

Chapter 1

MIGRATION AND ITS EFFECTS IN TÜRKİYE AND THE WORLD

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1. INTRODUCTION

People have always migrated. Human history is also a history of migration. Global migration, i.e. intercontinental mobility, has existed since the beginning of colonialism. Today, every modern society and every state is the result of this mobility. Not every type of migration is an escape, but every escape that crosses national borders is migration.

Migration affects almost all countries worldwide. Migration processes and impacts know no borders, status, regions or forms of governance. They involve more people, actors and countries than ever before. Migration is a transnational phenomenon and no country can cope with it alone. Therefore, it is useful to know the numbers and impacts of migration on the world and countries. On the other hand, it is also necessary to clarify the existing confusion of concepts. Different terms such as migrant, asylum seeker, refugee, etc. are used for migrating masses. Although each of these terms is related to migration, their legal status is different from each other.

This study aims to understand the dimensions and effects of the high number of refugees in the world and especially in Türkiye. The data collected through document analysis, one of the qualitative research techniques, was analyzed by descriptive analysis method. The documents analyzed from international sources include data for 2020 and 2021.

2. MIGRANT, REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER TERMS

Not all forms of migration are escape, but any escape that crosses national borders is migration. There are three different terms commonly used in the context of

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migration: Migrant, asylum seeker and refugee. In all three cases, the person has left his or her country of citizenship.

In short, people who migrate from a country are called **migrants**. However, there is no universal definition of 'migrant'. According to the United Nations [UN 2022], a migrant is "an individual who resides in a foreign country for more than one year, regardless of the reasons, whether voluntary or involuntary, migration routes, regular or irregular". Therefore, people traveling for less than a year for touristic or business purposes are not considered migrants, while seasonal agricultural workers are considered short-term migrants [IOM 2013: 37]. In principle, migrants can always return to their country of origin if they wish to do so.

"A person who seeks safety in a country other than his/her own country in order to seek protection from persecution or serious harm and who is awaiting the outcome of an application for refugee status under relevant national or international instruments" [IOM 2013: 74] is defined as an **asylum-seeker**. In case of a positive outcome of the application, these persons are granted refugee status; in case of a negative outcome of the application, they have to leave the country of application. Otherwise, they become irregular or unlawful [IOM 2013: 74]. Since asylum-seekers make their applications on the grounds that it is not safe to return, it is not considered in favor of the process if they return or visit their country while their application is pending. However, in some special circumstances, asylum-seekers may be able to return to their country temporarily.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) [IOM 2013: 65], **refugees** are *"persons who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, are outside the country of their nationality and, owing to such fear, ..."* are *"unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country"*. As refugees are persons whose asylum application has been successful and who have been granted refugee status on the basis that it is not safe to return, in many cases the refugee is not allowed to return. Again, there are special circumstances in which a refugee can return to his/her country temporarily

Another term that emerges during the asylum and refugee processes of people who migrate involuntarily from their countries of citizenship is the term stateless (person). The dictionary definition of stateless person is *"a person who is not recognized as a citizen under the laws of any State"* [IOM 2013: 95].

3. MIGRATION

Humans did not first become mobile in the modern era. They traveled long distances before today's public transportation vehicles existed. Migration is neither a recent phenomenon in the world nor in Türkiye.

3.1. Migration History

Human history is the history of migration. Migration is not permanent. Returning to the country previously abandoned is also migration, seasonal mobility or fluctuations are also migration.

Global migration across continents started from the beginning of colonialism with the slave trade. Starting in the 16th century, some 12 million people were deported from Africa to Europe and the Americas. In East Africa, about 6 million people were captured and sold as slaves to the rulers of the Arabian Peninsula from the 18th century [O'Brien 1999: 211].

From the 1800s until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, about 900,000 people migrated from Europe each year, mainly to the United States, but also to Latin America, Canada, Australia, South Africa and Siberia. Of the 55-60 million people who migrated between 1815 and 1930, more than two-thirds migrated to North America, one-fifth to South America, and about 7% to Australia and New Zealand (see Figure 1) [O'Brien 1999: 211]

