

Processes and patterns of global migration

2.2.2

Causes of international economic migration

Specification content

Factors driving international out-migration, including poverty, primary commodity prices and poor access to markets within global systems

Recent drivers of migration including the development of diaspora communities, colonial and Commonwealth links and legislation permitting freedom of movement, including the EU

How powerful superpowers exert influence and disproportionately attract international migrants to their own advantage, including political strategies to develop cities as global hubs for investment and migration

Specialised Concepts

As an outcome of studying 2.2.1 to 2.2.5, learners will gain an understanding of specialised concepts:

causality (drivers of global patterns of migration)

globalisation (links between countries)

risk (associated with refugees)

resilience (ability of neighbouring countries to cope with refugees)

Migration

“Over the last 45 years, the number of people living outside their country of origin has almost tripled – from 76 million to more than 232 million.

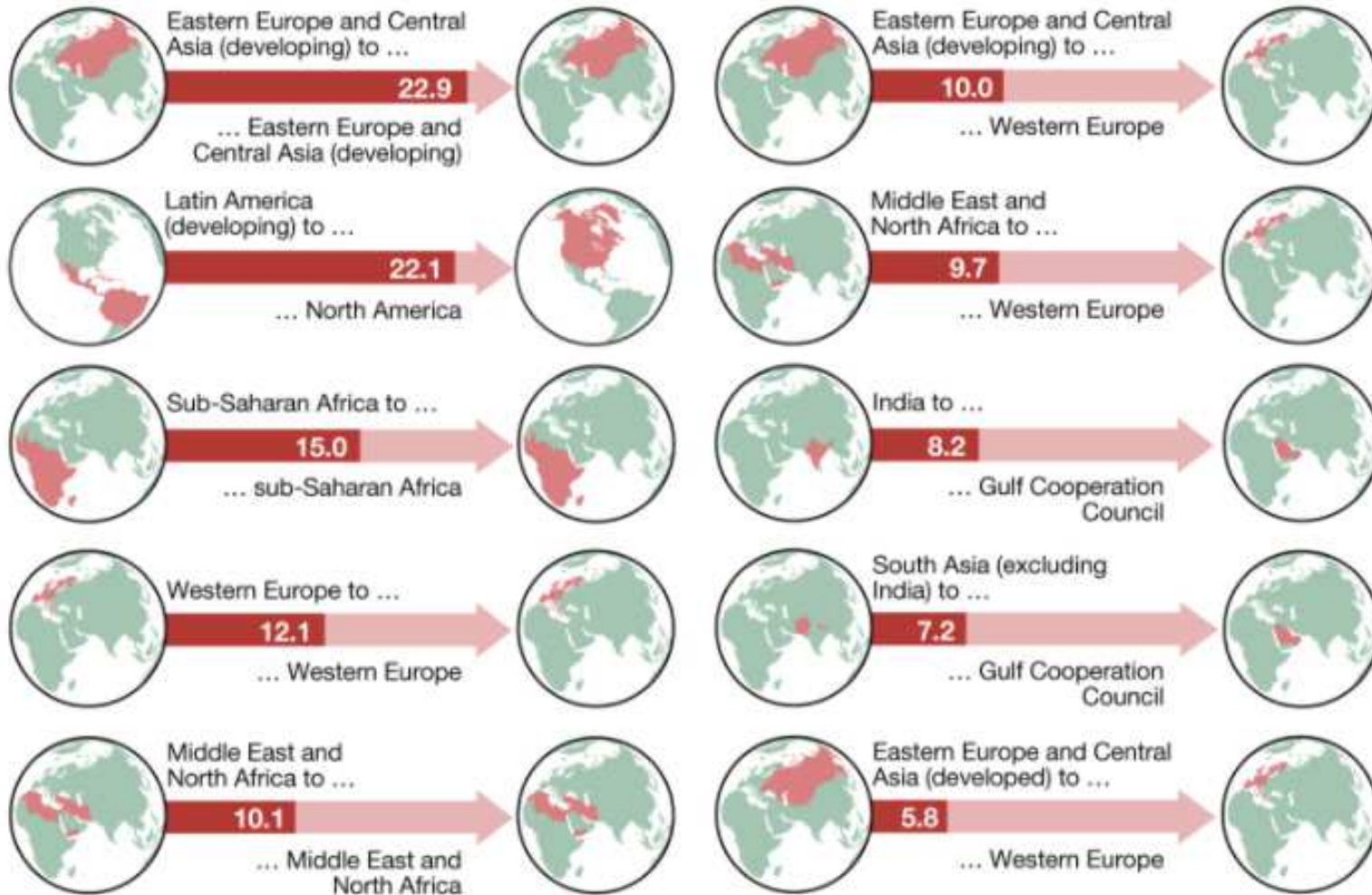
More than 3 percent of the world’s population now lives outside of the country that they were born in.

