1 AN INTRODUCTION TO STUDYING IMMIGRATION

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

If you stop and think about it, becoming an immigrant is a major undertaking. If you have never had an immigration experience, it may be difficult to truly know how this all feels, but we can use our imagination. Start with the definition that immigrants are individuals who leave their country of origin, cross an international border, and settle in a new country. If you were to become an immigrant, what would this require?

In a broad sense, immigration involves picking up your entire life and moving to someplace new—perhaps on the other side of the world. Consider what you'll leave behind. Being away from family, friends, and your extended network is an obvious first concern. The love, companionship, and support that they provide will no longer be immediately available since they remain in your origin country. It can be hard enough to move away from friends and family when you go to college—becoming an immigrant will bring this to another level. Long distance relationships are challenging to maintain. Without regular face-to-face interaction people may drift apart. Technology permits us to stay connected, but a cell phone or an internet connection will not necessarily put you and your loved ones in the same time zone.

You will also leave behind your culture—the one you've spent your entire life learning. This tells you what kinds of things are normal, important, correct, and beautiful. You are now going to be surrounded by people with a different culture. Their values, norms, and the things they view as important may seem strange and unfamiliar to you. Can you adapt? Even further, citizens of your new host society may expect you to forget about your culture and start acting and thinking like them. They may even get a little annoyed if you can't do it quickly enough. Can you become fluent in someone else's culture? Can you get comfortable with their values or even adopt them as your own? Would you even want to? You've spent your entire socialization up until this point learning the ins and outs of your own culture. You've probably grown to love it on some level. It's part of your identity. Could you just leave this behind?

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The challenges in adapting to a new culture may also make it difficult to make new friends or find a romantic partner, if that's what you are looking for. Humans are social creatures after all and with everyone that you know back in your origin country, you'll need to find someone to spend face-to-face time with. You may be outgoing and social, but can you make connections across language and cultural barriers? If you aren't familiar with the conversation norms of the host country, it might be difficult to vibe with other people and truly connect on an emotional level. This will be a learning process for you.

You may also need to leave behind some of the things that you are used to in your origin country. Consider your basic needs. What kind of food do you like to eat? What brands of clothing do you prefer to wear? Do you keep your money in a bank? How do you entertain yourself? How do you worship? It is possible that what you are used to is not available in your new host society. Rather, you'll need to adjust to what they have. How well can you adapt to change? Can you deal with your favorite foods and entertainment not being readily accessible?

Regardless, to obtain these essential items, you'll need to support yourself while living in the new society. This means you'll need to get a job, earn some money, and afford a place to live. Are you prepared to do all of this on your own? Hopefully your degrees and training are recognized in the new host country. This may not be the case. Also, figure all of this out when everything is written and presented in a different language. The host society may not be accommodating to speakers of your language.

We haven't mentioned the logistical considerations. Your immigration will involve a long journey. Is transportation available? Can you afford it? Are you legally allowed to leave your country? Are you legally allowed to enter the new country? In an ideal world we'd all be able to obtain the outcomes that we desire while following all the rules. However, depending on your circumstances and level of desperation, you may deem it necessary to immigrate outside of the proscribed legal pathways. The only way into your destination may be a treacherous and clandestine journey. Sometimes these can stretch hundreds or thousands of miles. Sometimes traveling on foot may be the most accessible option. With the difficulty and danger clear to you, it may seem necessary to rely on black market human traffickers for protection and guidance. It may be hard to imagine, but many immigrants must make decisions like this.

Perhaps you are fortunate enough to have full access to the legal pathways into your new destination. Be sure you follow all the rules carefully. If you break them, they might kick you out and send you back to where you came from. You'll need to make sure you come only when you are allowed, which generally requires that you sit on a waiting list, maybe for a few years. Before you leave your home country, make sure you obtain the necessary sponsors, visas, residence statuses, background checks, biometrics data, interviews, and work permits. There will be rules about whether you can work, in what industries, and for how long. Make sure you aren't earning money outside of these parameters. You'll also need to pay processing fees and application fees, which can be expensive. I hope you can afford it. You may also want to consider the services of an immigration lawyer to help you sort this all out.