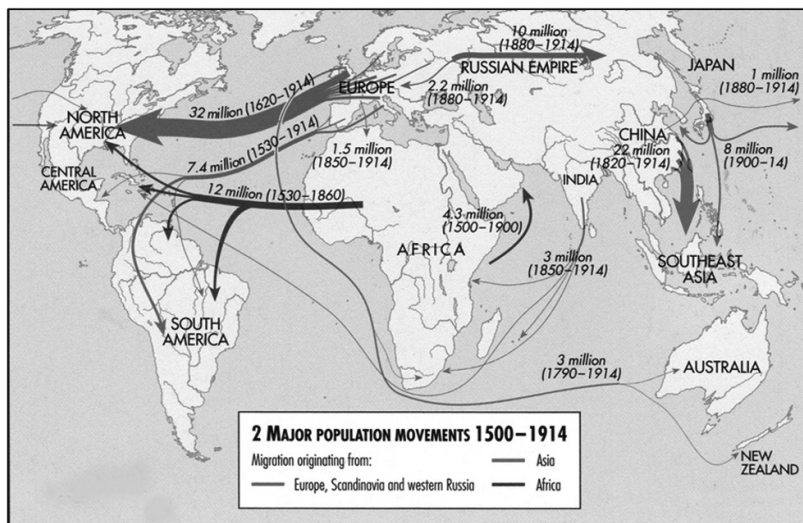


Figure 1: Major migration movements between 1500-1914

Source: O'Brien 1999: 211.

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, especially after the end of the Second World War, Europe became an immigration destination. Many people from former colonies migrated to the UK, France or Belgium. In the same years, Western Europe invited citizens of Southern Europe (including Türkiye) and their families as guest workers. With the fall of the Iron Curtain, migration from the former Eastern Bloc countries to the West increased significantly (see Figure 2) [O'Brien 1999: 275].

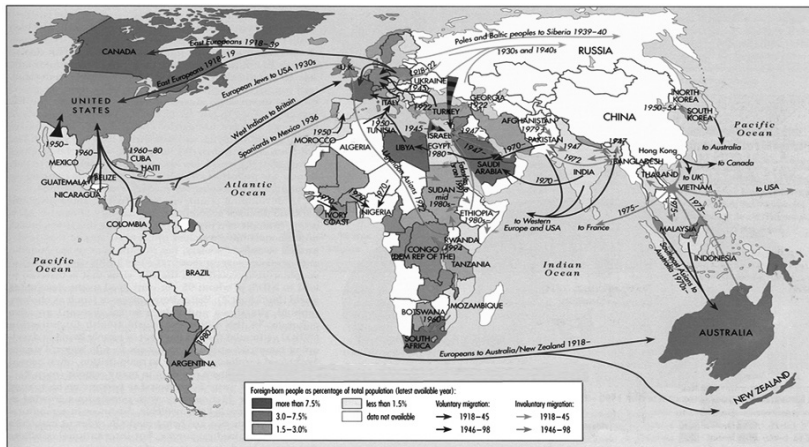
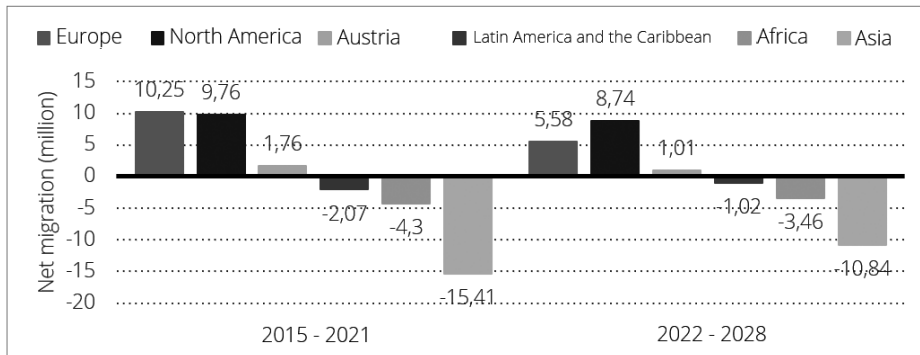


Figure 2: Migration movements between 1918-1998 and the ratio of foreign-born to total population by country
Source: O'Brien 1999: 275.

3. 2. Migration in the World

The phenomenon of migration did not end with the 20th century. From 153 million international migrants worldwide in 1990, the number of international migrants has almost doubled since mid-2020. According to current global estimates, there are approximately 281 million international migrants in the world by 2020. This equates to 3.6% of the global population [IOM 2019].