If migrants made up a single nation, they would be the 5th largest in the world.”

<http://www.diasporaalliance.org/what-is-a-diaspora/> (19/09/18)

To what extent does this graphic support the idea that most migration consists of people moving to another country in the same part of the world?

Top 10 regional movements,¹ total migrant population in millions, 2015



¹Includes movement both between and within regions.

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; World Bank; McKinsey Global Institute analysis

Factors driving international out-migration

Causality – ‘push’ factors (to include):

Poverty

- 2018 World Bank division of world (based on 2016 data)* into:
 - 31 low-income countries (LICs), GNI pc \leq US\$1,005
 - 53 lower-middle-income, US\$1,006-\$3,955
 - 56 upper-middle-income, US\$3,956-\$12,235
 - 78 high-income countries (HICs), $>$ US\$12,236
- Also NICs – newly-industrialised countries (aka emerging economies, EEs), e.g. Brazil, China – read further (<https://www.thebalance.com/what-are-newly-industrialized-countries-nics-1978978>)
- Simple idea: poverty drives people to find work/a living elsewhere
- But research shows that the very poor often don't have resources to migrate
- Economic development may therefore simply give poor people the means to migrate
- Concept of ‘relative poverty’ can explain migration from NICs to HICs

*<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

Factors driving international out-migration

Primary commodity prices

i.e. raw materials (timber, agricultural products, mineral ores...)

Contributes to poverty:

- Overproduction keeps prices low – e.g. coffee, tea, rubber...
- Markets controlled by HICs – commodity prices as well as production:
 - therefore little investment in developing economy (e.g. processing/ manufacturing that would add value to product)
 - not enough wealth generated from exports and/or retained by (corrupt) officials
- Poor governance (i.e. systems of control) and/or corruption keeps wealth in hands of a few
- High value commodities (oil, diamonds...) often become a source of conflict and/or help maintain authoritarian governments – *resource curse* or *paradox of plenty*

Read more: https://resourcegovernance.org/sites/default/files/nrgi_Resource-Curse.pdf

Factors driving international out-migration

Poor access to markets within global systems

- Linked to previous idea plus:
 - Trade blocs (e.g. EU or NAFTA) impose tariffs on imports that compete with domestic production
 - HIC governments subsidise domestic production making their products artificially cheap compared to imports
 - Free trade (encouraged by World Trade Organisation, WTO) doesn't always help as poor economies are ill-equipped to compete against major economies.
 - Read more: <http://www.africafocus.org/docs05/trad0507.php>

These are interconnected issues that encourage out-migration, and this is an example of **positive feedback**.

*What is **positive feedback**?*

Why is out-migration an example of it?

Task

Read through the handout: **Drivers of migration**

Identify the 'push' factors in the case study

Recent drivers...

The development of diaspora communities:

“Diaspora means “to scatter” in Greek, but today we use the term to describe a community of people who live outside their shared country of origin or ancestry but maintain active connections with it.

A diaspora includes both emigrants and their descendants.

While some people lose their attachment to their ancestral homeland, others maintain a strong connection to a place which their ancestors may have left generations ago.”

<http://www.diasporaalliance.org/what-is-a-diaspora/> (19/09/18)

Diasporas can be both forced and voluntary

Why is this a driver?

To what extent is it just recent, though?

Can you think of some examples – preferably recent ones...

Recent drivers...

Some recent examples:

Macedonians to Australia

Began in early 20th century, there are now 83,963 Macedonians in Australia (c. 1.4% pop)

Turks to (West) Germany

Chinese to Southeast Asia

Of major importance to China as a significant proportion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) comes from communities in Macau, Taiwan, Hong Kong...

Tibetans

Approximately 128,014 (2008) [Approximate world-wide distribution: India 94,203; Nepal 13,514; Bhutan 1,298; and rest of the world 18,999] (<http://tibet.net/about-cta/tibet-in-exile/> (19/09/18))

For more examples, see: Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_diasporas (19/09/18))

Recent drivers...

