

Topic 6.6 - Causes of Migration in an Interconnected World (Parts 1 & 2)

Standards Alignment

Theme	Learning Objective	Key Concept (KC)
Humans and the Environment (ENV)	Unit 6: Learning Objective F – Explain how various environmental factors contributed to the development of varied patterns of migration from 1750 to 1900.	KC-5.4.I – Migration in many cases was influenced by changes in demographics in both industrialized and unindustrialized societies that presented challenges to existing patterns of living.
Humans and the Environment (ENV)	Unit 6: Learning Objective F – Explain how various environmental factors contributed to the development of varied patterns of migration from 1750 to 1900.	KC-5.4.I.B – Because of the nature of new modes of transportation, both internal and external migrants increasingly relocated to cities. This pattern contributed to the significant global urbanization of the 19th century. The new methods of transportation also allowed for many migrants to return, periodically or permanently, to their home societies.
Economic Systems (ECN)	Unit 6: Learning Objective G – Explain how various economic factors contributed to the development of varied patterns of migration from 1750 to 1900.	KC-5.4.II.A – Many individuals chose freely to relocate, often in search of work.
Economic Systems (ECN)	Unit 6: Learning Objective G – Explain how various economic factors contributed to the development of varied patterns of migration from 1750 to 1900.	KC-5.4.II.B – The new global capitalist economy continued to rely on coerced and semi coerced labor migration, including enslavement, Chinese and Indian indentured servitude, and convict labor.

Learning Objectives

- Explain how environmental and demographic factors influenced migration
- Describe how transportation changes shaped migration patterns
- Analyze economic motivations behind voluntary migration
- Compare free and coerced labor migration systems

Lesson Overview

Between 1750 and 1900, migration increased dramatically as the world became more interconnected. Environmental pressures, population growth, and technological changes pushed people to move. At the same time, economic opportunities and labor demands pulled migrants to new regions. These movements reshaped societies, economies, and environments across the globe.

Essential Vocabulary

- **Urbanization:** Movement of people from rural areas to cities
- **Indentured labor:** Workers contracted to work for a set period in exchange for passage
- **Circular migration:** Movement where migrants return to their home regions
- **Labor demand:** Need for workers in a specific area or industry
- **Population pressure:** Strain caused by rapid population growth

Background Reading

Population growth in the 18th and 19th centuries created new pressures on land and resources. In many regions, people could not find enough farmland or jobs, leading them to migrate. Environmental factors such as land scarcity and changes in agriculture contributed to these movements. At the same time, new transportation technologies like steamships and railroads made migration easier and faster.

Migration was also driven by economic factors. Industrial economies required large numbers of workers, leading many people to migrate voluntarily in search of employment. Cities grew rapidly as people moved from rural areas to urban centers. This process, known as urbanization, transformed societies around the world.

Not all migration was voluntary. The global capitalist economy relied heavily on coerced and semi-coerced labor systems. After the abolition of slavery, indentured laborers from India and China were sent to work on plantations and in mines. These systems often limited workers' freedom and tied them to harsh working conditions. Together, voluntary and forced migrations shaped global patterns of labor and settlement.

Primary Source 1

Source: Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England* (1845)

Full text: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1847engels.asp>

The great towns are chiefly inhabited by working people, who have little or nothing to lose, and are therefore more ready for change. The rapid growth of industry has drawn vast numbers of people from rural districts into urban centers, where they seek employment in factories and workshops. This movement has been driven not only by the promise of wages but also by the lack of opportunity in agricultural regions, where traditional forms of labor are no longer sufficient to sustain the population.

In these cities, workers are crowded together in conditions that are often unhealthy and dangerous. Housing is frequently inadequate, and sanitation is poor, leading to the spread of disease. Despite these hardships, the demand for labor continues to attract migrants, as industrial employers require a constant supply of workers. The concentration of population in urban areas is therefore both a result of economic necessity and a defining feature of industrial society.