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of forcibly displaced people (asylum seekers, refugees, stateless) at the end of 2021 is around 89.3 million. Approximately 6.9 million more people were added to this figure in 2021. Of the 89.3 million, 27.1 million are refugees, 53.2 million are internal migrants, 4.6 million are asylum seekers and 4.4 million are Venezuelans displaced abroad [UNHCR 2022a: 2]. Forcibly displaced people account for 1 in 88 of the world's population at the end of 2021, compared to 1



Graph 1: Estimated net migration between 2015-2021 and projected net migration between 2022-2028 at the continental scale

Source: UN Data Portal 2022

As the figures and graphs above show, whatever the reason for migration, people migrate either to countries with similar levels of prosperity to their home countries or to countries with higher levels of prosperity. Most of them end up in Europe (especially Germany) or the Americas (especially the United States). The route that asylum seekers and refugees follow on their way to these destinations is as shown in the figure below. Mediterranean countries, especially Türkiye, are used as intermediate stops for migration from Africa and Asia to Europe.

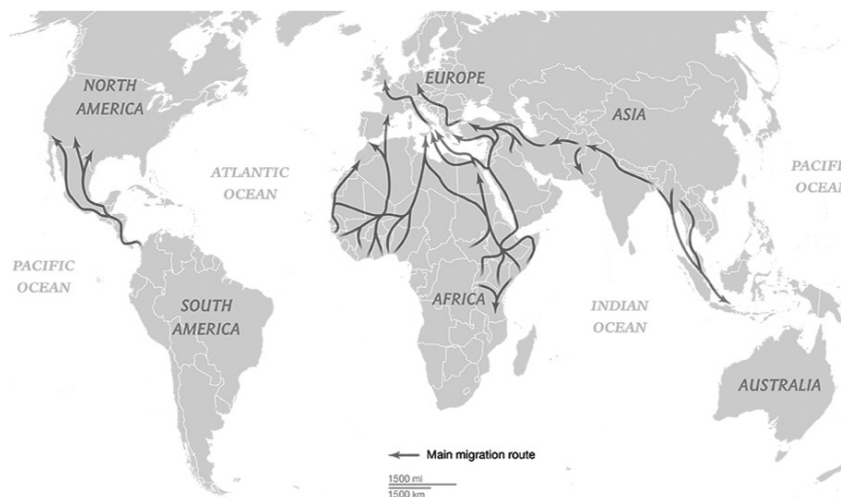


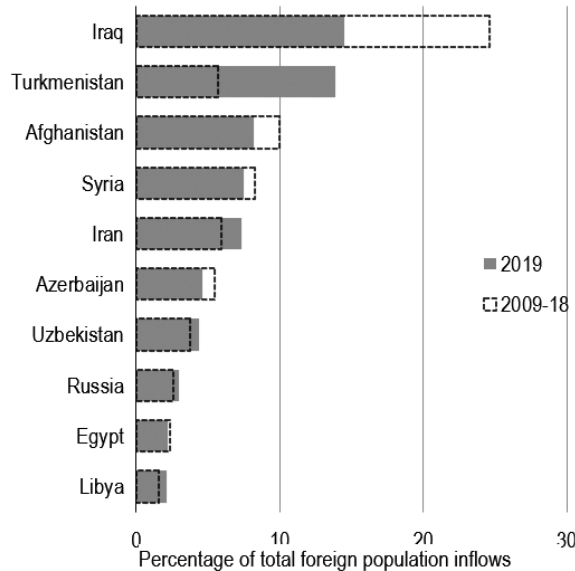
Figure 4: The main arteries of the global migration route

Source: Conant 2015.

3.3. Migration in Türkiye

For several years, Türkiye has been the largest refugee receiving country in the world. According to official figures, by the end of 2021, there will be 4 million refugees and asylum seekers living in Türkiye, which has faced increasing challenges in the last few years. Although it was initially assumed that the refugees migrating were temporary, this process has turned into a permanent temporary situation over time. Most of these refugees and asylum seekers come from Syria. Around 300,000 refugees and asylum seekers are from other nationalities, mostly from Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. 1 in 23 people living in Türkiye have left their country and migrated [UNHCR 2022b].

According to OECD data, Türkiye received 578,000 new migrants in 2019, 24% more than in 2018. Iraq, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan were among the top three countries of origin in 2019. Among the top 15 countries from which Türkiye received the most migrants, Turkmenistan had the largest increase with 45 thousand and Iraq had the largest decrease with 26 thousand [OECD 2021: 312].



Graph 2: Top 10 countries with the highest migration in Türkiye in 2009-2018 and 2019
Source: OECD 2021.

