

## MIGRATION

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/page3.html>

Migration is considered one of the defining global issues of the early twenty-first century, as more and more people are on the move today than at any other point in human history. There are now about 192 million people living outside their place of birth, which is about three per cent of the world's population.

This means that roughly one of every thirty-five persons in the world is a migrant. Between 1965 and 1990, the number of international migrants increased by 45 million—an annual growth rate of about 2.1 per cent. The current annual growth rate is about 2.9 per cent.

Discourse on migration involves many perspectives. There is growing recognition that migration is an essential and inevitable component of the economic and social life of every State, and that orderly and properly managed migration can be beneficial for both individuals and societies. The multiple and complex dimensions of migration include:

- labour migration
- family reunification
- migration and security
- combating irregular migration
- migration and trade
- migrant rights
- health and migration
- integration
- migration and development.

Policy makers and practitioners need to develop a comprehensive understanding of the multi-dimensional phenomenon of migration in order to manage it effectively. A comprehensive and cooperative approach to international migration management is required to deal with the migration pressures of this century. Such an approach will include policies and programmes for migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and forced migration. To be successful, international migration management cannot be undertaken by governments unilaterally.

There are many global trends behind today's mobile world that will impact migration and migration management, including:

- demographic trends
- economic disparities between developing and developed countries
- trade liberalization necessitating a more mobile labour force
- communication networks linking all parts of the world
- transnational migration.

In the twenty-first century, the movement of people will become even more significant as a result of these trends:

### **Economic liberalization**

The trade and investment climate has sustained the flow of migrants. Higher demand for labour in the developed economies and availability of labour in underdeveloped economies has set global labour migration in motion. The huge global labour market has offered employers the chance to hire migrant workers as part of their cost minimization strategies.

Moreover, globalization with its associated forces has increased the mobility of labour across borders. It has already reinforced the movement of skilled workers. Multinational corporations favour the movement of labour, especially highly skilled labour. Faced with acute labour shortages, the industries of developed countries are evaluating migration policies and are showing preference for a relatively flexible mechanism. American and European service industries in particular have been pushing for a "liberal policy" for movement of labour as "service providers," especially in the hotel and restaurant, software, insurance, and financial industries.

### **Economic decline**

The global economy has been experiencing a decline since the beginning of 2001. The International Monetary Fund has projected global growth of 3.2 per cent lower than in previous years. This has produced downward pressure on the movement of labour, especially in the information technology (IT), construction, and manufacturing sectors. However, the actual impact of economic decline, in terms of the return of migrant labour to countries of origin, has yet to be seen. Experience with the Asian financial crisis of 1999 suggests that most migrants tend to remain in the country of destination even when conditions worsen. Temporary recession may not always cause a major disruption of migratory flows and will not alter the trends in a major way.

### **Demographic changes**

Global population growth differs between developed and developing countries. In the developed countries, the current annual rate of growth is less than 0.3 per cent, while in the rest of the world the population is increasing almost six times as fast. Demographic changes affect international migration in two ways. Rapid population growth combined with economic difficulties push people to move out of their habitat, and a declining and ageing population pressures countries to accept migrants.

Sustained low fertility in developed countries produces a rapidly ageing population. The "smaller and older" population projected for developed countries over the next 50 years may enhance possibilities for greater mobility of people. According to UN population projections, Japan and all countries of Europe are expected to face declining population growth over the next 50 years.

For example, the population of Italy is projected to decline from current 57 million to 41 million by 2050. Similarly, the population of Japan is projected to decline to 105 million by 2080 from the current 127 million. In addition to the decline in population size, Japan and the countries of Europe are undergoing a relatively rapid ageing process. While not a solution on its own, one part of the toolkit to address this problem is a gradual process of "Replacement Migration."

### **Emergence of "migrant networks"**

Networks of migrants from a specific region or regions have emerged as a dominant force in enhancing mobility of people. They influence political decisions in host countries to provide economic assistance to their country of origin. They also influence economic and trade relations between the host and the home countries and require more creative and productive integration processes.

### **Emergence of transnational migration**

Advancements in transportation and communication technologies that link places and people globally are leading to the emergence of a "transnational migration space". This spreads over more than one geographical space in which migrants can shuttle between more than one home. Apart from physical movements, the flow of information, skills, and remittances are the other components of the "transnational migration space". Gaps between "geographic space" and "migration space" have shrunk with far-reaching consequences on international migration.

