

Book Review

**Stephen Castles & Mark J. Miller
(2009)**

***The Age of Migration: International
Population Movements in the Modern
World (Fourth Edition)***

Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan

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Migration is nothing new. The need to escape conflict and persecution or a desire to seek new and better opportunities elsewhere have always led people to migrate. Since 1945, however, migration has become increasingly global in character, involving all regions of the world. Technological advancements have made it easier to move between countries and many states have seen an increase in the percentage of their population that is foreign-born. As societies are becoming increasingly diverse, with a rising number of people holding loyalty to more than one state, and as states strive to retain control over migratory flows across their borders, issues of migration and their impact on nation state sovereignty gain political salience. This background serves as a starting point for Castles and Miller's eminent introduction to the topic of international migration and its effects on societies.

The objectives of the book are threefold. First, Castles and Miller aim "to describe and explain contemporary international migration" (p. 16). The second objective is "to explain how migrant settlement is bringing about ethnic diversity in many societies, and how this is related to broader social, cultural and political developments" (p. 16). Finally, the authors seek "to link the two discourses, by examining the complex interactions between migration and growing ethnic diversity" (p. 16). The conscious choice to study the entire migratory process rather than focusing on either patterns and determinants of migration or the incorporation of migrants in receiving societies sets this study aside from many other studies in the field, and contributes to its wide appeal.

The book follows a clear and logical structure. Each chapter ends with a concise conclusion where the key points are summarised, followed by a guide to further reading. After a comprehensive introductory chapter; which outlines the challenges of global migration, identifies trends in contemporary migrations, considers global governance of migration and discusses the effects of ethnic diversity on society; Castles and Miller proceed to present the reader with an overview of relevant theories. In keeping with the aim to consider the whole migratory process, the authors survey theories explaining determinants of migration as well as theories explaining the formation of ethnic minorities. They conclude that neoclassical theories and historical-structural theories alike

are too one-sided to capture adequately the complexities of the issues under analysis. Whilst the former pay insufficient attention to historical causes, the latter tend to overestimate the explanatory value of the interests of capital and downplay the role of human agency. Castles and Miller argue convincingly that issues of migration are better tackled by using an interdisciplinary approach and by drawing on migration networks theory and migration systems theory. The theoretical chapter is followed by two historical chapters which discuss linkages between migration, development and globalisation, and describe pre-1945 migration.

The empirical part of the study can, as the authors themselves suggest, be said to consist of three main parts. In the first part, Castles and Miller describe migratory movements within and between different regions in the world. They then proceed to consider "the international politics of migration", which includes issues related to irregular immigration, the impact of regional organisations such as the EU and the linkages between migration and security (p. 17). The remaining empirical chapters analyse how highly developed states are affected by migration. After having analysed the role of migrants in the labour force (chapter 10), the authors conclude that advanced economies require economic migration and migrants have come to play "important but varied roles" (p. 243). Similar conclusions are reached following an analysis of migrants' roles in politics (chapter 12). The book includes a significant number of interesting findings, but some of the more striking ones are to be found in the discussion of new ethnic minorities and society (chapter 11). After having found that permanent settlement of a number of migrants always follows temporary labour recruitment, Castles and Miller conclude that state actions during the early stages of migration play a role in the character formation of ethnic groups. "[T]he best way to prevent marginalization and social conflicts is to grant permanent immigrants full rights in all social spheres", Castles and Miller argue (p. 274). In the final, concluding chapter, the authors sum up their key findings, consider current trends in migration and discusses challenges and opportunities arising from migration.

This fourth edition contains several additions. The analysis of the relationship between migration and security has been extended, and more attention has been devoted to analysis of the impact of migration on development in migrant sending countries. The fourth edition has also been complemented by a web site, which includes additional examples and information.

Overall, this book is an impressive achievement. The empirical detail is striking, the historical overview comprehensive and the theoretical overview clear and easy to follow even without prior sophisticated knowledge of the theories covered. As an overview to the field of migration studies, this well-written book more than serves its purpose, providing the reader with a breadth of knowledge and ample illustrative examples. Needless to say, it is not possible to analyse in detail all issues related to migration within one volume. Readers with special interests within the migration field may wish to look further for more in depth study of the particular area of interest. Castles and Miller are, however, well aware of the limits of their analysis, and point these out. The fact that the authors have succeeded in combining a clear and comprehensive overview of the subject with rigorous detailed empirical research makes the book appealing to a broad audience. Previous editions have been recommended as social science text books, and used by scholars, policy-makers and journalists. There is reason to believe that the same fate awaits this excellent fourth edition.