Then there is the possibility that the new government or its citizens don't like people who look like you. Some might be opposed to immigration and are angered by your presence. What if politicians and cable news pundits blame outsiders like you for all of the problems in their

society? The citizens of your new country talk about people like you as criminals, as bringing diseases, leeching off of the welfare system, and not paying your fare share in taxes. They also think that you are taking jobs that should belong to them. No wonder they are so mad at you. Never mind that these perceptions aren't true. People believe them anyway and act toward your group as if it's all true. Are you prepared to deal with the realities of anti-immigrant sentiment and discrimination?

Of course, all of this assumes that immigration is your choice. Ideally, you'll have an opportunity to do your research beforehand, make an informed decision, and prepare for the journey and transition. For millions throughout the world—refugees, asylum seekers, and other displaced peoples—migration happens by force and sometimes with little warning. The reality for many is that there is no other choice, but to become an immigrant. If faced with the options of staying home and putting your life at risk or crossing the border and dealing with all the aforementioned questions, what are you going to do?

It's a lot to think about. Clearly immigration is a major decision and a significant transition in a person's life. While the scenario just described is very general, they are all real considerations that immigrants must figure out. And they are obstacles that you'll need to overcome if you want to be successful. Would you be able to go through all of this? For most Americans who live in a country that is relatively safe and secure, and where opportunities abound, the answer is probably no.

But America is not the rest of the world. And despite all that goes into becoming an immigrant, literally hundreds of millions of people are living through various stages of the process right now. Many others are likely getting ready to begin. We exist in what some scholars refer to as the "Age of Migration" (de Haas et al. 2020) where more people are living in a country different from their origin country than ever before. There is perhaps no other era in history where immigration has provided a more accessible pathway for so many to improve their life conditions. In many cases it may be the only way to do so. There really has never been a better time to study this phenomenon and this textbook will provide you with an accessible introduction—one someone can pick up and understand with little to no background knowledge of world history, politics, law, or social science.

WHY STUDY IMMIGRATION?

I find the subject of immigration fascinating on every level, so much so that I decided to devote my career to understanding it and to helping others to understand it. For me, it doesn't require much justification. But, in case you aren't convinced that immigration is a worthwhile area of study, the next few paragraphs will attempt to make the case. As a college professor who regularly teaches about immigration, my hope is that my excitement is obvious to my students, and maybe even a bit contagious. This is also one of my goals for this book.

Just Look at the Numbers

For a topic to be interesting and important, it should affect a large number of people. Immigration fits that bill. The United Nations (UN) estimated that in 2019, there were

nearly 272 million people worldwide living in a country other than their country of birth—in other words: immigrants (McAuliffe and Khadria 2020). This represents 3.5 percent of the world's population. If all those people existed in their own country, it would have the fifth largest population in the world—only China, India, the United States, and Indonesia would surpass it.

Immigrants also represent a rapidly growing population. The current worldwide immigrant stock is more than three times larger than it was in 1970 (84 million people), which at the time represented 2.3 percent of the world's population. In the United States alone, the total immigrant population grew from about 19.7 million people in 1990 to about 44 million in 2019—more than doubling (Pew 2019). You can find similar patterns in places like Germany, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and dozens of other smaller destinations (see Figure 1.1 for a list of the most important destinations). While the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed this trend, immigration will likely grow in importance worldwide as we move into the future.

Obviously, the immigrants themselves are important, but they are not the only relevant parties here. If you also consider those indirectly affected by the phenomenon, the numbers