As for asylum applications, the number of first asylum applicants decreased by 44.5% in 2020 and reached 31 thousand. 74% of the applicants were from Afghanistan, 19% from Iraq and 4.5% from Iran. Since 2019, the largest decline

in asylum applications has been for Afghan nationals, down by 12,000. In 2020, a total of 43,000 asylum applications were decided, 19.4% of which were positive, while the rest were negative [OECD 2021: 312].

The majority of migrants arriving in Türkiye are asylum seekers or refugees and their main destination is European countries. Türkiye, which receives migrants mostly from Syria and Afghanistan, but also from Asian countries, is an intermediate stop on the way to their destination (see Figure 5). Geographically located as a transit country between Asia and Europe, Türkiye suffers from the social and economic burdens of large numbers of refugees (see “Impacts of migration”). Some 70% of asylum-seekers and refugees who do not make it to Europe do not intend to return to their home countries even if the war or unrest in their countries ends and aim to stay in Türkiye [OECD 2021: 312].

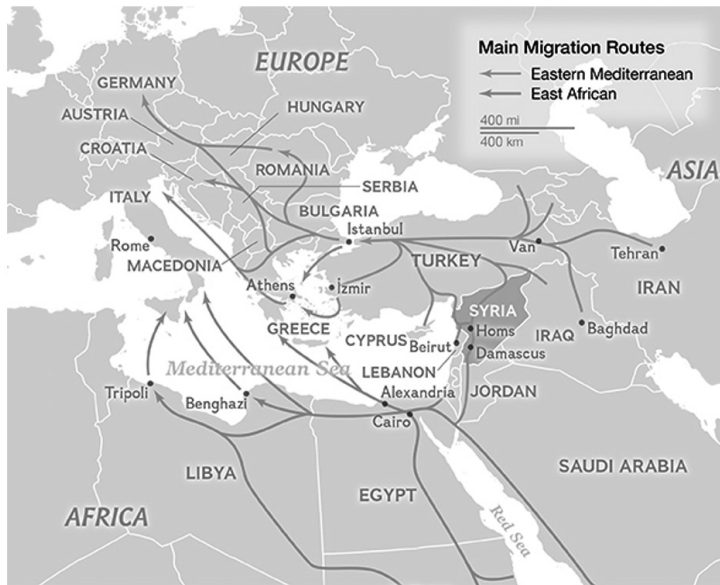
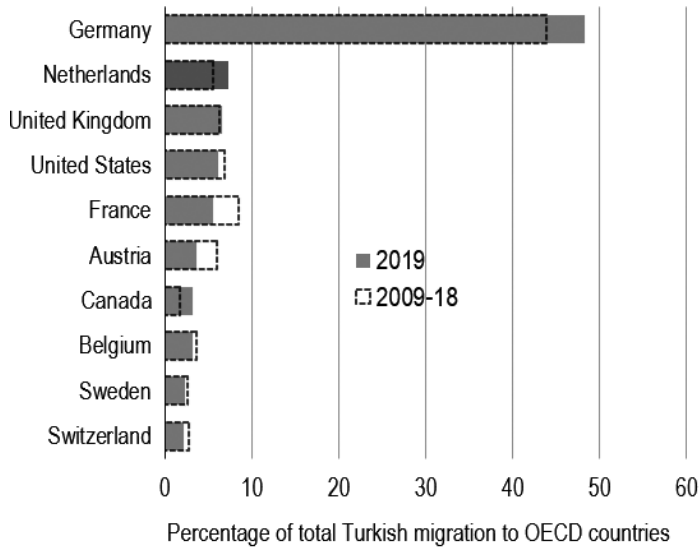


Figure 5: Türkiye on the migration route
Source: UNICEF 2021: 2.

According to the UN’s total net migration data, Türkiye had the highest number of migrants in 2016 since 1990. According to TurkStat data, while 69,326 Turkish citizens emigrated in 2016, this number increased by 63% to 113,326 in one year [Gürler 2019]. Until 2018, the rate of emigration continued intensively and then decreased until 2021 (see Graph 4) [UN Data Portal 2022]. Turkish migration to OECD countries increased by 2% in 2019, reaching 70,000. Around