Colonial and Commonwealth links:

- European countries with ex-colonies:
 - France – esp. N&W Africa , est. 4.6M people of Maghrebi descent in France (2011) – i.e. from Algeria, Morocco & Tunisia – concentrations in Île-de-France, (12%), Lyon (13%) & Perpignan (22%)
 - UK – South Asia (and Asians from Uganda), Nigeria, Kenya, Caribbean (esp. Jamaica: *Empire Windrush* – 493 Jamaicans to London 1948)
 - to fill job gaps (some directly recruited) caused by WWII, in textile industries (N&W England), skilled sector, esp. NHS and education.

How is this a driver?

Task

Research an example of a recent diaspora or migration involving colonial/commonwealth links. Use your research to produce a 1-side of A4 report that addresses the following:

- A brief history – origin & destination – reasons for the migration
- How have links been maintained within the community abroad **and** between this community and their homeland?
- To what extent has this migration helped create a “borderless world”?

Recent drivers...

Legislation permitting freedom of movement, including the EU:

- Free movement of people within the EU
 - see EU Factsheet: Free Movement of Persons (http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ftu/pdf/en/FTU_4.1.3.pdf)
 - Make some notes from *People on the Move: Migration & mobility in the European Union*, esp. pp43-54 – on website

Recent drivers...

Legislation permitting freedom of movement, including the EU:

- Other examples (Student Guide):
 - Mercosur Residence Agreement, South America – interesting contrast to EU (?UK) approach to migration ('support for open borders, the understanding of migration as a fundamental right, and the non-criminalization of irregular migration*')...read more: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/free-movement-south-america-emergence-alternative-model>
 - African Union, visa-free travel between member states (eventually)...read more: <https://www.cnbc.com/2016/06/22/as-eu-fights-over-migrants-african-union-takes-steps-to-free-movement-of-people.html>

How is this a driver?

* "...typically refers to the cross-border flow of people who enter a country without that country's legal permission to do so."

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/irregular-migration-in-the-uk-definitions-pathways-and-scale/>

Examples to consider impacts of different drivers

Complete **one** of the following tasks:

- A. Watch this video and create a table with explanations of the reasons why young Romanians leave their country:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25181607>

- B. Watch this video and prioritise the importance of differing push and pull factors on migration from Haiti to the USA:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-17039167>

- C. Read this article on the historical connections between Britain and Poland that have had an effect on migration:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-28979789>

In each case, make sure you clearly identify push and pull factors, and can categorise different types of factors as economic, social, environmental or political.

The effect of superpowers

How can powerful superpowers exert influence and disproportionately attract international migrants to their own advantage?

What is a 'superpower'?

"a state with a dominant position, which is characterised by its extensive ability to exert influence or project power on a global scale" (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superpower> (26/09/18))

Which are the superpowers?

Just the United States?

China?

The EU?

Russia?

India?