FIGURE 1.1 ■ Top 25 Destinations for International Migrants
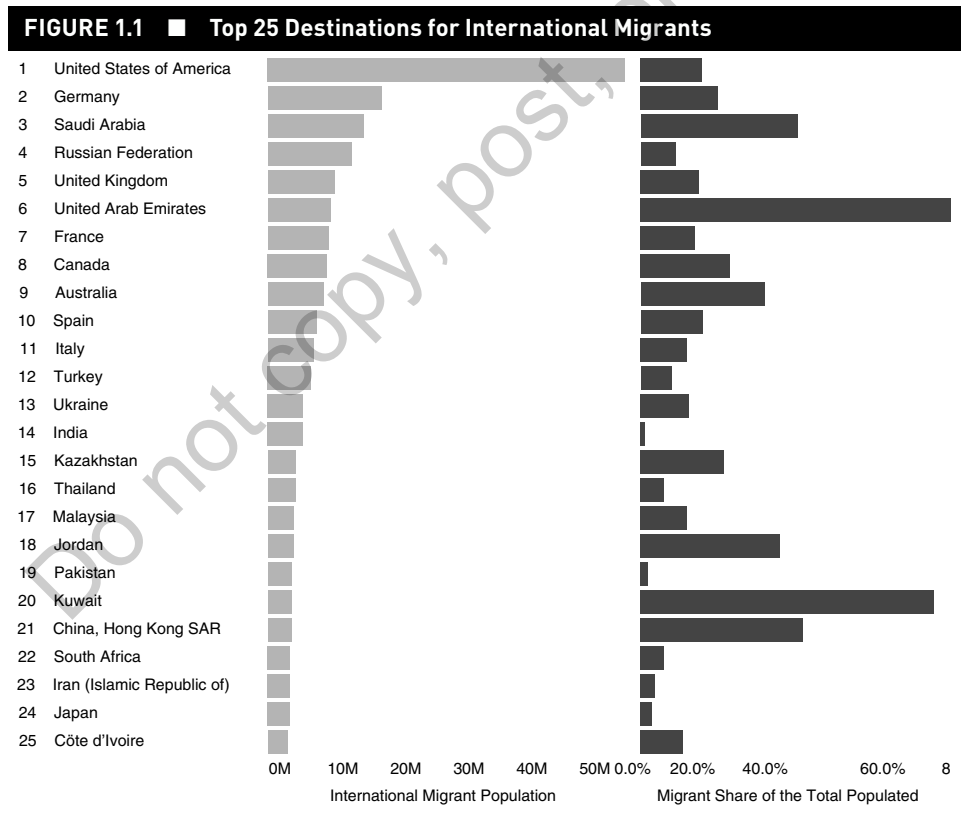
Source: Top 25 Destinations of International Migrants | migrationpolicy.org.

increase dramatically. There are also millions of other people—family members, friends, employers, etc.—in the communities that immigrants leave behind. What happens to these folks in the immigrants' absence? There are also the host societies and their millions of inhabitants that are now living alongside immigrant populations. How do they respond to these newcomers who are now living in their society? Regardless, it is clear that immigration is a phenomenon that touches the lives of a lot of people—likely most of the world—both directly and indirectly.

But it's not just about the quantity of immigrants. Sure, there are more than ever before, but they are also spread more widely than ever before. Since the end of the Second World War immigration has evolved from a primarily European phenomenon—Europeans populating the Americas, Australia, and other colonies—to one with origins and destinations touching nearly every corner of the globe. The world now has more countries that can be considered immigrant destinations than ever before. In 1990, there were 33 with over 1 million immigrants; today there are at least 50 (Pew 2019). This makes immigration a relevant political issue in more contexts than ever before, which brings us to our next point.

Immigration Is Already an Important Social Issue in Your Society

While this book is written for individuals approaching immigration in depth for the first time, I am sure the topic is already on your radar. Whether you are an immigrant yourself, are connected to immigrants personally, have interacted with immigrants, or heard debates about immigration, undoubtedly you know something about the issue. It tends to be polemical, bringing out strong emotions and it is widely covered in the news media.

In fact, if you were to turn on the news in the United States between September or October of 2021 (during the initial drafting of this chapter), you would have read about refugees attempting to flee Afghanistan as the Taliban retook control of the country after the withdrawal of U.S. troops (Visual 2021). There were stories about thousands of Haitian migrants amassing at the United States–Mexico border at Del Rio, Texas (Dobbins et al. 2021) including highly publicized images, like Photo 1.1, of border patrol agents on horseback trying to stop them (Chappell 2021a). Also in the news was the announcement from the Department of Homeland Security about a more lenient customs enforcement approach that will permit greater discretion among officers, as opposed to the hardline approach of the Trump administration (Rosenberg and Cooke 2021). In Washington DC, immigration advocates protested outside of the capitol, demanding that legislators include a "pathway to citizenship" in the budget proposal (Silverman 2021). It was also announced that new applicants for immigrant and nonimmigrant visas will require proof of a COVID-19 vaccination before being approved (Chappell 2021b). South of the border, the Mexican government blocked a migrant caravan on its way to the United States, mostly originating from Central America (Al Jazeera 2021). All of these events happening within a single month should demonstrate how relevant the topic of immigration is. And this is just what's going on in and around the United States!

PHOTO 1.1 CBP agent on horseback prevents a Haitian migrant from entering migrant camp near Del Rio, Texas.
Source: U.S. Border Agents Chased Migrants on Horseback. Here's What A Photographer Saw:NPR.

