

Migration: Role, Definition, Essence, Forms, and Classification

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Abstract: This article comprehensively analyzes the socio-philosophical essence of the concept of migration, its role in society, scientific definitions, forms and types. The causal factors of migration, subjective and objective factors affecting it, as well as the social, economic and cultural consequences of migration flows are discussed. The article also considers approaches and classification criteria within various disciplines related to migration.

Keywords: migration, socio-philosophy, forms of migration, factors, types, migration flows, human movement, social process.

Introduction. In the current era of increasing globalization, migration is emerging as an integral part of human development. This phenomenon, which has existed since ancient times in human history, is inextricably linked to increasingly complex political, economic, environmental and cultural factors. Migration is not only a demographic movement, but also a broad phenomenon that includes issues of social relations, cultural identity and social justice. Social philosophy plays an important role in the study of migration. It considers not only the individual and collective experiences of migrants, but also wider questions related to justice, identity, culture, and social integration. The main aspects that can be investigated within social philosophy include:

1. **The concept of justice:** What are the ethical foundations for migration policy? How can justice be ensured for migrants and the local population?
2. **Identity and belonging:** How does migration affect identity, both of migrants and of the receiving society? How do new forms of cultural belonging arise?
3. **Social relations:** How does migration alter social ties and structures in society? What are the consequences for solidarity and mutual assistance between different groups?
4. **Moral obligations:** What moral obligations do states have toward migrants? What level of support and protection should they provide?

Thus, social philosophy helps to understand more deeply not only the mechanisms of migration, but also its effects on human relationships and social structures. In the modern world, migration is a topic of study in many scientific disciplines, each using the common concept but having its own specific directions of analysis. Migration is studied in fields including conflict studies, history, economics, sociology, law, demography, philosophy, and others. In conflict studies the focus is on the conflictual sides of migration, such as ethno-cultural interactions between migrants and the local population, and on causes and ways to resolve arising conflicts. In history migration is analyzed with emphasis on events and temporal factors, as well as the role of different ethnic groups in society. Economics treats migration as a means of optimizing the allocation of resources, which allows increasing labor efficiency and stimulating the development of various sectors. Sociology examines social relations in migration processes, the stages of migration, difficulties in interethnic interaction, and the influence of migration on changes in social structure. Law views migration as a phenomenon connected with human rights, emphasizing protection of migrants' rights and compliance with international norms, investigating legal mechanisms regulating migration flows and their impact on national security. For

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demography, migration is important because it significantly influences demographic dynamics at different scales—from local to global.

Besides the different disciplinary approaches to migration, there are also differences within each discipline in the interpretation of migration and its subjects, depending on the emphasis chosen by the researcher. For example, the focus may be on fuller formulations or more concise ones, and also on the significance of certain characteristics. This diversity of interests in the study of migration underlines its interdisciplinary status.

Philosophy of migration is still just beginning to develop as a field of scientific research. From the philosophical side, one can apply comparative method to the study of migration, exploring it in various life situations and disciplines; on the other hand, philosophy can abstract from the “qualificatory” characteristics and propose a broader interpretation of migration, seeing it through the lens of the “sociostream” (social flow). “Sociostreams,” social migrations, from our point of view, represent the movement of people by location. With reliance on this concept one can study both incoming and outgoing migration flows in a global context, evaluate continental migration dynamics, distinguish “living,” “slowed,” and “dead” zones, as well as take into account temporal factors, speaking of periods of frequent and rare migrations. This allows identifying general tendencies in the movement of people and the development of social ties, which, in turn, can serve as additional material for explaining other social processes and phenomena. This term allows us to abstract from a particular historical time, subject and place. Sociostream as a phenomenon requires the presence of an external observer, which makes it phenomenally distinct from the narrow understanding of migration, which can be considered as movement “within history” and does not need (a trans-historical) perspective for its realization.