The most immediate outcome of this phenomenon is the growing acceptance of dual citizenship, multiple property, and voting rights. States now recognize that membership is no longer territory-

based. A new kind of "people-State" relationship, which is fast taking root in international politics, is likely to influence the future course of human mobility.

### Few countries manage migration effectively

There are a variety of reasons for this, not the least of which is because few countries have a defined and articulated migration policy. It is difficult to manage anything if there is not a policy structure established to guide the managers. Yet even countries that do have a coherent migration policy backed up by legislation often experience serious difficulties in managing migration.

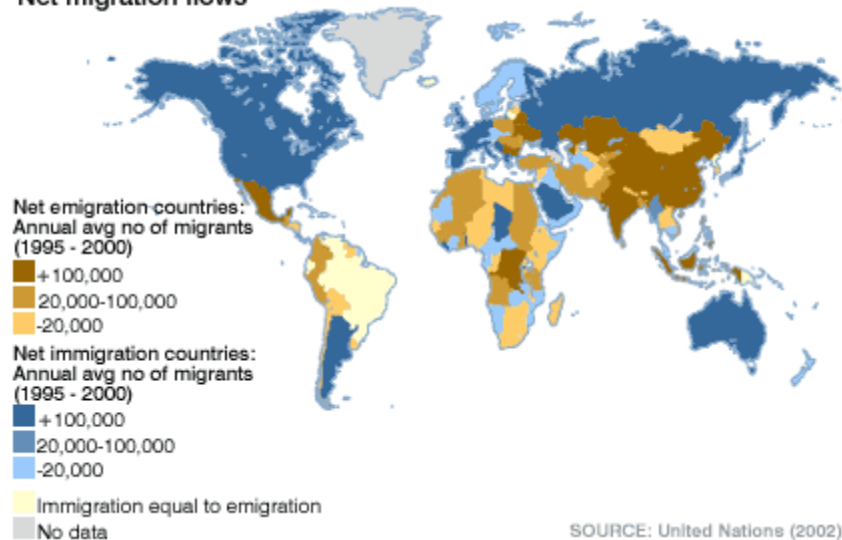
Some critics of public policy, particularly in the developed countries, have characterized the period from the mid-1970s to the present time as a quarter century of migration mismanagement. Moreover, the large-scale movement of peoples has not ceased. Irregular migration has become one of the major issues of our time. Migrant smuggling now matches drug trafficking as a major source of income for organized crime. Trafficking in human beings has become a significant worldwide concern. Migration has moved up the scale of important issues facing the countries of the developed world so that now it is at the top of the policy agenda of the G8 countries.

It is not difficult to understand why people from the poorer regions of the globe wish to migrate to more prosperous countries. People have always moved within regions or from one region to another in order to improve their standard of living, to give their children better opportunities to get ahead, or to escape from poverty, war, and famine. This is the iron rule of migration that has governed since the beginning of time.

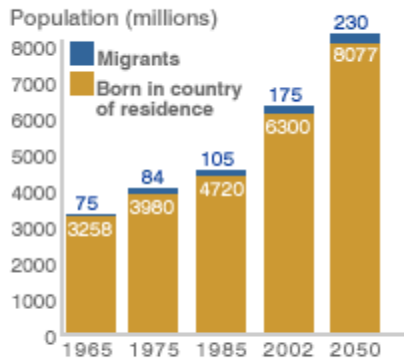
Today, with modern transportation and telecommunications, more people are motivated and able to move. The poor and disadvantaged can now see with their own eyes the wide disparity between their standard of living and that of the richer and more advantaged people in the world. They want to share in the wealth, and by the means of modern transportation, they are able to get to richer lands in a matter of hours. With economic globalization and the proliferation of international business, there is also increasing demand for mobility of professionals. The challenge for all countries is how to regulate and manage these large-scale migratory movements.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/world/04/migration/html/global\\_picture.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/world/04/migration/html/global_picture.stm)