Studying Immigration Will Teach You About the United States

There is a great quote from an immigration historian named Oscar Handlin that captures this next point perfectly: "*Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the immigrants were American history.*" There is a reason why the United States—and other nations as well—refers to itself as a "**nation of immigrants**." Nearly everyone, except for Native Americans, descends from someone who originated in another country. Some came centuries ago. Others arrived just today. Some settled here by choice, while others came by force, but all have left their imprint on American society.

Immigrants and their descendants built our roads, canals, railroads, and other vital parts of our infrastructure that make our economy and way of life possible. They have fed Americans through their labor in the agricultural industry, made our lives easier through their labor in the manufacturing industry, and made us safer by fighting for the American military. They have contributed to science, higher education, music, film, professional sports, business, and other forms of popular culture (Hirschman 2013). One does not need to look far to find the contributions of immigrants in America.

Immigrants have added cultural elements that are now so familiar that we assume them to be simply American today. For instance, the doughnut, which most would accept as simply American, was introduced by Dutch immigrants in New York during the early 1800s. Everything from pizza to hot dogs, from Christmas trees to the Easter bunny have origins in the waves of immigrants that came after the initial settlers from Great Britain. There are tons of

examples like this, and likely many more will emerge in the future. In short, you cannot really understand America without understanding immigration. It is central to who we are as a nation.

Studying Immigration Will Teach You About the Rest of the World

We will focus a lot on the United States in this text, which makes sense. America is the world champion when it comes to being an immigrant destination. It has more immigrants than anywhere else, and it's been a consistent destination for longer than anywhere else. But it's not the only place that immigrants consider. Other self-identified "nations of immigrants" like Canada and Australia also experience mass immigration. There are several countries who are relative newcomers, like Germany and Saudi Arabia. They are now major immigrant destinations, but do not view themselves as "nations of immigrants." How have they responded to the phenomenon? Even further, there are countries, like Italy, Greece, Spain, and Turkey that are experiencing mass immigration for the first time right now. The diversity of immigrant destinations leads to different societal responses, government reactions, and different immigrant experiences that are all fascinating to explore.

At the same time, immigrants need to originate from somewhere. There is always an origin and destination. Where immigrants are coming from is often just as interesting as where they settle. What was it about the origin country that motivated people to leave? What connections do they maintain with the places that they left? Are there consequences when people leave? We will see that nations often form sender-receiver country relationships that can have implications for how countries deal with one another. If you are like me and enjoy international relations, international politics, or simply just like learning about other parts of the world, then immigration is a topic for you.

Studying Immigration Can Teach You About Yourself

One of the reasons that I love studying immigration is that it is reflective and biographical for me. I descend mostly from immigrants originating in what is now Czechia in central Europe. My great-grandparents came to the United States during the first decade of the 1900s. As far as I am aware, they didn't speak English when they arrived and were likely unfamiliar with American norms and institutions—essentially, a very stereotypical immigrant story. However, as a fourth generation American—my great-grandparents were the first generation, my grandparents the second, and my parents were the third—I have no connection to the origin country, at least none that I am aware of. I do not speak a word of Czech. I do not know any relatives that still live there, and I have no memory of interacting with my great-grandparents. I grew up learning almost nothing about Czech culture. Rather, I am a fully assimilated American, fluent only in the culture and language of the host society. Any Czech-ness that could be part of my life and identity is gone. There are a lot of Americans who might have similar experiences with their ancestry.

And this makes me sad. I feel as though there is a part of me that is missing. I ought to have more of a connection with the place and culture that constitutes the origin of my ancestors. I now have no living grandparents or great-grandparents left to talk with, so the opportunity to

create this connection is gone. However, the study of immigration, which includes the history and social scientific understanding of immigrant motives, fills this hole for me a bit. I am able to learn about what typically drives people to move across the world like my great-grandparents did. I can read the stories and dive into the data about immigrant adaptation in new host societies. Learning about the immigration process gives me the best insight available into why my great-grandparents took the actions that they did over a century ago, which is directly responsible for my existence. I hope you can find similar satisfaction from this topic.