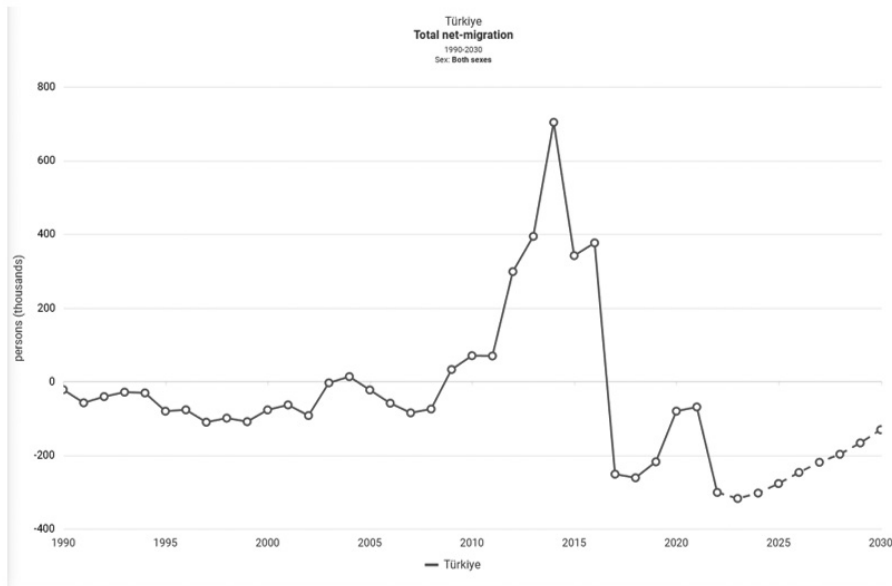
43% of Turkish emigrants migrated to Germany, 9% to the Netherlands and 8% to the United States (see Graph 3) [OECD 2021: 312]. Especially in 2021, migration to this route gained momentum again (see Graph 4) [UN Data Portal 2022]. Since then, the main concerns expressed in Türkiye have been the integration of migrants under international protection, the expectation of their voluntary and safe return, and the economy). [OECD 2021: 312].



Graph 3: Türkiye's top 10 countries of origin in 2009-2018 and 2019
Source: OECD 2021.

When we look at the average net migration and projections for Türkiye, we see that in the period until 2008, Türkiye, which emigrated more than it received with a net migration figure of 75,192 people as of 2008, has received more than it gave with 31,992 migrants since 2009. This process continued to increase until 2014, reaching a peak of 703,144 net migrants in 2014. Until 2016, there was a decrease in net migration, provided that the number of migrants coming to the country exceeded the number of migrants leaving the country, while this relationship reversed from 2016 to 2017. With a net migration figure of -252,010 in 2017 and -261,813 in 2018, Türkiye gave more migrants than it received. Even if the numbers of migration received and migration given converge until today (2022), according to official figures, the country is still sending more migrants to the world, especially to European and American countries with higher welfare levels, than it receives. According to the projections made by the United Nation

(UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division (UN Data Portal 2022), Türkiye will continue to give more immigrants to the world than it receives, with a decrease in total net migration for the next eight years.



Graph 4: Türkiye's total net migration curve with 1990-2022 average and 2023-2030 projections

Source: UN Data Portal 2022.

3.4. Impacts of Migration

Since migration is a centuries-old phenomenon, there are empirical studies on the effects of migration. Migration affects the sending country as well as the receiving country and the migrants themselves as well as their relatives. These effects vary according to whether migration is permanent or temporary, whether it is forced or voluntary, and according to the educational level of the migrant, and are bidirectional in the form of advantages and disadvantages. In general, the effects have economic, social and political dimensions. Here, the effects of migration will be examined by assuming that the migrant is of working age in the labor market.

The desire and necessity to migrate has generally good effects for the migrant, as the goal is always better than the status quo.

If the destination country is at least equal to or even higher than the **welfare level** of the country left behind, the migrant will remit remittances to the family members left behind, leading to an increase in their household income and

welfare. According to research, this increased welfare income is invested only in consumption [DeZwager & Sintov 2014] and not in business investments.

Family members in need of **care**, such as children and the elderly, who are left behind by the migrant, lose their care opportunities with the migrant [Diefenbach, 2015]. If those left behind are children, their school attendance rates may decrease or they may have to grow up missing the migrating parent [Lücke & Heidland 2014]. However, remittances from the migrant to family members can help pay for and access care for those in need of care [Böhme et.al. 2015].

Migration is attractive for educated people with a good education or professional qualifications, as migration brings with it the prospect of a better life. The migration of educated people is characterized as “**brain drain**”. However, if these people migrate, there will be a lack of access to important and basic services such as education and health in the homeland they leave [Docquier 2014].

