Migration

Current Events Wednesday
February 27, 2019

Outline...

- Variations in human migration.
- Some numbers on international migration.
- Some hard data on immigration in the US.

A Little Vocabulary Lesson

- International migrant: someone who changes their place of residence to another country.
- Immigration: moving into a country.
  – People who move to the US from another country are immigrants.
- Emigration: moving away from a country.

Migration includes...

- Internal migration: movement within a country (most common: urbanization)
- Global urban population: 55% today, projected at 60% in 2030.

Brief Trivia Quiz

- Name the largest city* in the world.
- Name the largest city in North America.
- Name the largest city in Europe.

* Defined as metropolitan areas (UN data).

Ten Largest Cities in the World

1. Tokyo, Japan
2. Delhi, India
3. Shanghai, China
4. Mumbai, India
5. Sao Paulo, Brazil
6. Beijing, China
7. Mexico City, Mexico
8. Osaka, Japan
9. Cairo, Egypt
10. New York/Newark

Five Largest Cities in Europe

- Istanbul
- Moscow
- Paris
- London
- Madrid

Istanbul

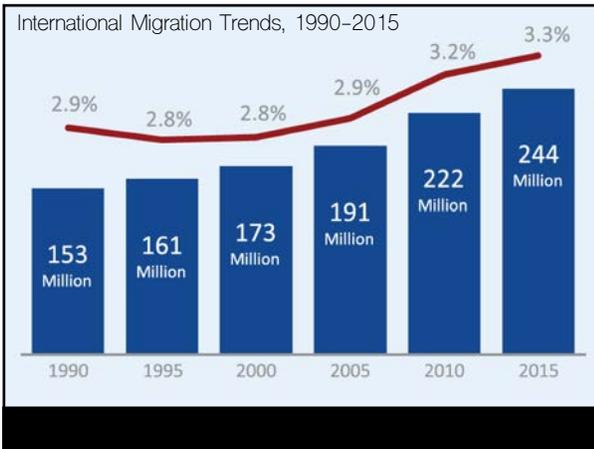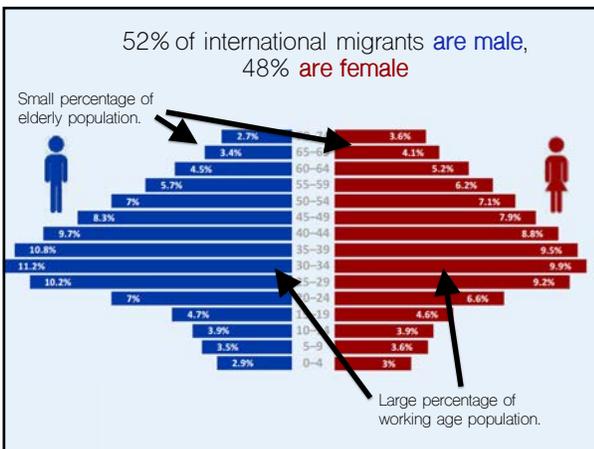## Migration includes…

- International migration: movement across borders.
  - 244 million in 2015 (trend: growing slightly).
  - Would be 5th largest country in the world.

International Migration Trends, 1990–2015

2.9%   2.8%   2.8%   2.9%   3.2%   3.3%

153 Million   161 Million   173 Million   191 Million   222 Million   244 Million

1990   1995   2000   2005   2010   2015

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244 million international migrants
out of 7.3 billion people
1 in 30 people

52% of international migrants are male,
48% are female

Small percentage of elderly population.

Large percentage of working age population.

Migration includes…

- International migration can be voluntary…
  - **economic migrants** seeking to escape poverty or merely pursuing aspirations.
- … or involuntary.
  - ** refugees fleeing conflict, natural disaster, or environmental catastrophe.

Migrants being rescued by Italian navy, June 2014

Migration includes…

- Involuntary migrants:
  - Can be internal (movement within a country).
    - **** *Internally displaced persons* (IDPs).**
    - 40 million in 2016.
  - Or external (movement to another country).
    - Refugees: 22.5 million in 2016, highest on record.
    - About 9.2% of all international migrants.

Migration includes…

- Asylum seekers.
  - **** *Asylum*: seeking protection in one country from persecution in another.**
  - Must demonstrate "well-founded fear."
  - About 20,000 annually in US.
  - Top origin of asylum-seekers in US: China.