The Study of Migration Is Highly Interdisciplinary

Perhaps you have heard professors in your college speak of interdisciplinarity. Many schools have specific departments or institutes devoted to interdisciplinary studies. This basically refers to the application of more than one branch of knowledge to understand a topic. Despite the title of this book referring specifically to sociology, human migration is about as interdisciplinary a topic as one can find. To fully understand it, we must consider research from multiple fields. This text will touch on just about all of them.

Each of the social sciences studies the phenomenon extensively. There are countless angles that researchers can take to understand immigration. Sociologists study the social structural forces that lead to migration as well as the reactions of host societies. Psychologists can examine the personalities and interpersonal interactions of immigrants through all stages of the migration process. Economists may examine the financial and labor market impacts of mass immigration. Political Scientists can study the levels of support for anti-immigrant legislation. Anthropologists can examine the cultures of immigrants in the host society and how these might change relative to those remaining in the origin. Communications scholars might study the ways journalists and pundits discuss immigration in the mass media. Immigration researchers will frequently cross disciplinary lines, which is required for a full understanding of the phenomenon.

It's not just the social sciences. Immigration is relevant to the humanities as well. Historians focus on the events that have produced immigration flows throughout time. International relations scholars study the linkages between countries related to immigration. Legal scholars examine and debate immigration policies and even how to interpret the Constitution vis-a-vis immigrants and immigration. You will find works related to immigration in the fields of English, Visual and Performing Arts, Social Justice, and World Languages. Immigration research also appears in the fields of Business Administration, Education, and Health Sciences.

As a result, this text cannot be discipline specific. I am a sociologist, so you will observe quite a bit of sociological research, theories, and findings throughout. But you will also see findings from various disciplines. One cannot do the topic of immigration justice without approaching it with an interdisciplinary lens. If you are one of those students who has a hard time settling on your major, immigration is a topic for you. It'll touch on just about every major on your campus.

Amazing Data

One thing you will appreciate if you are a data nerd like me is that immigration data is quite incredible. It is a highly regulated phenomenon, so governments collect a lot of information.

Many have been doing so for a long time. In the United States, there are good data stretching back nearly two centuries. You can find tables and figures with year-by-year information going back to the early 1800s. Try to find this for other widely used social indicators like crime rates or income levels. With the U.S. government processing new arrivals at immigration stations—such as Ellis Island in New York or Angel Island in San Francisco—since the mid-1800s, detailed data have been collected on the number of immigrants and their origins. This all makes for some of the most impressive presentations of data in all of the social sciences. You'll see some examples in this text.

Immigration Stories Will Teach You About Humanity

We will spend a lot of time in this text looking at statistics and trends in immigration, which are important. But these characterize the experiences and decisions of millions of people all at once. At the same time, each person involved in migration has a story. While you may never become an immigrant in your life, the people who do are no different than you. They have their own biography, their own desires and emotions, likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses. Reading about what people go through during migration can be at times heartwarming, sad, frustrating, joyful, and infuriating. Either way, biographies put a human face to the phenomenon of interest, and you will read several throughout the course of this book.

Career Opportunities

Along with the large immigrant population in the United States comes various career paths for those with knowledge about immigration. People working in the human and social services may deal frequently with immigrant individuals and families who need support. Since immigration is a complex legal process, there are many opportunities in the field of immigration law. Immigration lawyers provide advice and guidance as individuals navigate through all of the stages of the bureaucracy. Human resources departments at companies that hire immigrant workers need specialists with knowledge of the immigration system. Businesses need experts to determine whom they can hire and to keep track of the terms of their employee visas. There are opportunities with nonprofit organizations that advocate on behalf of immigrants and refugees. There are also many opportunities in government in the areas of immigration processing and enforcement. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS),, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are the most important immigration agencies within the federal government and they employ thousands of Americans. A simple Google search of the phrase "jobs for people with knowledge about immigration" can provide you with more specific examples.