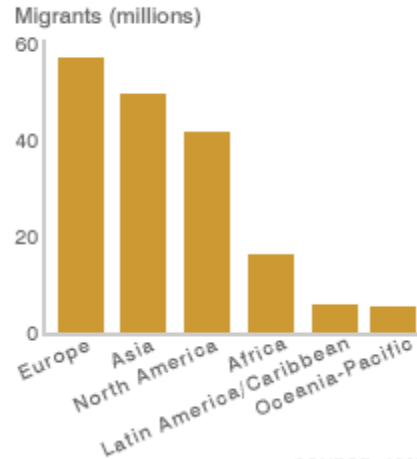
Net migration flows



World's foreign-born population

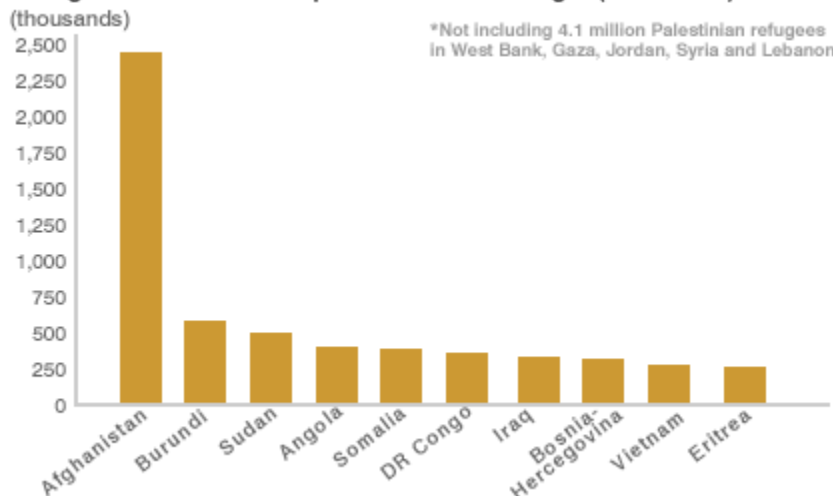


Migrants per region in 2000



SOURCE : IOM

Refugees worldwide\*: Top 10 countries of origin (as of 2002)



SOURCE: UNHCR

At the end of 2002, 10.4 million people around the world had refugee status, according to the UN High Commission for Refugees. A further one million applied for asylum that year or had their applications still pending. (These figures do not include the 4.1 million Palestinian refugees assisted by the UN Relief and Works Agency.)

In 2002, the global number of refugees dropped by about 1.5 million compared to the previous year. This was due mainly to the number of displaced civilians returning home, mostly to Afghanistan. However, Afghans remained the world's largest refugee population.

**United States: 485,000 refugees**

Despite tightening its asylum laws after the 11 September attacks, the US still accounts for half of all the resettlement of refugees worldwide. An application for asylum must be made within one year of arrival in the US. Asylum seekers are not allowed to work while it is processed. Once granted asylum they are expected to look for a job, and can apply for permanent resident status after one year.

In March 2003, the US announced that asylum seekers from Iraq, and 33 other countries where it believes al-Qaeda and other militant groups have operated, will be kept in custody throughout the processing period.

**Germany: 980,000 refugees**

Germany has the largest refugee population in Western Europe. In December 2002, just under a million foreign nationals were resident in Germany on humanitarian grounds. Most are from the former Yugoslavia, Turkey, Iraq and Iran. But the number of asylum seekers has decreased by half since restrictions were imposed in 1993.

All asylum seekers are placed in reception centres for up to three months, and are not allowed to work. Cash benefits amount to about \$38 a month and other assistance is given in kind.