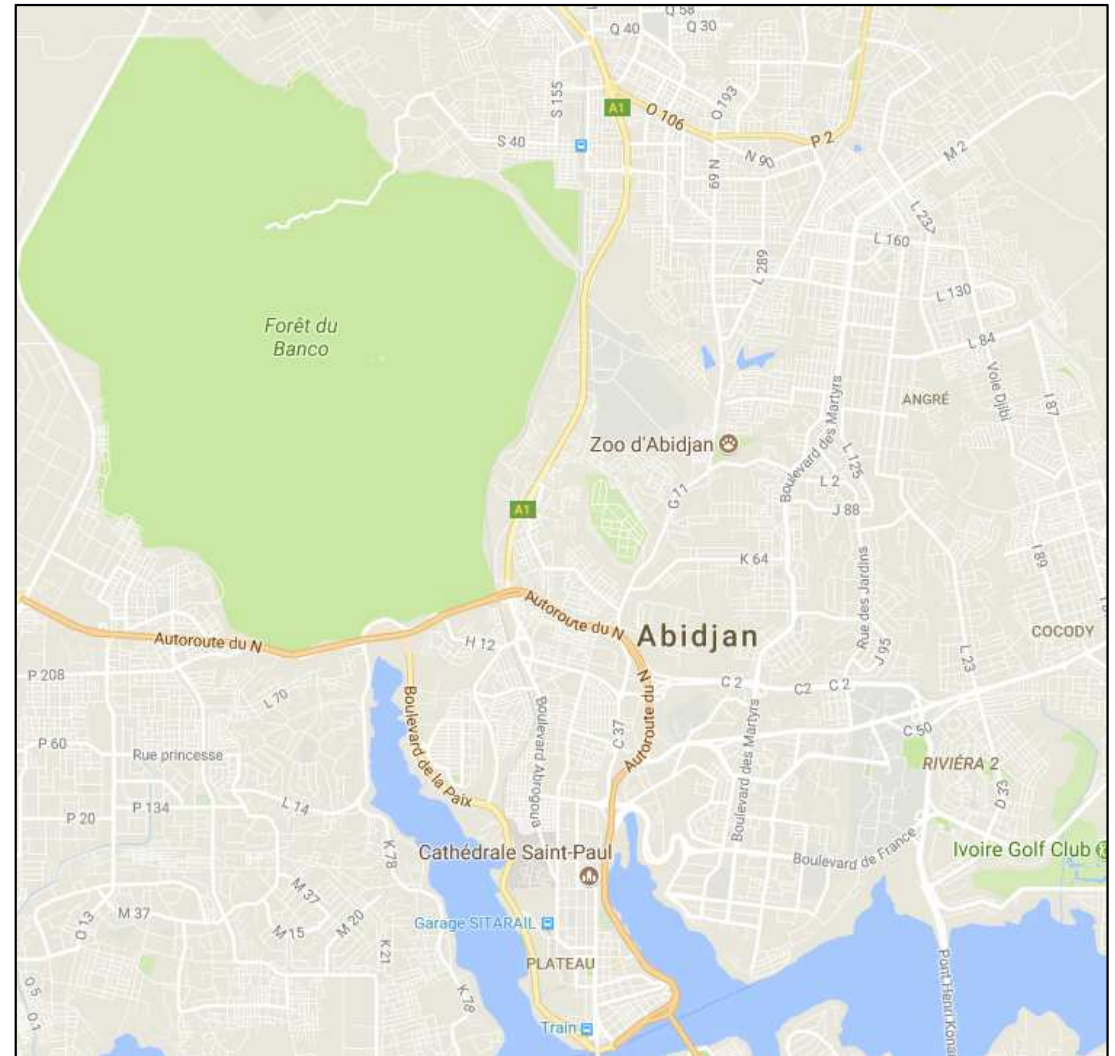
How can superpowers exert influence?

The impacts of colonialisation can be very long-lasting:

- spread of language
- economic links (e.g. currency)
- cultural influences

Evidence of French cultural influence in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire?

Evidence of hard or soft power, do you think?



How can superpowers exert influence?

Neo-colonial strategies to exert influence (e.g. USA)

- **Soft power** (Joseph Nye, *Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power*, 1990) “when one country gets other countries to want what it wants” – e.g.?
- **Hard power** (ibid.) “ordering others to do what it wants” – e.g.?

Smart power: “an approach that underscores the necessity of a strong military, but also invests heavily in alliances, partnerships, and institutions of all levels to expand one's influence and establish legitimacy of one's action.”

(*Center for Strategic and International Studies*). E.g.?

Make sure you have a copy of [Fig 5](#) from the text book

Migration through the spread of ideas/culture/language etc. is also an influencing factor

?hard or soft power?

An interesting article on India as a ‘migration superpower’:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/03/5-facts-that-show-india-is-a-migration-superpower>

The effect of superpowers

Table 5 Analysing and evaluating the superpower status and global influence of the USA and China

	Analysis	Evaluation
USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The 320 million people who live here (less than one-twentieth of the world's population) own more than 40% of global personal wealth. Of the 500 largest global companies, one-quarter were US-owned in 2015. ■ US cultural influence is so strong that terms such as 'Americanisation' and 'McDonaldisation' are widely used to describe the way American food, fashion and media have shaped global culture. No wonder many people want to migrate there. ■ The USA has used military power and covert intelligence operations to intervene in the affairs of almost 50 states since 1945. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The USA's influence over international organisations, including the UN, NATO, the IMF and the World Bank, has given it greater influence over global politics than any other state. The USA was the main architect of the global economic system created at the end of the Second World War. The economic principles that underpin globalisation have become known as 'the Washington consensus'. ■ The USA is a true global superpower. No other country has such a formidable combination of geopolitical, economic and cultural tools at its disposal.
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ China's growth began in 1978 when Deng Xiaoping began the radical 'open door' reforms that allowed China to embrace globalisation while remaining under one-party rule. ■ Today, China is the world's largest economy. Over 400 million of its people are thought to have escaped poverty since the reforms began. FDI from China and its MNCs is predicted to total US\$1.25 trillion between 2015 and 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The average income of China's population is still less than one-third that of US citizens. Recently, its economic growth has slowed ■ China lacks the soft power of the USA, in part because of its cultural isolation from the rest of the world (few foreign films are allowed into China and internet freedoms are restricted). The lack of democracy in China also affects its relations with some other countries adversely.



