
BOOK REVIEW

MIGRATION STUDIES: EURASIAN PERSPECTIVES

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Migration Studies: Eurasian Perspectives is a rich, learned, and well-organized account of the mixed migration concept that takes data and regional diversification and non-Western thinking into consideration. Written by young researchers and early-career academics in the Eurasian region, the book is based on field research and many years of study, including different cases from Eurasia and various parts of the world. By highlighting migration data, mobility, and the exclusionary policy of the West, the book has a critical view on migration concepts such as migrant status and the western-oriented studies.

The book's focal point is that it allows us to think about migration as a phenomenon that deals with many dimensions and statuses, as opposed to thinking about international migration as one-dimensional and status-based. In this sense, migration can be considered as forced migration due to economic considerations or violence, or voluntary migration, which includes the individual motivation of immigrants to improve their living standards. The book proposes the concept of "mixed migration," which allows us to think about these aspects that mentioned above. In short, the authors propose that an immigrant who is considered a refugee is also a voluntary immigrant who wants to change their life.

The book's second important point is that it criticizes the definitions and practices of migration flows that are exclusively discussed according to a Western-centered understanding. For example, the authors question why Europe and the West, which want to stop immigrant flows from the Middle East, Africa, or Asia, developed practices for the temporary protection of Ukrainian refugees and,

therefore, securitize some immigrant flows while granting passage permits to others. The book focuses on the Eurasian region, examining and reflecting on the immigrant mobilization in this region, and criticizing the studies that look at the phenomenon of migration from only one point of view. As a matter of fact, the quantitative data, which is the third focal point of *Migration Studies* presents arguments that justify the criticism against Western-centered migration studies: a highly significant part of migration and immigrant mobility actually takes place between countries in other regions - not towards the West. In this sense, the book reveals the fact that while the Western world actually talks and discusses immigration extensively, it does not share the same amount of responsibility and burden of migration with non-western world.

Migration Studies is composed of three sections and a total of 17 chapters. The first section includes economy-oriented studies under the title “Human Stock and Economy.” Chapter 1 is an introduction that presents the general purpose of the book, putting forward the concept of mixed migration and the Eurasian perspective. Chapter 2 examines how Afghan immigrants in Iran and Türkiye are employed precariously in the informal labor market. Consistent with the book’s main theme, the chapter refers to the West’s restrictive border policies, and deportation and neoliberal labor regimes. In Chapter 4, the migration industry is discussed in relation to European budgets allocated to border security. The chapter exposes how migration industry prevents immigrants from Eurasia heading to Europe.

The second section is titled “Civil Society and Security.” Chapter 6 examines how each immigrant group believes that despite their shared statuses, for example, refugees or asylum seekers, they do not face the same treatment or solidarity; on the contrary, they believe they are in competition with one other. Solidarity, the author claim, only occurs between immigrant groups that share and manifest the same ethnic or religious identity and care about it, and this gives rise to the encouraging idea that the multidimensional migration and immigration concepts that are put forward in the book can find their equivalents in civil society. Chapter 7 examines European values and Europe’s security dilemma, and specifically looks at irregular migration flows towards Europe and border practices towards refugees that are incompatible with European values. Chapter 8 seeks an answer to the question “Which European values and immigration policies are contradictory?” by a discursive comparison of two European countries on a government basis. Apparently, contrary to the

discourse that leaves the door open to refugees and argues that the European identity is enriched by refugees, discourses that see a multicultural Europe as threatening to Europe's Christian identity actually shape European immigration policies.

On the other hand, a study of the example of Georgia, a country in Asia, might change our perceptions that security concerns are related to forced migration. The said study, presented in Chapter 9, evaluates the concept of forced migration due to conflicts as the driving force of migration and puts forward the search for a safer region as a factor that attracts migrants to move. In connection with the main theme of the study, Chapter 9 tries to explain that migration includes multidimensional and directional mixed migration elements. Speaking of the multidimensionality of migration or the motivating factors for migration, it is worth noting the transformative effect of migration. Examining the state-civil society duality that, in general, is noteworthy in Eurasia, Chapter 10 emphasizes the dominant character of the state in Türkiye and, With the support of the international community, Türkiye has showcased the active role civil society has played in the refugee crisis, even though the dominant role of the state has consistently remained at the forefront. It is, thus, revealed how migration also mobilizes civil society and transforms it as an agent.

The third section is titled "Migration Politics and Policies" and examines how, in what way, and by whom migration is managed. In this context, it is understood that even if the issue is transnational migration, it is still related to assimilation or exclusionary migration policies connected to the nation state and nation-building (Chapter 12). The focus country in this section is Türkiye. Chapter 13 examines how although Türkiye hosts a significant proportion of Syrian and other immigrants, right-wing parties in particular have developed anti-immigrant rhetoric and are trying to argue that Türkiye should stop the flow of immigrants and send the refugees back to their countries. Thus, immigration and immigrants are politicized along the lines of nationalist discourses. Rather than addressing a migration management that is politicized, Chapter 16 examines how at least some Syrians have become naturalized Turkish citizens and are understood to reside in Türkiye permanently, in a way that is compatible with the history of Türkiye's migration policies. Chapter 17 reveals how when we consider mass migration flows such as Syrians, migration management, which is generally organized within the scope of temporary protection in Türkiye

has been shaped by European countries as preventative migration management outside their borders in order to keep immigrants in Türkiye.

Migration Studies: Eurasian Perspectives achieves several important points. First, the book makes us rethink our focus on generally accepted concepts of migration. It exposes the fact that we need to consider being a refugee and an irregular immigrant, or being a forced immigrant and a voluntary immigrant, together. It provides a significant starting point for understanding and unpacking the concept of mixed migration. Second, it examines migration and immigrants from different geographies, and offers accounts of the experiences of these different domains. The book presents a strong objection to conventional Western-centered interpretations. Third, the chapters brought together under the themes of economy, civil society, security, and migration management are not disconnected from each other, but are organized in parallel with the book's main concept of mixed migration. One of the book's only weak points is that the quantitative data consists exclusively of raw data on numbers of refugees, their mobility, etc. In order to present readers with in-depth and contextual quantitative analysis well, big data analysis is required too. Overall, *Migration Studies: Eurasian Perspectives* offers clear, critical, and comprehensive research for readers both inside and outside the field and will hopefully prove to be inspiring for future work in migration studies.

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