This Textbook

Human migration touches the entire world like few other subjects. It is a topic of incredible depth. My students are often surprised how much there is to learn, certainly enough to fill an entire textbook. Which brings us to the book that you are reading right now. *The Sociology of Immigration* seeks to provide an accessible exploration of all aspects of human migration that

will inform readers about immigration histories, statistics, patterns, policies, concepts, theories, and research questions that constitute this diverse field of inquiry. Through the process, this text seeks to encourage understanding and appreciation for immigrants and what they provide to host countries throughout the world. And at the same time, debunk the wide array of misperceptions and stereotypes that exist about immigrants. So hopefully you are on board and ready to examine immigration in detail. To get started, we'll need to lay out some important key terms.
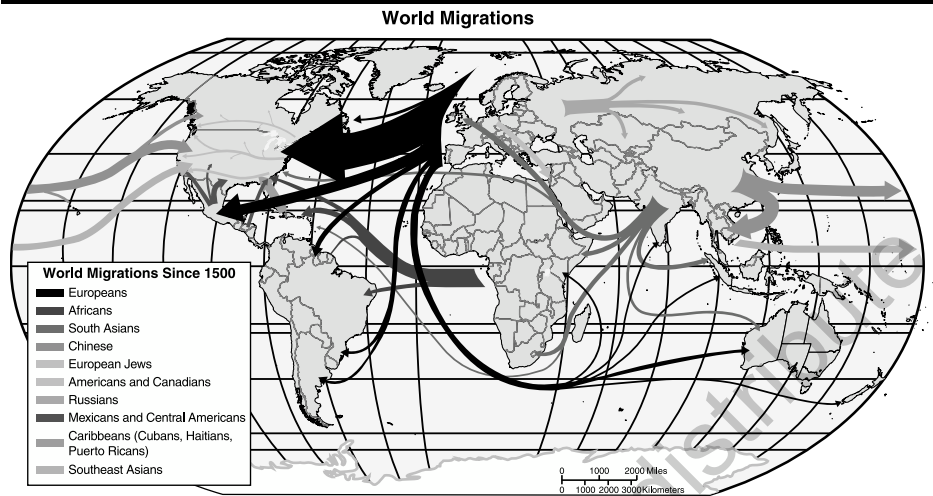
ESSENTIAL IDEAS AND VOCABULARY

I have used the term immigration repeatedly, but there are a few nuances that need to be explained. Immigration is a specific type of human migration. When sociologists speak of **migration,** they refer to the movement of people from one place to another with the intent of settlement. This may or may not involve the crossing of international borders. It is a broad term that refers to any movement of people. Map 1.1 displays some of the most significant human migrations throughout the world since the 1500s. It is far from exhaustive, but every arrow on the map can be described as a migration.

Internal migration denotes the movement and settlement of people from one place to another *within* a nation during which they do not cross an international border. Some readers may have engaged in internal migration if they moved from one state in the United Status and settled in another. The idea of settling distinguishes migration from travel and tourism. If you leave New England to visit Florida during winter break, you are not a migrant. There are also important historical patterns of internal migration. For example, note the pattern in Map 1.1 of Americans and Russians migrating westward and eastward respectively into their frontiers. Further, in the United States, the **Great Migration** refers to the movement of African Americans out of Southern states from 1916 until about 1970. They were leaving the less economically developed and racist Jim Crow system of the former Confederacy. This region was characterized by strict racial segregation of schools, bathrooms, and public places, rigidly defined white supremacist racial hierarchy, explicit oppression of African Americans, and frequent use of violence against Black people to maintain a racist social order. They settled in the industrializing urban centers of the Northeast, Midwest, and West that provided greater opportunities. Internal migrations like this can be historically significant and dramatically alter the demographics of a country, but they are not the focus of this text.

Rather, **immigration** refers to migration that crosses an international border with the intent of settlement. Immigrants move from one country and settle in a different country. We can also refer to this phenomenon as **international migration**. The massive wave of Europeans immigrating to the Western Hemisphere in Map 1.1 provides a perfect example. Again, note the requirement of permanent settlement. If you visit Paris for two weeks on holiday, you are not an immigrant.

The term "immigrant" refers to migrants from the perspective of the country that they are entering. The word **emigrant** describes migrants from the viewpoint of the country that they

MAP 1.1 ■ World Migrations Since 1500

World Migrations

World Migrations Since 1500
- Europeans
- Africans
- South Asians
- Chinese
- European Jews
- Americans and Canadians
- Russians
- Mexicans and Central Americans
- Caribbeans (Cubans, Haitians, Puerto Ricans)
- Southeast Asians

Source: World Migrations since 1500 – Mapping Globalization (princeton.edu).

are leaving. Immigrants enter a new society and emigrants leave their nation of origin. From the U.S. perspective, if someone from Guatemala settles in California, they are an immigrant. To Guatemala, the country they left, that person is an emigrant. Thus, one is simultaneously an immigrant and an emigrant, depending on the perspective.