To what extent do you agree with the statement 'there are only two global superpowers operating today'?

The effect of superpowers

Regional superpowers [exerting influence over its neighbours]:

The textbook uses Qatar as an example. Make sure you have notes on how it exerts influence both regionally and globally.

The effect of superpowers

What evidence would we look for to judge how superpowers “disproportionately attract international migrants to their own advantage”?

The effect of superpowers

Can this be used as evidence that “superpowers attract disproportionate numbers of migrants”?

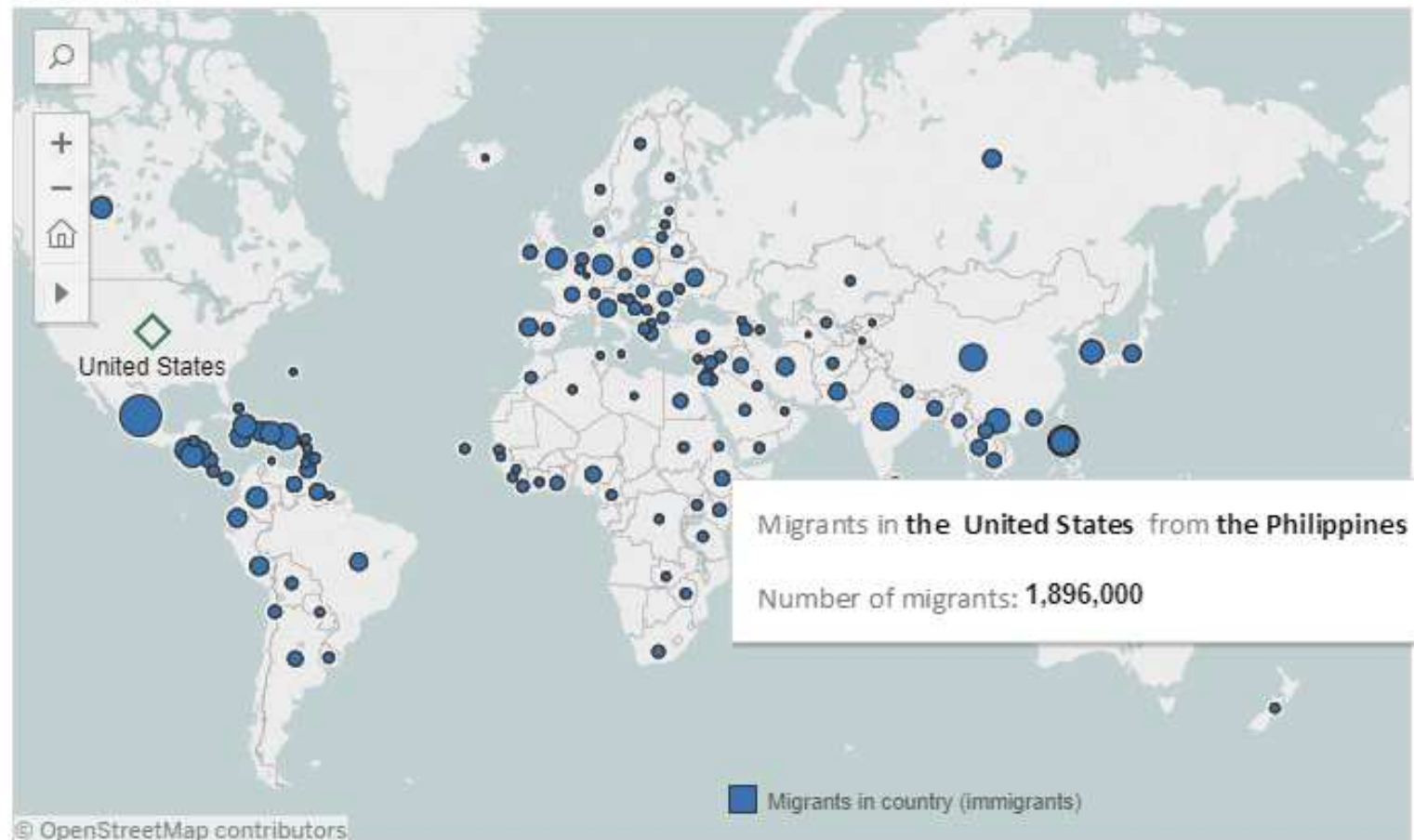


Interactive version: <http://www.global-migration.info/>

The effect of superpowers

Can this be used as evidence that “superpowers attract disproportionate numbers of migrants”?