The transformation of society through this migration has far-reaching consequences. Families are uprooted from their traditional environments, and new social relationships are formed in the cities. The increased mobility of the population, combined with the expansion of transportation networks, allows individuals to move

more freely than in previous generations, contributing to the dynamic and often unstable nature of modern industrial life.

Guided Questions

1. **Contextualization:**
Describe the broader historical context in which Engels wrote this passage.
2. **Sourcing (Point of View):**
How does Engels's background and perspective influence his description of urban migration?
3. **Claim/Evidence:**
Identify ONE claim Engels makes about migration to cities and provide ONE piece of evidence from the text that supports it.
4. **Causation:**
According to the source, what are TWO causes of urban migration during this period?
5. **Effects / Historical Reasoning:**
Explain ONE significant social effect of urban migration described in the passage.

Primary Source 2

Source: *Terms of Agreement for Indian Indentured Laborers to Mauritius* (1834–1838 contracts, British colonial records)

<https://www.bl.uk/learning/histcitizen/21cc/empire/empire.html>

(British Library resource on indentured labor system with documented contract terms and conditions)

The laborer agrees to serve for a period of five years in the colony to which he or she is assigned, performing such work as may be required by the employer. During this period, the laborer shall receive fixed wages, provisions, and housing, though these shall be regulated by the employer and subject to the conditions of the plantation or enterprise. The laborer is not permitted to leave employment without authorization and may be subject to penalties for breach of contract.

Recruitment of laborers has been carried out in regions where economic hardship has made such agreements appealing. Many individuals enter into these contracts with the expectation of improving their circumstances, though the reality of labor conditions in overseas colonies is often far more difficult. The system is designed to supply a steady workforce to plantations following the abolition of slavery, ensuring continued production of export crops.

Upon completion of the contract, the laborer may be entitled to return passage or may choose to remain in the colony. However, the ability to return is frequently influenced by financial limitations and access to resources. This system reflects broader patterns of migration shaped by global economic demands and demonstrates the unequal balance of power between employers and laborers within the imperial economy.

Guided Questions (DBQ-Style)

- 1. Contextualization:**
Describe the broader historical context that led to the development of indentured labor systems.
- 2. Sourcing (Purpose):**
What is the purpose of this type of contract, and how does that purpose shape its content?
- 3. Claim/Evidence:**
Identify ONE claim the document makes about labor conditions and provide ONE supporting detail.
- 4. Causation:**
Explain ONE economic reason why indentured labor systems developed.
- 5. Comparison:**
Explain ONE similarity or difference between indentured labor and earlier systems of coerced labor such as slavery.

Migration Patterns

Type of Migration	Cause	Example	Impact
Rural to urban	Population pressure	Britain	Urbanization
Voluntary migration	Job opportunities	European migrants	Economic growth
Indentured labor	Labor demand	Indian workers	Limited freedom
Forced labor	Coercion	Convict labor	Exploitation

Change / Continuity / Comparison

- **Change:** Increased migration due to transportation and industrialization
- **Continuity:** Continued use of coerced labor systems
- **Comparison:** Voluntary migration offered opportunities, while coerced migration limited freedom

Key Takeaways

- Migration increased due to environmental and economic pressures
- Transportation made movement easier and more frequent
- Urbanization transformed societies
- Both voluntary and coerced migrations shaped labor systems
- Migration contributed to global interconnectedness

SAQ 1 (Stimulus-Based)

Stimulus: Engels, *Condition of the Working Class in England*

- Identify ONE cause of urban migration described in the passage.
- Explain ONE way industrialization influenced migration patterns.
- Explain ONE social effect of urban migration described in the passage.

SAQ 2 (Stimulus-Based)

Stimulus: Indian Indentured Labor Contract (British colonial system, 19th century)

- Identify ONE specific condition or requirement imposed on laborers in the contract.
- Explain ONE economic factor that led to the development of indentured labor systems.
- Explain ONE way indentured labor systems limited workers' freedom or shaped their experiences.

SAQ 3 (Comparative)

- A. Identify ONE similarity between voluntary and coerced migration.
- B. Identify ONE difference between them.
- C. Explain ONE reason for this difference.