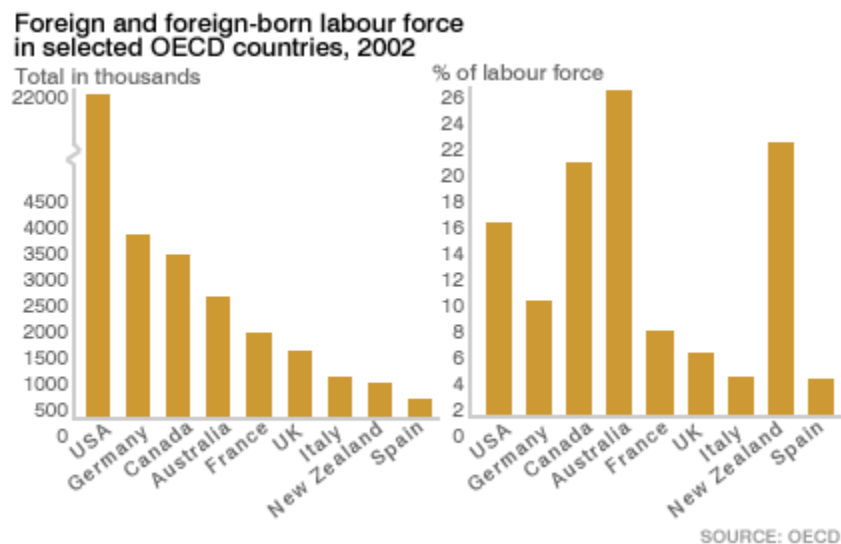
**Iran: 1,300,000 refugees**

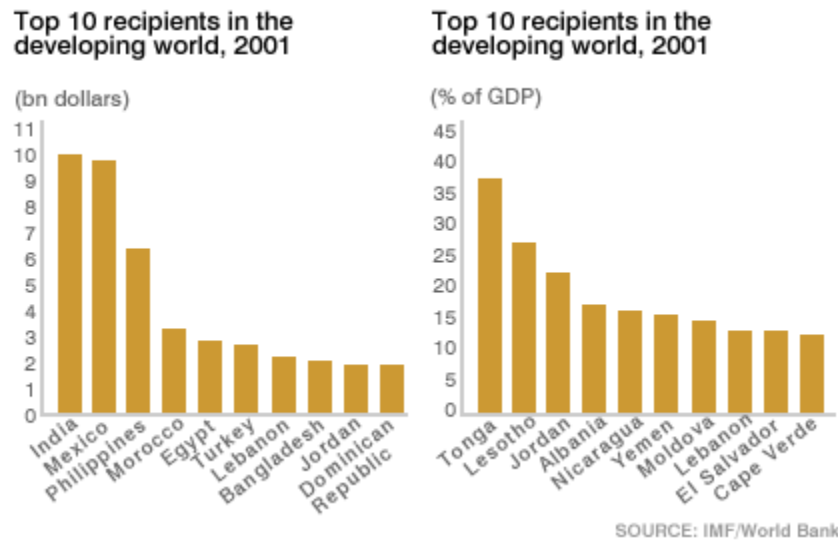
There are about 1.3 million refugees in Iran, according to a report published by the UNHCR in 2003. Around one million of these are Afghans, with the remainder largely made up of Iraqis. The government has, according to Human Rights Watch, "grown increasingly disenchanted about hosting such a large refugee population in the face of minimal international interest, financial support, or burden sharing".

In 2001, restrictions on refugees' access to employment were tightened. The same year, the government and UNHCR set about registering millions of refugees, recognizing their status as refugees in Iran.

**China: 300,000 refugees**

China was hosting an estimated 400,000 refugees and asylum seekers by the end of 2002. Up to 300,000 of them were ethnic Chinese from Vietnam, with most of the remainder from North Korea. China's Yunnan Province also hosts an unknown number of Kachin refugees from Burma. Although China is a signatory to the UN Convention on Refugees, it has no domestic laws on refugee protection. It only grants UNHCR-approved refugees temporary residence and does not permit them to work.





Money sent by migrants back to their countries of origin is an increasingly important source of outside funding for many developing countries. Remittance flows are the second-largest source, behind foreign investment by private companies, of external funding for developing countries. In 2001, remittance receipts of developing countries stood at \$72.3bn.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in\\_depth/3512992.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/3512992.stm)

#### **Brunson McKinley is director general of the International Organization for Migration**

The movement of people needs to be better managed. Mobility of persons occurs through choice or necessity. The current global estimate of international migrants is 175 million, some 3% of the world population, and the number is increasing.

People migrate, temporarily or permanently, to receive education and training, to perform services, to find employment, to flee life-threatening situations or to provide themselves and their children with hope and opportunity.

The movement of people across borders is essential in today's globalised world. International business depends on an international labour force, and the ability of people to move around the world with ease.

Most developed countries face declining birth rates and ageing populations, which can be mitigated by migration. Remittances earned abroad are the principal support to the economies of many developing countries.

But much of migration today is unregulated. There are not enough legal channels open for those who want to migrate and whose labour may be needed.

Criminal smuggling and trafficking networks are matching up the supply of labour with the demand, mostly in the informal economy. As a result, border controls are evaded, with exploitation and security risks for the individuals and societies involved.

Xenophobia and racism flourish to the detriment of host communities and migrants, particularly when governments are perceived to have lost control of the migration situation.

However, when managed effectively migration holds great potential for migrants and for host communities. The ultimate goal is not to obstruct or prevent mobility but to better manage it for the benefit of all.

