly to the frontiers of western North America or the plantations of the Caribbean, Peru, and Brazil. Half of this migration took place before 1885, after which the decline of indentured labor recruitment and the rise of anti-Asian immigration laws began to take effect.”

\* Act of leaving the home country or place of residence to live elsewhere.



Italian immigrant family at Ellis Island Immigration Station in New York, New York.



Chinese women and children at Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco, California

# Long Distance Migration – Indian Ocean and South Pacific

Source: “Global Migration, 1846-1940,” Adam McKeown

“Migration to Southeast Asia and lands around the Indian Ocean and South Pacific consisted of over 29 million Indians and over 19 million Chinese. Most migration from India was to colonies throughout the British empire. Less than 10 percent of this migration was indentured,\* although much of it was undertaken with assistance from colonial authorities, or under some form of debt obligation under *kangani* labor recruitment systems.† Over 2 million Indians also migrated as merchants or other travelers not intending to work as laborers.† Migration expanded with the increasing restriction of indentured contracts after 1908 and the abolishment of indenture in 1920. Nearly 4 million Indians traveled to Malaysia, over 8 million to Ceylon, over 15 million to Burma, and about 1 million to Africa, other parts of Southeast Asia, and islands throughout the Indian and Pacific Oceans.”

\*a contract binding one person to work for another for a given period of time

†Author’s original work includes citation of another scholar’s work



Indian laborers in South Africa

# Long Distance Migration – China

Source: “Global Migration, 1846-1940,” Adam McKeown

“The vast majority of Chinese migrations came from the southern provinces of Guangdong and Fujian. Less than 750,000 Chinese migrants signed indenture contracts with European employers, including 20,000 to Latin America and the Caribbean before 1840, 250,000 to Sumatra from the 1880s to the 1910s, and a smaller number to mines, plantations, and islands scattered throughout the Pacific and Indian Oceans (indentured laborers to South Africa from 1904 to 1908 and to Europe during World War I were mostly from north China). Many more Chinese worked for Chinese employers under various forms of contract and debt obligation, wage labor, and profit sharing. Up to 11 million Chinese traveled from China to the Straits Settlements, although more than a third of these transhipped to the Dutch Indies, Borneo, Burma, and places farther west. Nearly 4 million traveled directly from China to Thailand, between 2 and 3 million to French Indochina, over 1 million to the Dutch Indies (for a total of over 4 million if transshipments from Singapore are included), less than 1 million to the Philippines, and over 500,000 to Australia, New Zealand, Hawai'i, and other islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.”



Chinese gold prospectors in Australian gold field ca. 1900-1920



Chinese workers in tin mines in Indonesia

# Long Distance Migration – North Asia

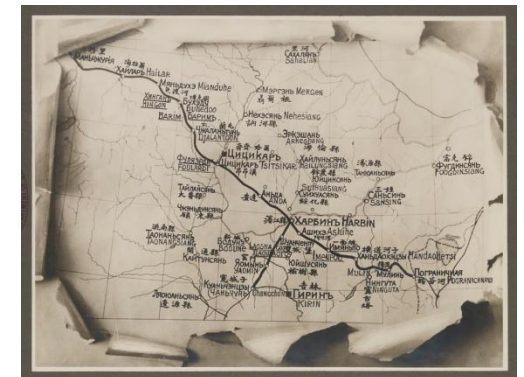
Source: “Global Migration, 1846-1940,” Adam McKeown

“Migration into the broad expanse of North Asia is the least well studied of these systems. Small trickles of migrants had moved into central Asia, Siberia, and Manchuria for hundreds of years, but the Qing government’s gradual relaxation of restrictions against movement into Manchuria after 1860 and the emancipation of serfs in Russia in 1861 set the stage for more massive migration. Both governments actively encouraged settlement with homesteading policies in the 1880s, each partly inspired by the desire to forestall territorial encroachment by the other. Railroad construction in the 1890s further strengthened the migrant flows.† Between 28 and 33 million Chinese migrated into Manchuria and Siberia (most of whom embarked on a short sea voyage from Shandong to the Liaodong peninsula), along with nearly 2 million Koreans and over 500,000 Japanese. Another 2.5 million Russians moved into central Asia and Siberia over this period. In addition, up to 1 million northern Chinese, Koreans, and Japanese migrated to a diverse range of destinations, including much of the Americas, Hawai’i, Southeast Asia, South Africa, and Europe.”

†Author’s original work includes citation of another scholar’s work



Paris Universal Expedition Poster from 1900 featuring the Trans Siberian Railway connecting Moscow to Beijing



Map of Chinese Eastern Railroad from Siberia to Vladivostok by way of Manchuria

# Over Land Migration – North America

Source: “Global Migration, 1846-1940,” Adam McKeown

“The transatlantic migrations could be extended to include over 10 million people who moved to the western frontiers of North America, first primarily across the United States and eventually into the western plains of Canada. This process also spurred the relocation of great numbers of Native Americans and the migration of over 2.5 million Mexicans to the agricultural areas of the southwestern United States in the early twentieth century. The industrial centers of the northeastern United States also attracted over 2.5 million Canadians, and then over 1 million African American and Mexicans in the early twentieth centuries to coastal plantations and cities, and over 300,000 Caribbean peoples migrated to plantations in Central America and Cuba, to the Panama Canal Zone, and to the United States.”



Pioneers headed west on the Oregon Trail by covered wagon.