The concept of migration in philosophy is used to describe the behavior of people and social groups motivated by various driving factors, as well as for forming certain social relationships arising in the context of migration. From a social-philosophical approach, migration includes processes of moving people in space, aimed at creating certain conditions for life and professional activity. As basic principles of spatial-territorial mobility of population, the driving forces of people's mobility can be the desire to “survive in this way,” achievement of set goals (or realization of an ideology), as well as a lifestyle. The motivation “to preserve life in this way” is determined by the instinctive desire of people in concrete situations (for example, ecological catastrophes, conflicts, repressions) to protect life or strengthen health.

Goal-setting and ideological implementation become the basis of movement when their achievement is possible only through migration, as happens with travels for rest, one-time migrations or military expeditions, driven by a shared idea. Territorial mobility as a lifestyle can serve as a basis for people's migration under conditions of frequent social movements, when migration is integrated into the person's overall “picture of life” (for example, nomadic migration). Although migration is a foundational movement, it is a dynamic and active aspect of people's lives. It is a “living” and changeable phenomenon, which shows itself especially vividly today, when it turns into flows capable of quickly changing direction. It should be emphasized that migration flows have the property of adapting to changes and bypassing legal prohibitions, “penetrating” through state borders.

To answer the question: “Why does human migration occur?”, the researcher Manuel Castells bases his analysis on several key ideas: within the social approach to migration: structural analysis, migration as adaptation, social networks, and political context. In structural analysis, migration is viewed as a result of social and economic structures. He emphasizes that migration processes are shaped under the influence of macroeconomic conditions, such as income level, employment, and social inequality. In “migration as adaptation,” Castells considers migration to be an adaptive reaction to changes in the environment, including economic, political, and ecological factors. People strive to improve their living conditions and security. Under the idea of social networks: he also emphasizes the role of social networks in the migration process. Connections among migrants, families, and communities help form migration flows, assisting new migrants to adapt and find opportunities.



In my view, in answering the question: “Why do people migrate?”, one first needs to consider the basis of social movements (i.e., what has been discussed above). The existence of “push” and “pull” factors is the immediate impulse for migration. At the same time, the decision to migrate may be determined not so much by the presence of those factors themselves, but by the subjective perception of them by the potential migrant.

Migration is conditioned by two main types of factors: on the one hand, these are circumstances which make life difficult for a person (a potential migrant) in a given territory, limiting their connection with social groups and access to resources; on the other hand, there are factors which create attractiveness for migrants. It is not necessary that the “pushing” and “pulling” factors act simultaneously. Key “push” causes of migration may be: acute economic and political crises accompanied by hunger, repressions, and ethnic conflicts, as well as climatic and ecological factors, such as soil degradation, accumulation of toxic waste, and use of harmful chemicals. Pulling causes may be: economic prosperity of countries, attractive conditions in business centers, growth in demand for labor, creation of new industries, favorable conditions offered by the receiving side, and other factors.

A migrant is the subject of migration, performing territorial movement connected with change of residence or temporary stay in another territory, based on personal choice or under influence of external factors in order to reach certain conditions connected with migration. The subject of migration can be seen as an active element, taking into account their movement and willingness to change. This activity and the position of the migrant on the edge of different cultures allows one to consider them as marginal categories. Thus, they are people who are at the intersection of two cultures which interact, but who do not identify themselves with one of them. However, this is true only under conditions of cultural and local uncertainty.

When it comes to features of deviants, researchers point out that this group often shows greater creativity compared to other strata of society. People who enjoy life in one culture are less likely to become innovators, since they perceive the surrounding as familiar and taken for granted, not thinking about the need to change the established system, especially if it is associated with their history. An individual who feels part of several social contexts, less constrained by established approaches to defining a situation, and able to consider diverse possible solutions, has greater freedom and individuality, and is less tied to any single lifestyle.