** *Remittances*

- Funds sent by international migrants to their home country (usually to family members).
  - $575 billion worldwide in 2016.
  - Largest source of remittances: US.
  - Largest recipient of remittances: India.
  - Largest recipient as % of GDP: Kyrgyzstan (39%).

Kyrgyzstan is in Central Asia and was once part of the Soviet Union.

US Refugee Data

- 2016: 84,995.
- 2017: 53,716.
- 2018: 22,491.
- Largest source countries:
  - Congo (DRC), Syria, Myanmar (Burma), Iraq,

All five are failed or fragile states.

What do the *data* show about legal immigration in the US?

- Note: The question is not, "what should US immigration policy be?" (*the normative question*).
- Whatever one's position on immigration is, let's at least start with *empirical* data, not unsupported statements.

Legal Immigrants Compared to General US Population

- Education levels?
  – About the same.
- Criminal activity?
  – Slightly less.
- Unemployment?
  – Immigrant unemployment is lower.

So...

- Immigration unemployment is lower.
  – Does that mean immigrants take jobs from general population?
  – "...no negative effects on overall wages and employment of native-born workers in the longer term."*
  – Overwhelmingly niche occupations.
    - Ex: US needs 1.1 million nurses (RNs) by 2024.**
    - *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration* (NAP, 2017).
    - ** Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Are the nurses of the future robots?

Nurse TRINA (Tele-Robotic Intelligent Nursing Assistant)

Or immigrants?

Immigration Impact

- Cost of services to immigrants vs taxes paid?
  – First generation: $57 billion cost (mostly for education).
  – Second generation: taxes paid are $30 billion higher than costs.
  – Third generation: $223 billion net benefit to budget.*

  * *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration* (NAP, 2017).
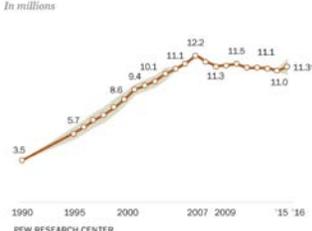
Illegal Immigration

- 11.3 million (2016).
- Roughly half are from Mexico.
- Growing numbers from Central America, Asia.

Estimated unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S. lower in 2015 than in 2009

In millions

12.2
11.1
11.5 11.1
10.1
11.3
11.0 11.3*
9.4
8.6
5.7
3.5

1990   1995   2000   2007 2009   '15 '16
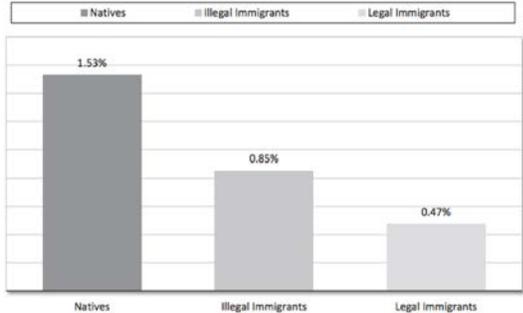
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Illegal Immigration

- What of the claim that illegal immigration contributes to crime?

Let's look at two statistics →

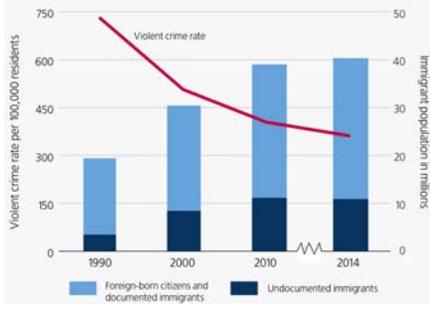## Incarceration Rates By Immigration Status, Ages 18-54*

■ Natives   ■ Illegal Immigrants   ■ Legal Immigrants

1.53%

0.85%

0.47%

Natives   Illegal Immigrants   Legal Immigrants

* Cato Institute

Immigration Rates and Violent Crime*

Violent crime rate

1990   2000   2010   2014

Foreign-born citizens and documented immigrants   Undocumented immigrants

* https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/immigration-public-safety

Immigration Policy Debate

- There are legitimate issues to debate about US policy on immigration.
- But we should start with real data, not perceptions, anecdotal observations, or misinformation.