**Professor Binod Khadria is the author of The Migration of Knowledge Workers.**

The question of whether we should have open borders is more a question about the visas barrier countries use for monitoring the immigration of non-citizens than controlling the emigration of citizens.

The movement of goods and people are linked.

When people move across borders, goods are produced on location. When not, production is outsourced.

The former leads to brain drain from developing countries and the latter to what is known as Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) in developed countries.

The current policy trend of developed host countries is to provide temporary visas with the aim of returning these immigrant workers to their home countries within a few years.

This creates a negative effect. First of all it encourages a nomadic lifestyle where families and spouses are directly affected and unable to settle.

The higher turnover of immigrants benefits these host countries by correcting their ageing population structures by laying off older workers in favour of cheaper, younger foreign workers, and profiting from the knowledge of younger minds.

For the developing home country, on the other hand, temporary migration brings in higher remittances, but with the increased emigration of students much of this would flow back to developed host countries as overseas student fees.

The solution lies in countries like India seeking foreign investment for the education and health sectors, with the objective of raising the productivity of labour in India, so that if the top 10% of the workforce emigrates it will not affect the overall GDP of the country.

**Jagdish Bhagwati is Professor of Economics at Columbia University, New York.**

There would be virtually no distinction between the case for free migration and the case for free trade if global efficiency was our reason for choosing a proper migration policy.

But we typically bring in "communitarian" arguments to moderate or limit the flows of people across our borders. I do not think we are in a position to contemplate free migration for that reason.

But we can be more progressive and liberal than we have been.

Where we used to consider the right to exclude as the flip side of sovereignty, we have increasingly come to accept certain restraints on the ability of nation states to exclude.

And even on the rights of aliens, even when they are illegal, we have been moving ever so slowly towards recognising restraints on treating them as having no rights.

I have also long believed that the time has finally come to move towards creating a proper world body to deal with migration.

Such an institution would steer us – the way the International Labour Organization has done since 1919 – towards an acceptance of some core values in the treatment of workers, in the direction of an expanding set of norms that assure a wider acceptance of the basic rights of aliens at the door and in our midst.

**Dr PN Govender is president of the South African Medical Association.**

While I endorse a doctor's right of free movement, I cannot endorse mass migration for personal reasons alone.

South Africa loses almost 50% of its qualified doctors annually to Canada, the UK and Australia.

There is a steady demand for South African health professionals overseas. The state needs to offer more incentives for them to stay.

The laws and regulations governing medical services here are centrist and collectivist by design, so much so that doctors in state services have to enter a central bargaining chamber to fight for their piece of the health budget with porters and cleaners.

Doctors will settle for lesser wages here than they can obtain overseas if their service is respected, and their working conditions are conducive.

Medicine is a larger calling and doctors cannot be expected to migrate following richer pastures for personal or material gain alone. There is a moral obligation to provide this essential service in one's own country.

**Sir Andrew Green is chairman of MigrationWatch UK.**

No. This proposition is both unrealistic and impractical. For a start, we do not now have free movement of goods.

We are moving towards the free movement of industrial goods between certain groups of countries.

But there is not free movement of agricultural goods (or of textiles) as the Common Agricultural Policy eloquently testifies.

The reason is clear. The industrialized countries of Europe wish to preserve key elements of their economy which are of great importance to their social structures.

This consideration applies still more strongly to the movement of people. People are not packing cases. They have continuing needs for health, education, housing and transport.

As the economist Milton Friedman put it: "You cannot have both open borders and a welfare system."

Given the huge disparities of wealth, open borders would lead to massive flows of people from the third world to the industrialized world until conditions there approximated to their home countries.

This would be a recipe for chaos and would be entirely unacceptable to the inhabitants of the industrialized world.

**Mary Harney is the Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.**

The free movement of persons is a fundamental freedom guaranteed by European Union law and is a mark of European citizenship.

The current debate on this issue is taking place in the context of the accession to the Union of 10 new member states with effect from 1 May this year.

The process of accession allows member states a period of adjustment, ranging up to five years, to accommodate disturbances to their labour markets.

In some circumstances this period can be extended by a further two years, but only with the approval of the EU Commission.

It is important that such controls are applied in an open and transparent way so that all of Europe's citizens understand what is required of them when moving from one member state to another after 1 May.

Interim controls that are applied are transitional in nature and do not undermine the fundamental freedom of persons to move between member states.

Ireland will not apply interim controls on access to work and will allow full access to its labour market from 1 May. We look forward to welcoming workers from the accession countries after that date.

