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THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON DEMOGRAPHY IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE

Hagverdi Ulviyya

*Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science,
Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science and Political administration
Academy of Public Administration under the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Baku, Azerbaijan*

The impact of migration on demography in Early Modern Europe is of particular relevance both for understanding the nature of historical processes and for accurately assessing the structure of contemporary demographic policies. In the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, major voluntary and forced migration flows from Europe to the Americas, the internal mobility generated by the Industrial Revolution, geopolitical competition among empires, and colonial strategies produced sharp changes in the continent's population composition and led to a restructuring of Europe's socio-economic order. The demographic transformations of this period shaped not only population dynamics, but also key areas such as urbanization, the labor market, ethnic distribution, the formation of social classes, and state governance.

The most significant migration route of the period was the large flow from Europe to North America. Tens of thousands of people from England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, and Scandinavia migrated to the territory known as the "New World." Among the reasons for this were escaping religious persecution, acquiring land, broader economic opportunities, and the increasing risk of unemployment among agricultural workers due to the rise of industrial production. The expansion of colonies in North America and the rapid development of agriculture and trade created attractive conditions for European migrants. This migration flow influenced not only the formation of new states but also significantly altered the demographic balance of the Atlantic world [2]. Extensive statistical information on this process is presented in the table below.

The most dramatic and coercive form of migration in the eighteenth century was the Atlantic slave trade. Millions of people were forcibly transported from Africa to the Americas, where they were used primarily for compulsory labor on plantations in the Caribbean, South America, and the southern states of the United States. This process became an integral component of the economic model of the period and was one of the factors that sustained the economic power of European colonial empires. The mass

forced displacement of people of African origin caused profound structural distortions within African societies and fundamentally transformed the ethnic and social composition of the American continent. This form of migration was accompanied by violence, economic exploitation, and increasingly rigid transboundary trade mechanisms. Although the U.S. Congress banned the African slave trade in 1808 [3], the domestic slave trade within the country continued to grow, and over the following fifty years, the number of enslaved people in the United States nearly tripled. By 1860, this figure had reached approximately four million, more than half of whom lived in the cotton-producing states of the South [4].

Intensive internal migration was also taking place within Europe. The early stages of the Industrial Revolution accelerated the movement of rural populations into cities in England, France, Germany, and other countries. The introduction of technological innovations in agriculture weakened traditional forms of rural employment, while the emergence of factories created a substantial demand for labor in urban areas. This process shaped the initial phase of urbanization and led to significant changes in the socio-economic structure of cities. The formation of the working class and the emergence of new social strata were directly linked to this wave of internal migration.

Migration processes were also observed in Asia and the Near East during the eighteenth century, although these movements were predominantly regional in nature. In the Ottoman Empire, population settlement was closely connected to the state's tax policies, military service system, and land administration. Movements of Turks, Arabs, Balkan peoples, and Caucasian populations within the empire occurred in relation to shifting trade routes, wars, and fluctuations in economic conditions.

Conclusion. The impact of migration on demography in Early Modern Europe demonstrates that population mobility is not limited to the statistical increase of human flows, but becomes a strategic mechanism that fundamentally reshapes the socio-economic structure, spatial organization, and political development trajectory of the continent. In the eighteenth century, voluntary and forced migration flows from Europe to the Americas, the violent demographic transformation caused by the Atlantic slave trade, and the regional migrations occurring along the Silk Road reconfigured the internal stratification of European societies, the division of labor, and the geography of economic centers. These processes also determined the population map of newly emerging states in the Americas, destroyed the structure of African societies, and triggered turning points in Europe such as urbanization, industrialization, and the strengthening of class relations.

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