Immigrant and Emigrant Populations by Country of Origin and Destination, mid-2015
Estimates



Migration Policy Institute (MPI) Data Hub
<http://migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub>

Select Country

United Stat... ▼

Select Population

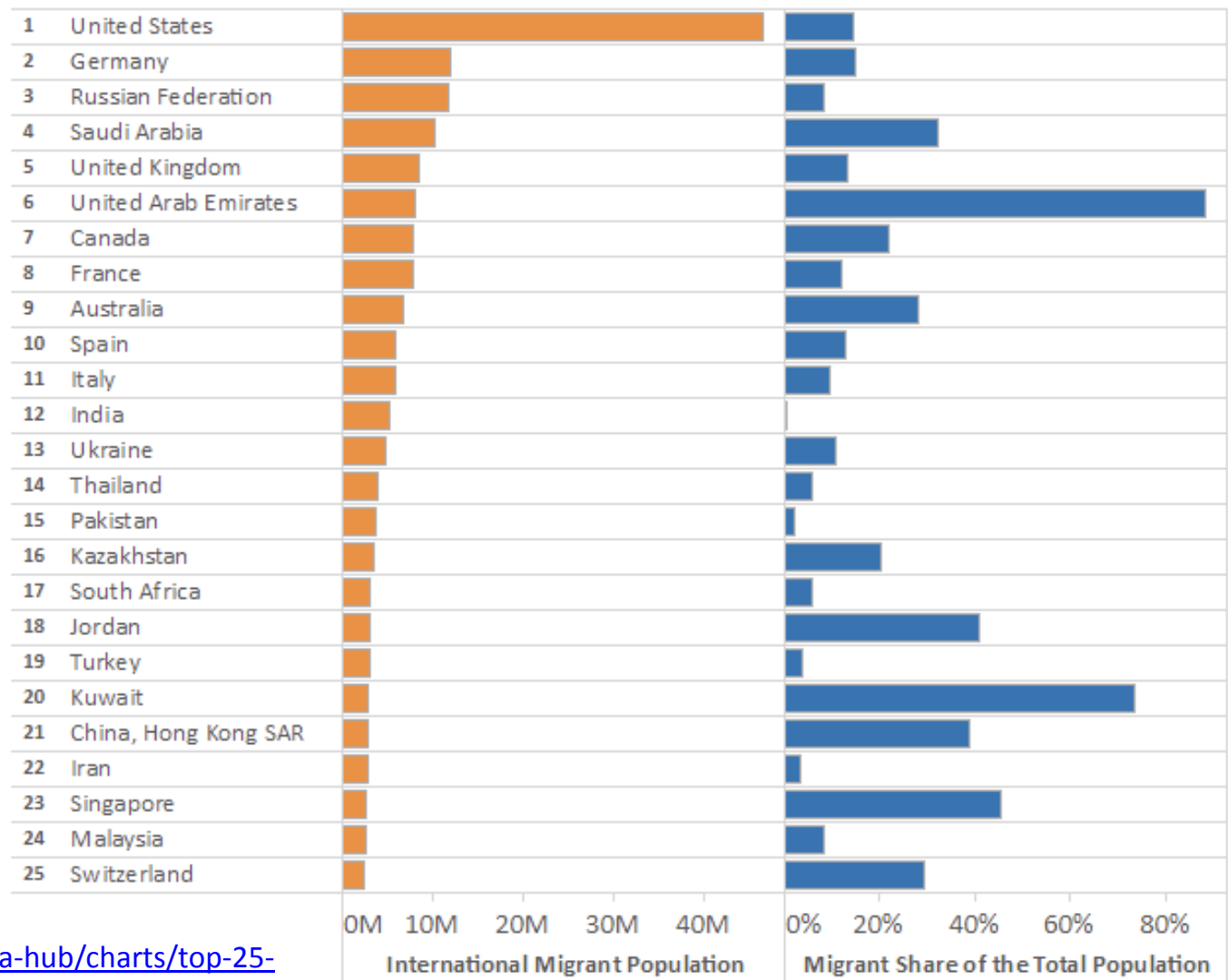
- Migrants in country (immigrants)
- Migrants originating from country (emigrants)

Interactive version: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/international-migration-statistics>

The effect of superpowers

Can this be used as evidence that “superpowers attract disproportionate numbers of migrants”?