**Mark Krikorian is executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, Washington DC.**

No. Borders are essential to nationhood. They are the line between "us" and "them". Without 'them' there can be no 'us', precluding the possibility of social solidarity.

Aristotle wrote that each virtue has two corresponding vices, one marked by an excess of the characteristic related to the that virtue, the other by an insufficiency.

Denunciations of xenophobia or chauvinism are appropriately widespread, but an open borders policy is a function of the other vice, insufficient national feeling.

The analogy to common ownership of property is compelling: if everyone owns everything, the experience of socialist societies shows us that no one is responsible for anything.

Likewise, if all men have an equal claim to my affections, without regard to borders, then no man is my brother.

Even in a purely economic sense, the idea of open borders is a pernicious one. Free movement of people is different from the free movement of goods because people are not goods.

When we import a plastic toy from Malaysia, we import only the labour used to make it. When we import Malaysians, we import complete human beings, with all their dreams and preferences, their strengths and weaknesses.

In short, we change our society in a way that the free movement of goods cannot. Such change may or may not be a good idea, but it is not comparable in any way to the trade in goods.

**Hector Flores is president of League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)**

The Hispanic community by and large supports increased immigration, but with proper controls.

Hispanics make up the largest minority group in the US and are projected to number almost a quarter of the population by 2050. Crossing borders for a new life in the US is in principle a win-win situation for immigrants. For them it is an opportunity to earn good money, and the US benefits from their labour.

While proper border controls are certainly necessary, Western countries need to address the fact that proper immigration laws would reduce the number of people crossing these borders illegally.

President Bush's recent guest worker program provides immigrants with the chance to work legally for a fixed period, but it does not allow for them to become permanent residents.

Immigration laws should be put in place that allow for immigrants to come and find employment permanently. This would be preferable to the de facto system now in place, where people are entering the country illegally.

**What are your views on the opinions expressed here? Your comments:**

An important area of discussion that was not covered in any detail in this article is the influence of companies, international conglomerates who wield immense influence in third world countries, where the introduction of factories can raise the economical productivity of a country. While many countries appear to be centred in the US, the trend to move factories and jobs to poorer countries for profit works in a counterintuitive manner to the idea of clearly defined borders between one country and another. The choices are clear: either companies are required to keep their business within their own country or very few neighbouring countries and are taxed highly on foreign-produced goods to discourage foreign production, or free trade practices allows companies to hire Bangladeshi workers who will work for pennies a day instead of American workers who require at least \$5 per-hour salaries and health benefits.

***Matthew, Athens, Greece***

There's an important distinction between open borders and managed borders. What's clearly needed, as Jagdish Bhagwati outlines, is a global approach to the problem to prevent the free-for-all that currently exists, where more economically developed countries fight to pass migrants off to one another. However, that doesn't solve the problem of producing legal, safe means for people to escape countries with poor human rights records.

***Rav, Boston, USA***

From the above comments, it is quite clear that some of the people are selfish in a sense that they do not wish to compromise their own standard of living with the influx of immigrants. Thus, a more suitable strategy to cope with migration is to improve the standard of living of the people in the Third World countries, and this can only be attained if developed countries can cooperate and provide financial and technical assistance to these countries, which sadly is not provided or not sufficient currently. Only with this improvement strategy to eliminate poverty and create jobs will people have less incentive to migrate, and the problems that migration brings to both the host and the original country will not occur in the end, since conditions will not significantly improve if they migrate.

***Benjamin, Singapore***

Mark Krikorian's argument is a good one. However, the 'us' and 'them' theory must be tempered with a respect for 'them'. Ultimately, and I realise this is a large task, the problems for 'us', aren't going to be fully addressed, until we address the problems for 'them'. Migration and the problems it causes will only cease once the world is equally habitable. This will only happen when the industrialised nations level the playing field for the others. 'Us' and 'them', yes, but only with deference to 'we'.

***Joe, Oxford***

Experience from my travels has shown me as long as there is globalisation there will be movement to where the jobs are. This is because there is no stable job environment in any particular country. But with such instability, costs for the other things like health care will rise. There needs to be a balance that gave the US and other industrialized countries the ability to grow and allow support systems to assist their citizens. To allow migration to continue unchecked will leave more instability and challenge current social structures. As we move around, we need a stable global social base, change nationalism to globalism belief that we are one world.

***Robert Brzezinski, Toms River, USA***