As the **immigration–emigration** distinction implies, each act of international migration involves at least two countries: the one that the immigrant leaves and the one where they settle. Throughout the text, you'll see reference to the **origin country**, native country, home country, old country, and sending country. These all refer to the country where the immigrant starts. You will also see reference to the **destination country**, host country, receiving country, and new country. These all refer to the country where the immigrant settles.

Each nation simultaneously sends and receives immigrants. Nowhere is one hundred percent a sender or a receiver. However, when a country sends more people than it receives, we classify it as an emigration country or a source country. When in this state, a country is said to exhibit **net emigration**. If a country receives more immigrants than it sends, we view it as an immigrant recipient. If this is true, a country is in a state of **net immigration**. Countries will evolve back and forth between these statuses over time. For instance, during most of its history, Germany has been a country of net emigration, sending its citizens to settle throughout the world, particularly the United States. However, since the Second World War, Germany has emerged as the second largest immigrant destination in the world and currently experiences net immigration.

Lastly, throughout this book, we will refer to the nonimmigrant population that occupies the destination country as either the **native-born population** (not to be confused with Native Americans) or the host country population. These are the citizens of the country in which the immigrant settles. This group will become important when we talk about immigrant

integration—they are the culture to which immigrants are adapting—as well as anti-immigrant sentiment—they are generally the source of dislike toward new immigrants.

LAYOUT OF THIS BOOK

As mentioned, the study of immigration is highly interdisciplinary, and the chapters of this book reflect this intellectual diversity. Some will focus on history, others will focus on data and social science, while others will focus on law and politics. The paragraphs that follow provide a quick overview of what is to come.

We will start in Chapter 2—the first social science chapter—by examining the question: why do people migrate? As mentioned, this is not a simple undertaking, yet millions do it every year. This requires some explanation. This chapter will begin by examining the classic Push-Pull theory of migration, which provides a useful vocabulary for considering how migration is not simply a decision of an individual, but rather a combination of personal and structural motivations. We will then move on to some more recent theories—World Systems Theory, Segmented Labor Market Theory, and Social Capital Theory—that focus on how specific structural forces can influence migration. These will help us to understand why immigration might occur in certain parts of the world at certain times, but not in others. They will also allow us to predict when new patterns of immigration or emigration might begin in the future.

Chapter 3 will consider another important question: who migrates? We will examine the immigrant population in the United States with the goal of developing a demographic profile of the typical immigrant. We will consider gender, race/ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, geography, as well as several other factors. A key take-away is that immigrants are a highly diverse population. There is no single immigrant profile that fits all.

We will move on to migration histories in Chapters 4 and 5. The former will cover the United States, which is the ultimate "nation of immigrants". Given the size of its immigrant population today and historically, as well as the contributions it has made to our understanding of immigration, the United States warrants a detailed discussion in its own chapter. We'll trace the history and highlight the forces motivating the largest immigration sources. Chapter 5 will move on to examine immigration in several other parts of the world. We'll begin with those most like the United States, which also refer to themselves as "nations of immigrants": Canada, Australia, Brazil, and Argentina. We will then move onto more unique and recent immigrant destinations, like those in Europe—the United Kingdom, Germany, and France—and in other parts of the world—the Persian Gulf, South Africa, and Japan. The countries covered in this chapter are not exhaustive as there is not enough space to tell the full histories. Many other countries will appear as examples throughout the other chapters.

So you want to become an immigrant? Well, how exactly will you go about doing this? Chapter 6 will focus on the legal side of the immigration process in the United States. It will examine the many pathways that exist to enter and live in the host country. We will focus primarily on the categories of "nonimmigrants" (temporary visa holders) and Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders). How does one get a Visa? What is a Visa? What do they allow you to do in the host country? How does one earn the right to remain in the host country

permanently? What does a green card do? This chapter will constitute a how-to guide, which will also give you a sense of what immigrants must go through. We will also consider examples and legal processes from different countries throughout the world for comparison, including Australia's immigration points system.

So the immigrants have arrived…now what? Chapters 7–9 will shift back to a social science focus by considering what happens to immigrants after they settle in the new host country. Perhaps you have heard the word "assimilation" before. This represents one possible outcome for immigrants and will be the focus of Chapter 7. There is a long history of studying assimilation and the idea that immigrant culture will eventually fade away and be replaced by that of the host society. To what extent was this true in the past and is it still happening today? It is a controversial concept for many reasons, but a necessary one for understanding how social scientists have understood immigration. We will begin with the Classic Assimilation Theory that emerged in the United States during the early 1900s and then move on to more recent updates—New Assimilation Theory and Segmented Assimilation Theory—that work to incorporate the unique circumstances of contemporary immigrants and their children born in the host society.