With “brain drain”, **economic growth** may **slow down** as workers with critical skills become scarce in the sending country. On the other hand, the **social return of government investments** spent on training these brains with critical skills in universities is **deprived** [Docquier 2014].

Human beings always want to live with others like themselves. When these people migrate, they often want to live in or near the same area as their compatriots in their new country. This behavior leads to the formation of **ethnic enclaves/new communities** [Bello 1989]. Neighborhoods such as “Chinatown” in the United States, Esenyurt in Istanbul where Syrians live, or Kreuzberg in Berlin where Turks live are the most obvious examples of this.

Migration also has an impact on public costs through direct and indirect taxes. This is because **direct tax revenues**, such as *income tax*, of the public sector of the sending country will **decrease** with migration. However, public expenditures such as public infrastructure expenditures or pension payments in rural areas will not decrease to the same extent. On the other hand, remittances sent by migrants to their relatives at home will lead to higher demand in the market (consumption tax) and imports from abroad (raw materials, semi-finished or finished goods) to meet this demand, thus increasing the public sector’s indirect tax revenues (import tax) [Lücke 2021; Morazán 2019].

The migrant sends part of his/her earnings to his/her relatives living in the country of citizenship, the income level/welfare level of the family increases, the purchasing power and market demand increases with the increased income level. In order to meet the increased demand in the sending country, more production

and therefore more labor becomes necessary. This leads to an **increase** in the **real wages** of workers [Lücke 2021]. On the other hand, since the supply of labor will increase in the receiving country, it may lead to a **decrease in real wages** due to oversupply in the receiving country.

It also has an impact on inflation in both sending and receiving countries. On the one hand, the country may have to import more in order to meet the increased demand caused by the foreign exchange sent to the sending country. If it cannot meet the demand itself due to the loss of labor force caused by the migrants, it will lose its competitiveness. With increased imports, **inflation in the sending country may increase**. On the other hand, in order to meet the increase in demand caused by population growth in the receiving country, the country may have to import more. This may lead to an **increase in inflation in the receiving country** [Nasser 2022].

All these migrations change the social structures of both sending and receiving societies. Since the majority of migrants are young men [Migrationsdatenportal 2021], **gender imbalances** will occur at both ends of the migration process [Bello 1989].

Table 1: Impacts of migration

	positive	negative
Immigration Country	Increase in (skilled) labor supply Increase in direct tax revenue Increase in indirect tax revenue	Decline in real wages Inflation increase Gender imbalances Ethnic enclaves
Emigration Country	Foreign currency inflows Consumption demand growth Increase in real wages Increase in indirect tax revenue	Reduction in (skilled) labor supply Brain drain (lack of access to basic services due to reduced supply of skilled labor) Decrease in direct tax revenue Inflation increase Gender imbalances

4. CONCLUSION

Migration is an ongoing process that has been increasing or decreasing for centuries. Migration between neighboring countries as well as between continents has always existed and will continue according to future projections.

From the 1500s to the 1900s, the largest migrations took place from Europe to North America, from Africa to North America and from China to Southeast Asia. Between 1918 and 1998, in addition to approximately similar migration behaviors, migration between Asian countries and from Asia to Australia intensified. Especially in the last 60 years, intercontinental migration has been mostly from low-prosperity African and Asian countries to high-prosperity European countries. Türkiye has been one of the most important geographical locations for the last 7 years as a country both receiving and giving migration. Türkiye receives migration from neighboring Asian countries and emigrates to Europe and the Americas.

The effects of migration can be positive as well as negative for all stakeholders of migration. In the sending country, there are positive effects such as foreign exchange inflows, increased consumption demand, and higher real wages, as well as negative effects such as a decrease in labor supply, a decrease in access to basic services due to a decrease in the supply of skilled labor (so-called brain drain), a decrease in direct tax revenues due to income tax, and an increase in inflation. In the destination country, migration leads to positive effects such as an increase in the supply of (skilled) labor, an increase in indirect tax revenues from consumption and imports, and an increase in direct tax revenues from income tax, and negative effects such as a decrease in real wages, an increase in inflation, gender imbalances, and the formation of ethnic enclaves.

While migration on Earth continues unabated, interplanetary migration will also become the subject of scientific research in the near future. On the other hand, deeper research on the causes and effects of migration on earth will be a start for the solution of the identified causes and the softening of the negative effects.

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