

EURASIAN RESEARCH JOURNAL
ERJ, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 81-83, Spring 2023

<https://doi.org/10.53277/2519-2442-2023.2-06>
IRSTI 05.11.27
ISBN: 9781003219804
Book Review

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP TODAY

Zhandos KUDAIBERGENOV^{1,2}

¹K.Zhubanov Aktobe Regional University

²Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Turkish-Kazakh University, 050004 Almaty, Kazakhstan

e-mail: jandos.kudai@ayu.edu.kz

ORCID: 0000-0002-7927-8747

Received: 23.04.2023

Accepted: 05.05.2023

Niklaus Steiner. *International Migration and Citizenship Today* (Second Edition). London and New York, Routledge: Taylor and Francis Group, 2023, pp. 208.

“International Migration and Citizenship Today“ is a thought-provoking and timely book that provides a comprehensive overview of the complex and multi-faceted issues surrounding international migration and citizenship in the modern world. Drawing on his extensive expertise in migration studies, Steiner provides a nuanced and insightful analysis of the social, political, economic, and legal complexities of migration and citizenship, offering readers a deep understanding of the challenges and debates in this field.

The introduction part focuses on the nature and goals of this book, by covering issues of unique juxtaposition in modern times, liberal democracies, types of migrants, and moral obligations toward migrants and hosts. Also, this chapter makes an accent on two central questions such as criteria of admission of migrants who want to come into liberal democratic countries and criteria of ensuring that admitted migrants become part of their society. The author shares his experiences and assumptions about how liberal democracies are responding and should respond to international migrants.

The second part is devoted to immigrants, by focusing on how liberal democracies admit certain kinds of immigrants, how these countries try to deter other kinds of immigrants from entering and settling, and the impact immigrants have on receiving countries. The first two chapters of this part explore some of the choices democracies face as they try to eliminate unauthorized immigration and the challenges these choices pose for both the receiving country and the immigrants. This last chapter discusses the economic, political, cultural, and demographic impact that immigrants have on the liberal democracies that receive them. Also, it asks to what extent, if any, liberal democracies should consider the impact their admission policies have on immigrants’ home countries.

The third part analyzes the modern efforts to protect refugees by granting them asylum, beginning with the establishment of various international laws and refugee organizations. It is paid attention to people who have been forced to flee but who fall outside of the commonly accepted definition of a refugee. The author made it clear that despite the significant differences between immigrants and refugees, there are also significant overlaps between them, and much of the controversy today, revolves around the perceived overlaps and differences between these two types of international migrants.

The fourth part examines citizenship, nationalism, and national identity, and the process of granting citizenship, which is known as naturalization. Here the author argues that acceptance of people as society members happens not only due to liberal democracy admitting someone as a citizen.

The final part of the book summarizes the contemporary challenges such as how liberal democracies with significant migrant populations must live up to their commitment to their three most important values: creating a strong sense of national identity and loyalty, equal treatment of all citizens, and respect for the rights of minority groups in society.

One of the strengths of this book is its rigorous and up-to-date examination of the key concepts and theories related to migration and citizenship. Steiner skillfully navigates through the complexities of the topic, exploring the historical evolution of migration patterns, the factors driving migration, and the impact of migration on both sending and receiving countries. He also delves into the diverse legal frameworks and policy approaches towards migration and citizenship, including issues such as human rights, asylum, refugees, and the role of states and international organizations in shaping migration policies. The book also sheds light on the social and cultural aspects of migration, including the dynamics of migrant communities, transnationalism, and the experiences of migrants in host societies.

What makes “International Migration and Citizenship Today” particularly compelling is its critical perspective. The author does not shy away from addressing the contested nature of migration and citizenship, and they provide nuanced analyses of the power dynamics, inequalities, and injustices that shape migration processes and outcomes. Steiner highlights the role of structural factors such as globalization, inequality, and discrimination in shaping migration patterns, as well as the ways in which migration policies and practices can reproduce or challenge social hierarchies and exclusionary practices. The author also draws attention to the agency and resilience of migrants, as well as the contributions they make to their host societies.

Furthermore, the book is well-organized and accessible, making complex concepts and debates understandable to readers with various levels of familiarity with the topic. Steiner draws on examples and case studies from diverse regions of the world, providing a comprehensive overview of international migration and citizenship beyond a narrow regional or national focus. He examines the historical, political, and economic contexts of migration in different regions, shedding light on the similarities and differences in migration patterns and policies across countries and continents. This global approach enhances readers’ understanding of the complexities and nuances of international migration and citizenship in different contexts.

However, the book has some criticizing moments as while the book addresses important social, political, economic, and legal aspects of migration and citizenship, it may not thoroughly explore intersectional issues, such as the intersection of gender, race, and class in the migration process. This can be seen as a limitation in fully capturing the complexity and diversity of migrant experiences. Also despite its global perspective, the book does not cover all regions of the world in equal depth, potentially resulting in a skewed or incomplete analysis of international migration and citizenship. Certain regions and countries are not adequately represented in the book, which could limit some readers' understanding of the global dynamics of migration. As the book acknowledges the agency and contributions of migrants, it could benefit from including the voices of migrants themselves, to provide a more comprehensive and nuanced analysis of the topic.

In conclusion, the book "International Migration and Citizenship Today" is a valuable contribution to the field of migration studies. It offers a comprehensive and critical analysis of the social, political, economic, and legal dimensions of international migration and citizenship, providing readers with a deeper understanding of the complexities and challenges of this global phenomenon. This book is highly recommended for scholars, students, policymakers, and anyone interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the contemporary challenges and debates surrounding migration and citizenship in today's world.