Many famous people had the status of migrant. Discussing the social contribution of migrants, several key points can be identified: firstly, migrants act not only as workers but also as consumers, which leads to increased diversity of services; secondly, they can provide diversification of international ties (trade, production, humanitarian) both for receiving countries and countries of origin; thirdly, migrants can contribute to the increase of labor productivity, acting as a significant labor resource, and so on. It should be remembered that migrants can cause significant imbalance between skilled and unskilled specialists in the country, with the latter possibly dominating, and also alter ethnocultural and religious aspects of society, as will be discussed further.

In the modern world migrants have various statuses and individual-group characteristics. Statuses include refugee or forcibly displaced person, citizenship status, as well as legal or illegal migrant. Group characteristics include nationality, profession, qualification, gender, age, family status and other aspects. When analyzing migrant movements as the aggregate of displacements carried out in a certain time and/or within a specific territory, we deal with migration flows. Migration flows can also act as subjects of migration and be studied in terms of their features, directions, scales, intermittence, causes, geographic location of origin and destination, types of settlement, employment in the labor market, and be classified according to these aspects. Considering migration on a global scale, one can say that “sociostreams” are acting as the subjects of migration.

Migration is always connected with movement to another territory. However, this territory is not always the final goal of migration; migration flows are directed to it. Migration can take various forms and be divided into kinds, which will be considered in the next paragraph.



In research there are various examples of dividing migration into stages. For example, D. Haiking (D. Huyking?), studying migration issues, offers a six-phase model of the migration process:

1. **Preliminary decision:** the stage at which the migrant begins to become aware of the need to migrate, which may be caused by economic, social, or political factors;
2. **Preparation:** the phase where the migrant prepares for the move, including gathering information, obtaining documents, and readying for the journey;
3. **Journey:** the phase of physical movement of the migrant from one territory to another, which can include various modes of travel;
4. **Arrival:** the stage when the migrant reaches the new territory and faces the first challenges of adaptation;
5. **Adaptation:** the process of integration into the new society, which can take significant time and depends on various factors such as language, culture, and social networks;
6. **Reintegration:** if the migrant decides to return to the homeland, this stage includes the process of return and re-adaptation to former life.

In this study, a three-step model of migration is used, which generalizes the previously proposed approaches and includes the stages of preparation, movement, and adaptation in a new environment. When analyzing migration processes, we focus attention on their properties. In this regard, the typology of migration processes is presented below:

- **Scale type of migration:** this property describes the size of the migration flow, which can vary from local displacements (for example, within one region) to international migrations covering large distances.
- **Goal (purpose) of migration:** migration goals can be either by personal choice or under conditions of necessity or compulsion (i.e., assignment of goals). Voluntary goal-setting includes travels for business, work, education, or health, which the migrant plans and carries out by their own decision.
- **Hybrid type of migration:** determined by objective circumstances not specified by the will of the subject, known as forced migrations (evacuation from war zones, ethnic problems, natural disasters, ecological catastrophes). It should be noted that in some cases even voluntary migration may have forced character, because the choice of goals in such cases is determined by the absence of alternatives or passive perception of their unavailability.

Migration is carried out within ten spatial and two temporal aspects, which makes it possible to distinguish different types based on these factors. If we speak of ten spaces and temporal dimensions in the implementation of migration, this might be the following categories, reflecting different aspects of migration processes. These categories cover both spatial and temporal aspects of the journey:

Spatial dimensions: Geographic space – migration between different regions, urban or rural and urbanized territories. This is the most obvious aspect, including inner obstacles. Social space – movement of people in search of social mobility, improvement of quality of life, escape from poverty or growth in certain social indicators. Economic space – migration caused by economic factors: job search, improving living standards, moving to more economically developed regions of the country or abroad. Political space – migration caused by political reasons: fleeing from repression, emigration from countries with authoritarian regimes, political asylum. Cultural space – migration associated with cultural or ethnic factors: relocation of members of one culture or ethnic group to other regions in order to preserve or spread their culture. Ethnic and religious space – migration caused by ethnic conflicts, persecution on religious or ethnic grounds (for example, refugees, migration resulting from ethnic cleansing). Ecological space – migration caused by ecological factors, such as climate change, environmental degradation, leading people to move from areas with environmental disasters. Educational space – migration of students and specialists for education and professional development in more in-demand regions or countries. Technological space – migration related to development of



new technologies, for example creation of new jobs in IT, startups and sustainable industries that attract migrants. International space – global migration flows, where migration happens through networks and agreements, for instance within the EU, CIS, or migration flows on a global scale.

