Human Migration and Cultural Interaction notes

Migration:  large-scale movements of people from one place to another

Reasons:

Pull factors:  attracted to an area for better living conditions, economic opportunity, freedom, etc.

Push factors:  driven from their homes because of overpopulation, persecution, wars, etc.

Cultural Diffusion

When people migrate, they bring with them their languages, customs, and religions.

Diffusion:  different cultures living together without losing their own cultural characteristics

The United States provides an example of cultural diffusion.

US culture is a mixture of---

            Native-American

            African

            European

            Latin-American

            Asian

            And others…

Nature’s Push Factors

Droughts

Floods

Famines

volcanoes

1930s:  dry winds created Dust Bowl conditions in Oklahoma; many moved to California

Drought in Sahel region of Africa has caused massive relocation

Pull Factors

Israel

            Many Jews have moved to Israel since its creation in 1948 as a Jewish state

Urbanization

People moving to cities

Drain of human resources from farming areas and villages

Migration from Spanish-speaking countries to US cities

Overurbanization:

            Brazil—Rio de Janiero

            Nigeria--Lagos

Conflicts

Vietnam War:

            Migration from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to other parts of Asia and US

Civil Wars in Africa

            Migration from Congo, Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique

Famines and Violence in Africa

            Migration from Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi

Refugees

Refugee:  person who is forced to leave their home and cannot return

Many refugees have left Kashmir because of the violence between India and Pakistan

Iran has received many refugees from Afghanistan and Iraq fleeing war and repression

Sudan:  ethnic violence has displaced 4 million people within the country

Palestinian refugees in Israeli-occupies territories dating back to wars in 1948 and 1967

Labor Migration

People migrate for jobs

Guest workers:  migrate for temporary work

            Usually send money home to their families

Migration

Spreads skills, technology, and human energy

Some countries lose many of their best citizens

Many Asian young people study in US, stay here to work

Some countries gain from migration

Many US cities have international cultural appeal

Migration

Can cause conflict

Migrant workers often accept low paying jobs

Competition for struggling native-born workers

Often unfairly blamed for price increases, other problems

Globalization

Worldwide interaction and spread of ideas

Accelerated because of communication technologies (internet, TV, etc.)

US plays leading role because of marketing power

            MTV

            McDonald’s

            Hollywood movies

US culture spread to other countries by TV, movies, etc.

Many countries accept US culture

Many countries criticize the violence and sexuality of US media

            One cause of Islamic terrorism