International Migrant Population and Migrant Share of Total Population
Top 25 Countries of Destination, 2015



The effect of superpowers

How have superpowers attracted migrants?

Directly

e.g. post-war migration to UK from (ex-)colonies

made easier through colonial influences (language, education system... especially important in attracting skilled labour to fill shortage areas (health, education...))

Policies

e.g. points-systems (UK, Australia, Canada)

Read this article for discussion of pros/cons of such systems:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-29594642>

(NB will do more about policies later...)

Pros & Cons of points systems

Pros

- + A point system acts as an effective binding constraint on applicants.
- + Individual applicants are selected according to the objectives set by the country of destination.
- + A point system elicits better quality immigration candidates.
- + The initial phase of the immigration process is streamlined, requiring fewer resources to process valid applications.
- + The assessment process is transparent.

Cons

- Comprehensive and regular data collection is needed for policy evaluation and fine-tuning.
- Applicants are selected solely from observable characteristics, not from unobservables like innate ability or attitude.
- Successful applicants may still end up in jobs and at pay levels below their true potential.
- A point system is unsuitable for providing fast responses to skill shortages in the domestic labor market.
- The effectiveness of a point system can be compromised if higher priority is given to unscreened classes of applicants.

<https://wol.iza.org/uploads/articles/24/pdfs/using-a-point-system-for-selecting-immigrants.pdf>

“One of the major advantages of the system is that it is largely transparent. Potential applicants can review the selection criteria to determine whether they may be able to attain sufficient points to reach the pass mark of sixty-seven points. Another advantage of the system is that it gives persons who are unable to travel to Canada to arrange employment a better chance of being accepted than was previously the case.

One disadvantage of the points system is that transparency can lead to complaints of unfair treatment. Persons who fall short of the pass mark often believe they should have been awarded more points in one or more categories. This is particularly true of the more subjective categories, such as adaptability.”

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/points-based-immigration/canada.php#procons>

The effect of superpowers

How have superpowers attracted migrants?

Global hubs ('particularly important city at both a national and global scale')

Not necessarily very big cities (Dohar, Qatar (<1M))

Global influence (e.g. Oxford (university), Cambridge (quaternary industries)...))

