Major Historical Migrations
Forced migration. Notice how many areas in the Western Hemisphere used slavery in addition to the US.
Immigration Waves to the USA
Ask the class to compare the immigration trends to the US from the early 1900s to the late 1900s. Immigration came primarily from Europe in the early 1900s. During the time period of WWII, almost all immigration to the US stopped. Beginning in the 1960s-70s, there is a pronounced switch to immigrants from Asia and Latin America.
The potato crop in Ireland failed in the late 1940s due to a crop disease known as “potato blight.” The potato was far and away the staple food crop of Ireland and the resulting Irish Potato Famine was catastrophic. Many Irish had two choices, stay in Ireland and starve to death or emigrate (impelled migration). The US was the most popular choice for Irish emigrants. The initial wave of Irish immigrants in the late 1840s-early 1850s set firm footing for further chain migration.
After the Civil War and Emancipation, African Americans moved to take advantage of industrial and manufacturing jobs in the major urban centers of the Northeast and Midwest. Due to strict immigration quotas at the time, there was a significant labor shortage in these areas. Racism, Jim Crow laws and the lack of economic opportunity after Reconstruction were major push factors. Major cities such as Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, and New York City saw major demographic changes during this time period.
This chart displays the number of Vietnamese refugees arriving in the United States each year between 1975 and 2002. The spike during 1975 was the end of the Vietnam war as the communist Northern Vietnamese over ran the US-backed south of the country. Notice that 1980 -- the year after President Carter raised the quota for immigrants fleeing communist countries -- was the peak year, with about 95,000 Vietnamese refugees arriving in the U.S. The number of Vietnamese immigrants sharply increased after 1979, the year the quota was increased to 14,000 immigrants per month.
Immigration from South Asia to the US is a more recent phenomena. The upper map shows settle locations of Indian immigrants, the lower map shows the same information for Pakistani immigrants. Notice the settlement patterns are similar and areas with large urban areas are attracting the most immigrants.
The first Hmong immigrants came to the US as it became clear that the communist Northern Vietnamese were going to take over the country of Vietnam towards the end of the Vietnam conflict. Many of the Hmong supported anti-communist forces such as the USA and as such were subject to retaliation by the Northern Vietnamese. Original plans by the US sought to settle the Hmong through out the US. However, the desire to be with family and friends was strong and most Hmong gravitated towards Central California, the upper Midwest and South Carolina.
Compare the areas of red on the map (population loss) to areas of blue on the map (population gain). The colors support the ongoing internal migration from the N/NE to the S/SE (Sunbelt) and West.
This is a second cartogram supporting the notion that internal migration in the US is from to the Sunbelt and West.
European Emigration/Immigration
Colonialism not only stimulated more than 60 million Europeans to migrate overseas, it also brought millions of Asians, Africans and Amerindians to Europe. In the beginning, many of these immigrants came to Europe as slaves, but in the 20th century immigrants from Africa and Asia served as soldiers and contract laborers in the European armies during the two World Wars. In addition, the wave of decolonization after World War II stimulated millions of former European colonists as well as people of mixed descent and various colonial minority groups such as the Chinese to migrate to Europe in spite of the fact that the large majority of these migrants had never lived or visited there. Information taken from article by P. Emmer and L. Lucassen.
Like many migrations, Moroccans moved in search of jobs to the European country which colonized them (France colonized Morocco). As a residents of a French colony, Moroccan males were allowed to come to France to work and join the armed forces. During a post-WWII industrial boom, there was a labor shortage in Western Europe. European countries sought unskilled/low-wage laborers to fill jobs. Morocco was targeted as a country with just such a labor force.

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<th>North Africa to Europe: late 20\textsuperscript{th} Century</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Morocco to France pre WWII</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Men seeking jobs during WWI and WWII</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Men joined French armed forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Morocco to Western Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>(France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands)</td>
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<td>– Rural men recruited to fill low-skill labor jobs in</td>
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<td>1960s</td>
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Figure 3: Distribution of Moroccan population living abroad, 2004

Source: Moroccan Consular Services
North Africa to Europe: late 20th Century

• Algeria to France
  – Pre WWII mostly men for jobs
  – Post WWII increase in entire families immigrating

Similar to Morocco, Algerian men flocked to France to fill labor shortages in WWI/II. Post WWII, families begin immigrating to France which was a departure from the norm as most previous migrants were men.
Both groups experienced a similar political push factor in the Iran/Iraq war during the 1980s. Men of fighting age and families with men that could be forced to fight were the most likely to migrate. Sweden opened her arms to Iranians during the Islamic Revolution in 1979 until the end of the Iran/Iraq conflict in the early 1990s. Dictator Saddam Hussein was hostile to minority Kurds and Sunnis encouraging their migration from Iraq. Iraqis did not emigrate to one single location but rather throughout Western Europe.

Middle East to Europe

- Iran to Sweden (1970s-1990s)
  - Islamic Revolution and Iran/Iraq War
  - Sweden friendly to Iranian immigrants
- Iraq to Europe
  - Iran/Iraq War
  - Kurds and Sunni minorities under Saddam Hussein
Asian Emigration/Immigration
The Chinese migrated to SE Asia to act as the middlemen between European and SE Asians. Often the Chinese are the minority ethnic group in SE Asian countries (except for Singapore) yet are more economically successful than the local ethnic majority. This potentially leads to jealousy and conflict.
The *hukou* system, introduced in the 1950s, labels people as rural or urban depending on the place of birth and family history. The hukou system also ties people's access to services provided by the govt to their residential status meaning that those in rural areas that moved to cities were not eligible for the same services as those labeled urban. When rural vs. urban labels were relaxed, tens of millions of migrant workers left the fields to work in factories, toil on building sites, serve in restaurants or clean homes, contributing to China's spectacular economic growth. Information published in The Guardian 7/31/14.
Syria: 2010-Present

- More than 200,000 Syrians have lost their lives in four years of armed conflict, which began with anti-government protests before escalating into a full-scale civil war. More than 11 million others have been forced from their homes as forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad and those opposed to his rule battle each other - as well as Islamic militants from Islamic State (ISIS). BBC News
Most Syrian refugees have relocated to neighboring countries in the Middle East. Recently, an increasing number have been arriving in Europe creating problems for countries on that continent. There are two sides to the Syrian refugee issue: humanitarian and practical side. There are only so many people each country of the world can accept as refugees. A huge influx of people in a short period of time raises many issues concerned with housing, jobs, stress on services, schools, as well as successfully integrating a large number of culturally different people into a country. However, turning people away does not appeal to the humanitarian aspects of the problem. If countries DON’T accept refugees, what will happen to them? Where will they go?
In September of 2015, a crush of Syrian refugees has reached the countries of Eastern Europe seeking a new life. Countries such as Hungary allowed some in but have now erected fences and made it much more difficult to enter. Refugees want to reach economically healthy such as Germany, France, and the UK.