Temporal dimensions: Historical time – migration in different historical eras, when mass movements of peoples take place, such as the Great Migrations of Peoples or migration in colonial eras. Seasonal time – a feature of the migration process lies in that it can be both spontaneous and purposive: “push” factors may trigger spontaneous migration movements (as for example natural disasters, military actions), while the migrant has a purpose of their movement under all possible spontaneous causes of this movement. Migration can be a managed process; the question is only how competently its features and properties will be taken into account. So, from our point of view, migration is the movement of people into space having various quantitative and qualitative characteristics, directed toward achieving certain living and activity conditions depending on subjective or objective factors. It is a striving for survival, the setting of a chosen goal (including ideological), or the basis for forming a lifestyle.

To sum up the above, the following may be noted. Migration is studied through various subject-specific approaches, definition depending on scientific specialization: Economic analysis of migration, related to the labor market, emergence of flows and the factor of economic growth. Sociological research, in the area of social mobility, social networks and migration. Geographic and cartographic analysis, tracking internal and territorial aspects of movement, study of spatial aspects of migration. Cultural studies approach, considering changes through cultural interactions and transformations. Demographic approach, studying migration as a core component of change in structure and composition of population. Political approach, analyzing borders from the perspective of state policy and legal norms. Ecological approach, studying the consequences of ecological catastrophes, climate change, or observing the effect of emissions on the environment.

The above-mentioned approaches are social processes. When considering forms and main classifications of migration, the social process is the binding feature, and migration appears in its form. What is migration form itself?

A form of migration is a general notion defining the outlines of migration and encompassing some social process connected with movement of people into new geographic or social spaces. The form of migration is a key component defining the structure and dynamics of migration processes. The diversity of connection forms is related to their various specific roles in global processes. The description of a form includes certain specific processes characteristic of that form. Forms of migration recognized in migration practice include different types.

Classification of migration is based on identifying each specific type of movement, analyzed by various directions. Classification of migration can be seen as a constituent part of the main structure of the system, and sub-classification as its more detailed part.

Classification of migrations can be carried out by a number of criteria, such as reasons for migration, nature of movement, periodicity, time intervals, and other features. The subdivision of migration forms into classes in this study is based on a chosen criterion, which does not claim exclusivity and is only one of possible solutions. For seeking other possible classes of a particular form of migration, a different qualitative aspect of the migration process must be selected.

Subclassification of migration is not limited only to the given examples; their naming is related to the fact that a subclass is a partial component of the class under study. Because of possible common factors determining the emergence of different classes and subclasses of migration, repetition of their names is quite justified.

A form of migration is characterized by a set of features which, on the one hand, allow distinguishing it from among other forms, and on the other hand to find common grounds for classification.

The forms of migration discussed in this chapter are called Classical, since they represent historically formed processes whose emergence is conditioned by specific conditions with their time and place. Returning to such forms is possible, but they are considered additional, not main. Among classical



forms of migration are distinguished: resettlement, territorial expansion, aggregation, emigration/immigration.

In one historical epoch there may be one or several forms of migration, and when they coexist one of them often becomes dominant. In the era of globalization two new forms of migration are emerging: displacement and world migration (see Chapter 3). Nevertheless, there are historical periods when one of the forms of migration is especially widespread, and the relevant historical events connected with this migration are more often encountered in the considered time interval. The process of resettlement covered the time of primary migration of primitive tribes onto unoccupied territories, lasting from 40-30 thousand years ago up to the 1st millennium BC. This form of migration is no longer relevant, but we will consider it in the next paragraph, since the settlement of people across the planet is complete, even though there are territories that are still uninhabited.

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