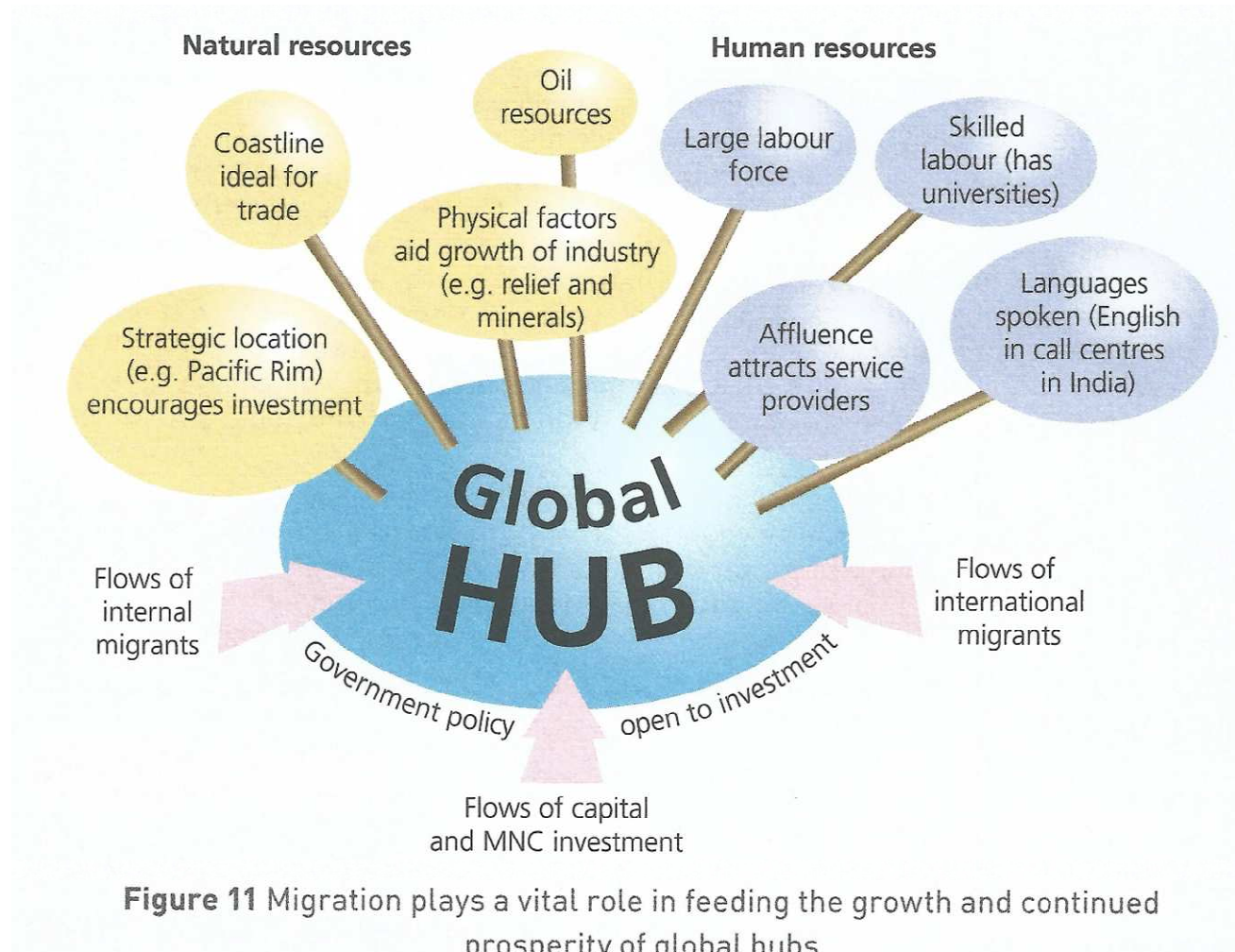
Read the following and make notes on how are the Chinese government trying to turn Shanghai into a global hub:

<http://www.postwesternworld.com/2015/08/24/shanghai-global-financial/>

The effect of superpowers

How have superpowers attracted migrants?

Global hubs – useful summary diagram (p28 textbook)



The effect of superpowers

How have superpowers benefitted from migration?

Look at Table 6 from the textbook:

Table 6 How the USA and Australia have benefited over time from immigration

USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The USA is home to around 300 million people of foreign ancestry who share the territory with just 3 million native Americans. In this 'immigrant nation', we find people of Scottish, Irish, Italian, Greek, Jamaican, Puerto Rican, Indian, Swedish, Polish, Jewish, German, Korean, Nigerian, Jamaican and Chinese descent, among many others. The country has prospered over time precisely because it has attracted so many young and talented migrants.■ Since the 1990s, skilled Indian migrants have travelled to the USA in large numbers. The country's Indian diaspora community is more skilled and highly paid than any other US migrant community.■ Many of the USA's most famous cultural exports — and sources of its soft power — are in fact derived from the culture of immigrant groups. African-American-influenced rock and hip-hop music are among these; so too are the world-famous American hamburger and apple pie (which are thought to be German and Dutch in origin).
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Australia's government uses migration policies carefully to maintain strength in any economic sector where labour shortages are evident. The country currently operates a points system for economic migrants called the Migration Programme. In 2013, only 190,000 economic migrants were granted access to Australia (this figure included the dependants of skilled foreign workers already living there). The top five source countries were India, China, the UK, the Philippines and Pakistan.

How useful is this information? Does it provide any factual info on benefits from immigration?

The effect of superpowers

How have superpowers benefitted from migration?

Is it possible to determine the economic, cultural, etc. benefits from migration? How?

What about benefitting from emigration?

Read this to find associations between global cities and international migration:

<https://themarketmogul.com/the-interplay-between-global-cities-and-international-migrants/>

Find some concrete evidence of how the UK (and/or London) has benefitted from migration, e.g.

<https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/6399/economics/impact-of-immigration-on-uk-economy/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/17/immigration-good-for-britain-bust-myths-austerity>

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/the-fiscal-impact-of-immigration-in-the-uk/>