Workers from the West Indies working on the Panama Canal

# Over Land Migration – Africa

Source: “Global Migration, 1846-1940,” Adam McKeown

“Africa experienced net transoceanic immigration, but at much smaller numbers than other main destinations and from a wider variety of origins. The immigrants included over 3 million French and Italians into North Africa and up to 1 million other Europeans, Syrians, Lebanese, Arabs, Indians, and Chinese throughout the continent.† The end of the transatlantic slave trade led to increased movement of slaves into the western Sudan, the Middle East, and areas bordering the Indian Ocean in the late nineteenth century. Labor migration to plantations and mines in southern and central Africa increased through the late nineteenth an twentieth centuries, as did movement to agricultural areas and coastal cities in western and eastern Africa. Millions of people took part in these movements, some of whom were coerced and many of whom went to work for European enterprises, but many of whom also found independent occupations.†”

† Author’s original work includes citation of another scholar’s work



Canned meat advertisement depicts the bustle of a Dutch gold mine in South Africa.



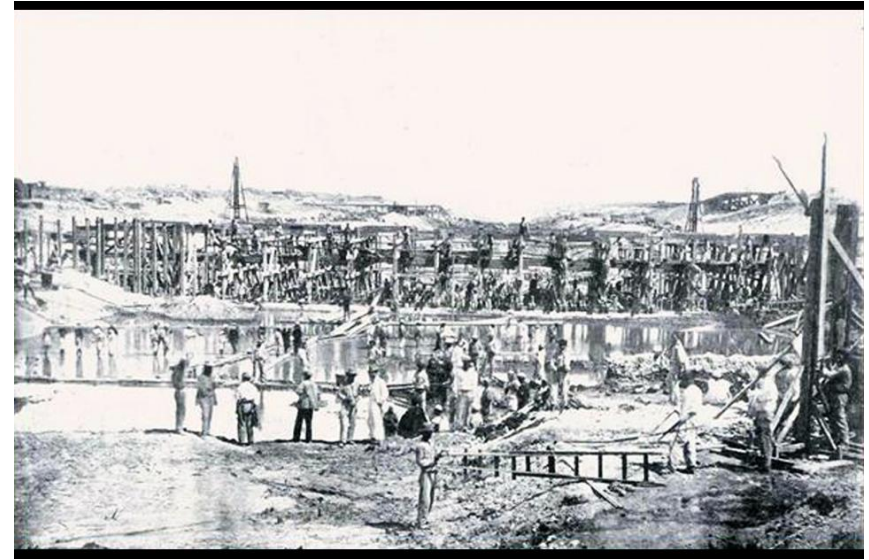
Stone laying ceremony in Zanzibar, possibly for the establishment of an Indian community in East Africa.

# Over Land Migration – The Middle East

Source: “Global Migration, 1846-1940,” Adam McKeown

“The Middle East and ex-Ottoman lands were also at the interstices of the main long-distance flows described above. Much of the movement in this region was the kind of labor migration that predominated in much of the rest of the world. Projects such as the Suez Canal and development of an infrastructure for cotton cultivation in Egypt attracted large amounts of local migration, while Lebanon and Syria experienced some of the highest overseas emigration rates in the world.† Over 3 million people also took part in the *hajj* to Mecca from 1879 to 1938.† This was also an area of massive migration caused by war and politics, a harbinger of the kinds of migration that would become increasingly prominent over the twentieth century. The dissolution of the Ottoman empire and wars with Russia led to an exchange of 4 to 6 million people, with Muslims moving south from the Balkans, Greece, and Russia into Turkey, and Christians moving in the other direction. Around 1 million Armenians were expelled from Turkey to points around the world, and nearly 400,000 Jews moved to Palestine in the early twentieth century.† The massive movement of refugees would extend to other parts of Europe in the wake of World War I and the Russian revolution, including the movement of 3 million Russians, Poles, and Germans out of the Soviet Union.†”

† Author’s original work includes citation of another scholar’s work



Construction of the Suez Canal in Egypt



Armenian civilians escorted to prison camp by armed Turkish soldiers.

# Over Land Migration – Merchant Networks

Source: “Global Migration, 1846-1940,” Adam McKeown

“In addition to the migration of settlers and workers, some of the traditional merchant diasporas continued to flourish. For centuries before the 1800s, these ethnic networks had been some of the most prominent exemplars of long-distance migration. Their importance diminished under the economic transformations and new labor migrations impelled by industrialization, but many old and new diasporas continued to play prominent roles at the frontiers of the expanding global economy. Jewish merchant networks were incorporated into the operations of European capital and Armenian merchants networks were decimated by the traumas of genocide. But other diasporas increased in number and spatial extent while maintaining and adapting traditional forms of commercial organization. Chinese merchant networks helped channel Chinese labor throughout Southeast Asia and later established dense networks of shops and services in places as distant as the Amazon rubber groves, South Pacific atolls, and upriver Borneo, not to mention restaurants, corner stores, and laundries that served other migrants in plantations and urban neighborhoods throughout the world. Merchants from India expanded trade networks into central Asia, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Chettiars from southern India followed British expansion into Burma, and Parsis facilitated the India-China trade using some of the capital they earned to establish textile mills in India. Of particular interest are the Sindworkies from the town of Hyderabad in what is now Pakistan. After the 1860s, they spread from Japan to the Panama Canal and Tierra del Fuego, establishing upscale tourist shops that sold ‘curios’ from around the world and becoming prominent carriers of Japanese trade in the Dutch Indies. Other merchant diasporas such as the Hadhramis (from Yemen), Hausa, and Lebanese Christians joined the Chinese and Indians at their interface between expanding industrial enterprises and dispersed individual producers and consumers around the world.†”



Chinese merchants in Singapore



Nineteenth century Japanese curio shop

†Author’s original work includes citation of another scholar’s work