The classic theory views assimilation as an inevitable outcome for immigrants, but is this true? Is assimilation even a desirable outcome? The controversy around assimilation has generated alternative theories that suggest that immigrants do not lose their origin culture or connection to the origin society. Chief among these is the concept of transnationalism, which will be the subject of Chapter 8. The focus here will be on the ways that immigrants maintain their uniqueness and contribute to diversity within the host society. This perspective allows for more agency and control on the part of the immigrants. We will also consider the concept of multiculturalism, which represents a political alternative to the idea that immigrants should assimilate to the host society's mainstream culture. Canada will serve as a valuable illustration of multiculturalism and how it contrasts with a more assimilationist system in the United States.

Chapter 9 considers other possibilities for immigrant incorporation, which are neither assimilation nor transnationalism, but rather emerge from the perception of being rejected by the host society. Anti-immigrant sentiment—the focus of this chapter—seems to be omnipresent when it comes to immigration throughout the world. Researchers have identified potential consequences for immigrant incorporation, which involves the development of new and unique identities that do not necessarily reflect the host or origin cultures. We'll focus on these possibilities, chiefly reactive ethnicity and pan-ethnicity, as well as the extent, history, and potential causes of anti-immigrant sentiment.

The next three chapters will focus more on politics and immigration law by considering different categories of immigrants. Often the most maligned among these are undocumented immigrants, which will be the focus of Chapter 10. We'll consider the surprisingly recent history of this population in the United States, as well as some of the policy decisions that led it to become the largest undocumented immigrant population in the world. This chapter will also discuss policies related to immigration control. Lastly, we will consider how the phenomenon of unauthorized immigration exists outside of the United States.

Chapter 11 considers another immigrant population that makes headlines throughout the world: refugees and asylum seekers. Migration and immigration are not always the choice of individuals. Rather circumstances can make one's home country unlivable, forcing them to

become migrants. How does this all work? We will consider the legal processes in the United States and elsewhere. We will also discuss several important refugee situations throughout the world, many of these are still ongoing.

Chapter 12 considers the legal designation of citizenship, which constitutes an end point in the immigration process. How does one acquire it and how does this process differ throughout the world? It is a desirable status as citizenship comes with many rights and privileges that aren't open to noncitizens. Birthright citizenship exists in some form in all countries, but different philosophies lead to open or restrictive distributions. Immigrants must earn their citizenship through naturalization. We will go through the process in the United States step by step. We'll also consider several different examples from across the globe, as the process varies quite a bit.

Immigrants are a population about whom there are many misperceptions, misunderstandings, and sometimes outright falsehoods. These are often widely believed to be true, despite social scientific and historical evidence to the contrary. Chapter 13 seeks to bust some of the most famous and damaging myths about immigration. Whether it is about crime, taxes, health, the welfare system, or the job market, there are a lot of negative stereotypes that we attach to immigrants. Most of these are way overblown and do not reflect reality. This chapter seeks to provide a more objective characterization of immigrants based on data and research, rather than the emotions and anecdotes that often pervade the public discourse.

Lastly, Chapter 14 will turn the focus onto the origin society. Much of this book focuses on the host society, how it influences immigrants and vice versa, but what happens to the source country after immigrants leave? Is emigration a net benefit for these societies or does it constitute a drain on their economies? Some believe that an exodus of immigrants damages the economies and societies of the origins—a concept known as brain drain. However, others see potential long-term benefits—a concept known as brain gain or brain circulation. We will consider both possibilities as we examine the places that immigrants are leaving.

CONCLUSION

There is a lot to be interested in and excited about when it comes to the topic of immigration. Hopefully this chapter has you primed to dive right in. I love studying immigration—my hope is that the previous paragraphs make this obvious—and hopefully this book can be the start of your interest in the topic. We will begin with the question of why. Why do people become immigrants?

KEY TERMS

Destination Country

Emigration

Great Migration

Immigration

Internal Migration

International Migration

Migration

Nation of Immigrants

Native-Born Population

Net Emigration

Net Immigration

Origin Country